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Daily Review
Edinburg, Texas

DEC 4 1985

DA Seeks Federal Probe Into DPS

WACO, Texas (AP) — McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell has asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate what he claims is a conspiracy to violate his civil rights in retaliation for a probe into the validity of hundreds of Henry Lee Lucas confessions.

Feazell says the alleged conspiracy is headed by Col Jim Adams, head of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Adams denies the allegation.

"This is just more silliness on Feazell's part," Adams told the Waco Tribune-Herald. "These allegations that keep coming up of wiretapping or harassment are false.

"It upsets me when (Feazell) makes false allegations, but I don't care if the Justice Department or whoever investigates. I'm not concerned about his allegations," Adams said.

According to Feazell's letter Tuesday, Adams was angry and

wanted revenge because Feazell's probe suggested the Texas Rangers mishandled the Lucas cases and that many of the confessions were phony.

"By uncovering the truth in the bogus Lucas confession spree, I severely rocked the boat of the Texas Rangers and offended the ego of (Adams)," Feazell said in a letter to Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds.

Feazell's allegations have already been considered by the three-member Public Safety Commission, which dismissed the charges.

According to Feazell, having the commission "review this is like asking the fox to guard the henhouse."

From April through July Feazell and Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox led a grand jury probe of confessions made by Lucas, whom Texas Rangers once claimed was responsible for around 182 murders.