

WEDNESDAY

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Waco, Texas



COMPLAINT
McLennan County
District Attorney Vic
Feazell says there is
a conspiracy
against him. 1C

Waco Tribune-Herald

Feazell formally complains

By **DARRELL DUNN**
Tribune-Herald staff writer

District Attorney Vic Feazell, who has been under the scrutiny of several law enforcement agencies for at least the past five months, on Tuesday formally lodged a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice, asking for an investigation of an alleged conspiracy to violate his civil rights.

In the complaint, Feazell alleges the conspiracy was developed under the direction of Col. Jim Adams, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Adams, who was in his Austin office Tuesday, called Feazell's allegations "silliness."

Feazell said assistant U.S. Attorney Jan Patterson, Waco Police Chief Larry Scott, DPS intelligence officer Ron Boyter and an unknown Federal Bureau of Investigation agent "conspired to suborn perjury by offering a convicted felon money and federal protection to falsely testify to a federal grand jury against (Feazell)."

Boyter, contacted at his Waco office Tuesday, denied he was part of any conspiracy to violate Feazell's civil rights. Scott and Ms. Patterson refused to comment on Feazell's complaint.

In the letter to William Bradford Reynolds, an assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's civil rights division, Feazell says that "by uncovering the truth in the bogus (Henry Lee) Lucas confession spree, I severely rocked the boat of the Texas Rangers and offended the ego of (Adams)."

Feazell, a first-term district attorney, said he filed the complaint not only in the hope that the Justice Department will decide to investigate his allegations, but also to bring to light what he called the "increasingly growing, unchecked power of the bureaucracy."

"They're members of the bureaucracy," Feazell said Tuesday. "They are the new American royalty. The untouchables. They're isolated from the people. Try to call one of those people, and see how far you get. I'm the only person in this scenario that is accountable to the people."

Adams denied that he ordered any retaliatory investigation.

"This is just more silliness on Feazell's part," Adams said. "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.

He said Feazell's allegations were considered by the three-member Public Safety Commission in August, and the commission concluded that there was no substance to Feazell's allegations.

"That's absolutely false," Feazell said. "There's no more truth to that statement than anything else Adams has said on this situation. Besides, having them (the Public Safety Commission) review this is like asking the fox to guard the henhouse."

Feazell said Attorney General Jim Mattox asked the commission to review Feazell's complaints because Mattox felt it was likely the investigations against Feazell were retaliatory in nature.

Feazell said the commission interviewed Adams, but failed to interview Feazell or any of his witnesses.

"If they want to say there was an investigation by the commission, it was no better than the DPS investigation of Lucas," Feazell said.

Ruben R. Cardenas, chairman of the com-

Feazell attacks 'new American royalty'

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mission, said the commission reviewed allegations made by Feazell in August "and we could find absolutely nothing to justify his charges.

"Anytime there is that type of allegation against any of our employees, including the director, the commission will look into it. Believe me, from everything we've been able to see, there was absolutely nothing retaliatory at all," Cardenas said.

From April through July, Feazell and Mattox led a grand jury probe of confessions made by Lucas, the one-eyed drifter who the Texas Rangers once claimed was responsible for at least 180 murders in Texas.

In July, Ms. Patterson confirmed that a federal grand jury probe of Feazell had been "ongoing" for months.

Feazell said the federal probe was in retaliation for the Lucas investigation, and Mattox said he agreed. The federal grand jury has not indicted Feazell, but is continuing to meet in Austin on an irregular basis.

Ms. Patterson said from her Austin office Tuesday she could not comment on Feazell's complaint because she had not seen a copy of the letter.

She declined to comment when asked about specific allegations in the letter, and deferred additional comments to U.S. Attorney Helen Eversberg in San Antonio. Ms. Eversberg could not be reached for comment.

Scott declined to discuss the complaint. "I'm not going to comment about Mr. Feazell," Scott said.

Boyter, contacted at his Waco office Tuesday, denied he was part of any conspiracy to violate Feazell's civil rights.

"Not hardly," Boyter said. He said he was "not in the least" worried about a possible Justice Department investigation.

Boyter said he had no comment on Feazell's allegation that he was ordered by Adams to conduct an investigation of Feazell.

"I will not discuss it," Boyter said.

Feazell said a Justice Department investigation would be "only a temporary solution to the problem."

"What's happened to me is a symptom of a greater national problem — the unchecked power of the federal bureaucracy," Feazell said. "The government is supposed to represent the people, but now it's us against them. It appears some want to make Vic Feazell a career. As

far as the feds are concerned, I'm a traveling crime wave.

"Patterson, Boyter, Scott and Adams can sit in their ivory towers and conspire all they want to. There is no longer three branches of government. There is a fourth — the bureaucracy. When the bureaucracy can come in and circumvent the will of the people, something's wrong."

Feazell claims that Patterson, Boyter and Scott have met with 21-year-old Clyde Kelly Jr. and offered the burglary suspect money and federal protection to testify against Feazell.

Kelly was arrested by Waco police in June. Police said Kelly was the leader of a burglary ring responsible for more than 125 residential and business burglaries in 1984 and 1985. Police have attributed more than 90 burglaries to Kelly, though McLennan County grand juries have indicted Kelly in only three burglaries.

Ms. Patterson took custody of Kelly on Nov. 15. She has declined to discuss why she is questioning Kelly. Feazell said he believes Ms. Patterson is attempting to establish a link between Feazell, Kelly and three burglaries of the Waco law offices of McDonald, Harmon & Malone.

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Fezell wants investigation

WACO — McLennan County District Attorney Vic Fezell asks 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.