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# Fezell Says Attorneys Told 'Bald-Faced Lies'

AUSTIN (UPI) — McLennan County District Attorney Vic Fezell told a federal court jury that a Waco attorney who said he paid him cash bribes in return for dismissal of criminal charges was telling "bald-faced lies."

Fezell said Wednesday that his former law associates, Don Hall and Dick Kettler, testified against him because "the federal government was trying to set me up because I stepped on the wrong toes and made some people mad at me."

Fezell said he was indicted due to retaliation by law enforcement agencies since he embarrassed them by exposing phony confessions of alleged mass murder Henry Lee Lucas.

The Waco district attorney is on trial for federal bribery, racketeering and mail fraud charges.

Hall testified that he and Kettler paid Fezell about \$15,000 in cash bribes in exchange for dismissal or reduction of charges against their clients.

"I didn't take a dime from Dick Kettler or Don Hall on this case or any other case," Fezell said. "He (Hall) got up here and told bald-faced lies because his thumbs were in the federal screws."

Fezell said Hall and Kettler testified against him in order to avoid "going to jail" for tax fraud violations. Hall and Kettler testified as government witnesses with immunity from prosecution.

Fezell said he believed Kettler's agreement with the prosecution was

"that if Mr. Kettler's testimony scored high enough points with the government, he would walk free."

"Do you recall Mr. Kettler saying he had withdrawn from (an immunity) agreement?" asked assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Frels.

"No, sir," Fezell said.

In a taped conversation played before the jury, Fezell told Kettler, "I don't want to be accused of obstruction of justice or anything like that but, on the other hand, sometimes it's best to isolate ourselves from other people."

Fezell said the account of the conversation was wrong, and that he told Kettler it was "dumb" to isolate themselves from other people.

When Kettler mentioned money during the conversation, he was referring to his tax problems, Fezell said, not bribes. Kettler testified that he and Fezell were discussing bribes during the meeting.

"Do you believe he's still talking about taxes when he mentions money?" Frels asked.

"That's exactly what I thought he was talking about," Fezell said.

In other testimony, a Southwestern Bell employee said that when he inspected Fezell's telephone line, he found evidence of a phone tap, although he did not know who was responsible for it.

In previous testimony, Fezell said the government has continually harrassed him with surveillance, including phone taps.