

Feazell wants his trial moved to Waco

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TEMPLE — McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell said Friday he will continue his fight to get his federal racketeering and mail fraud trial moved back to Waco from Austin.

Speaking to the Bell County Communications Professionals Association, Feazell said he saw little prospect of getting a fair trial in Austin.

"Most people charged with a crime try to get it out of the county where it happened," he said. "They say, 'Take me somewhere else; I can't get a fair trial.' I'm trying to get it back here. I'm saying I don't want it in Austin, I want it in Waco. I've been accused of doing things in Waco. Let's have this thing in Waco."

The trial was moved to Austin after U.S. District Judge Walter Smith removed himself from the case. He cited his knowledge of the people involved.

Feazell, however, argued in his speech that the economics of the move will harm his case.

"I can't afford to send all those witnesses

down to Austin and put them up in a hotel," he said. "I barely can afford to drive back and forth down there myself, as much as I have to do."

Feazell said moving the trial to Waco wouldn't help just his own pocketbook.

"It might save the Hilton Hotel," he joked.

Despite his belief he won't get a fair trial in Austin, Feazell expects to be acquitted.

"I think their B.S. is so weak that we're going to win even if I don't have a fair trial — if they have a trial. That's still to be seen," Feazell said.

He continued to insist the federal indictments are in retaliation for his probe of what he called the "Henry Lee Lucas fiasco."

After Lucas, a drifter who confessed to hundreds of murders, was taken around the country by the Texas Rangers, Feazell and the McLennan County Grand Jury subpoenaed him. Lucas recanted most of his confessions, which was an embarrassment for the Rangers



Feazell

Please see FEAZELL, Page 2B

2B TRIBUNE-HERALD SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1987

LOCAL

Feazell wants trial moved back to Waco

□ From Page 1B

and other law enforcement officials, Feazell said.

Federal officials and Rangers' officials, however, deny any connection between the Lucas probe and Feazell's indictment.

"We did the right thing in Waco," Feazell said, comparing himself to the boy in the fable

who pointed out the king's lack of clothing. "Somebody had to take on the role. Everybody's scared to say, 'Hey, that sucker's naked,' except the little boy. Well, I was the dumb little boy who said, 'Hey, they're naked.' And instead of putting on some clothes and doing something about it, they retaliated against me."

Feazell told the crowd the federal government has spent

millions of dollars in its investigation of him. He called their willingness to pursue the case "scary."

"When the federal government wants you, it can dig as deep into your pocket as it has to," he said, pointing to his audience.

Feazell had little to say about the recently announced retirement of Col. Jim Adams, director of the Department of Public

Safety, of which the Texas Rangers are a part.

"I'll miss him," he said sarcastically. He made a joking note of the "Adams Exit" sign he took to get to Holiday Inn where he spoke.

And another joke: "A funny thing happened to me on the way down to Temple today: I was not stopped by the highway patrol."