



Daily Telegram
Temple, Texas

SEP 26 1987

Feazell's Life, Times May Be Told In Movie

By LANCE LOVELL

Vic Feazell, the McLennan County district attorney who was cleared of federal bribery charges by arguing he was an innocent target of revenge, could soon sign a deal for a movie portraying his personal and political battles tied to the case.

Feazell said Friday a tentative agreement was reached with a New York City film maker, but said he could release no further details on the deal.

Speaking at a Bell County Communications Professionals luncheon, Feazell said the potential deal was the latest development in a series of movie offers he has received.

"America is a wonderful country," he said of the recent turn of events in his widely publicized legal battles. "Five months ago I could almost hear the big metal (prison) doors closing behind me."

In June, after a five-week U.S. District Court trial, Feazell was acquitted of racketeering and conspiracy involving alleged payments for reduced or dropped charges.

Feazell successfully argued that he was targeted for political and personal destruction by state and federal lawmen after he ex-



Vic Feazell

posed critical weaknesses in indictments against confessed mass murder Henry Lee Lucas, who later recanted his confessions.

While Feazell poked fun at his accusers, he said the possible 80 years in prison he faced scared him.

In a wide-ranging talk, Feazell

See FEAZELL, Page 3A

Fezell Eyes Movie Deal

(Continued From Page One)

retold the events leading up to his arrest and leveled his criticisms against certain government officials.

"Had it not been for the Constitution, I'd be in prison right now because I spoke out against the 'king,' because I saw some abuses in law enforcement," Fezell said.

He warned the group to guard against bureaucratic abuses by registering to vote and exercising that right. He also urged them to be aware of political issues.

Fezell contended that the bureaucracy created by elected officials to carry out their work has grown into a fourth branch of government prone to abuse since it fails to answer to the people.

On another topic, Fezell said his office has a better working relationship with the Texas Department of Safety since former director James

B. Adams retired.

He said the DPS case against Lucas "needs to be looked into" further.

On his initial topic, how to respond to media inquiries when something totally unexpected happens, Fezell said his advice is limited.

"Just try to play it by ear and be honest," he said.

Fezell spoke about his experience, recalling a day last September when he found himself surrounded by state and federal lawmen, who arrested him and placed him in handcuffs before the whirring video camera of a Dallas television station.

"I thought, 'Damn that (Channel 8) helicopter's fast,'" Fezell said of his arrest. "It was supposed to be a sealed indictment. There they were hiding behind the back of the building."

Those reporters were obviously tipped off by federal investigators, he said, but the publicity perhaps turned into Fezell's strongest campaign tool.

It was then, as he was paraded in shackles before a crush of reporters, that Fezell raised his handcuffed hands and gave the now-famous thumbs-up sign.

"I'm probably the only political candidate in history to have paid for a picture of himself on TV with a pair of handcuffs on," Fezell said. But the plucky gesture endeared him to supporters.

As Fezell told it, the FBI agent in charge of the arrest, when asked what he would have done differently, said only that he would have cuffed Fezell's hands behind his back, preventing him the public relations coup.

Fezell went on to win the November general election. Seven months later he was acquitted of bribery and conspiracy charges on his jury's first verdict vote, which came after four hours deliberation on the more than five weeks of testimony.

He implored reporters to know when they are being used for ulterior reasons.

On his political career, Fezell remains undecided. He is considering a lucrative offer in private enterprise, but said his options are open.

He could consider a bid for state attorney general if incumbent Jim Mattox, a personal friend, makes a run at governor, he said.