

PRESS CLIPS
TEXAS
PRESS
ASSOCIATION
18 WEST 5th ST. AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 PHONE 477-6755
American
Odessa, Texas
JUN 19 1987

Judge won't drop bribery charges in Feazell trial

AUSTIN (AP) — After the prosecution wrapped up its case, a federal judge refused a defense request to dismiss bribery charges against McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell.

At the end of government testimony Thursday, defense attorney Gary Richardson asked for the dismissal, saying prosecu-

294
tors had not proven Feazell accepted bribe money as the indictment charges.

U.S. District Judge James Nowlin refused, saying he would let the jury make that determination.

Pat Murphy, former felony division chief under Feazell who was the first defense witness, then testified that the

Waco office sometimes used "desk-drawer probation" just as other prosecutors do.

Murphy said that from time to time, Feazell's office would tell a defendant in misdemeanor cases that he would hold the file for maybe six months and then dismiss it if the defendant had caused no more trouble.

"There is definitely a place

for this kind of probation," said Murphy, now a businessman in Charlotte, N.C.. "The prosecution needs this discretion."

But earlier government witnesses said Feazell had put some drunken driving files in his desk drawer and dismissed them later in return for a share of the legal fees charged by some Waco attorneys.