

Party chairmen dispute

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There is a range of wrongdoing going on at the McLennan County Courthouse, the chairman of the McLennan County Republican Party said.

"There's really some lack of integrity, and I believe there's a cloud of moral and ethical decay," Craig Reid said. "It's not just the Vic Feazell situation, it's the whole package together."

However, Gene Evans, chairman of the McLennan County Democratic Party argued with Reid's allegations.

"This business of moral decay, I don't know what he's talking about unless it's the Vic Feazell situation, and we don't know what's happening there," Evans said.

Evans went on to say that presently, every elected official in the courthouse is a Democrat.

Although the incidents listed in Reid's allegations are already p

ublic knowledge, he said when they're put together as a package, a case can be made against what is going on at the courthouse.

"When you add up all the scenarios, it makes sense as to what's going on down there at the county government," Reid said.

Evans disagreed.

"I wasn't aware of that, that's his judgement," Evans said. "I suppose if there were Republicans in the courthouse he wouldn't think that."

One of the incidents cited by Reid is a lawsuit filed against the McLennan County Probation Department's adult division charging them with racial discrimination in hiring and promoting. The suit was filed by two former probation officers, one black and one hispanic. Waco attorney Felipe Reyna, who is handling the men's lawsuit, said pre-trial motions for the case are now pending in Austin. Reyna said he an

ticipates a pre-trial ruling within the next 30-60 days.

Another incident cited by Reid charges that jailhouse food was used in Democratic primary benefits last year.

"The county was reimbursed for the food but that was after the fact," Reid said. "I think there's a potential campaign law violation and misuse of county funds," he added. "I understand that there are currently investigations going on by the FBI about that."

Evans said he thinks the case is closed.

"There was an allegation of that happening, it was taken to the grand jury, they never made an indictment because they found no basis for the accusations," Evans said. "If there's an FBI investigation going on I'm not privy, I didn't know that."

Reid said he plans to clean up

the courthouse in the next election.

"You have a case of building a broom that we're going to use to make a clean sweep up at the courthouse," he said.

Reid said the Republicans plan to accomplish this goal by recruiting, "good, quality candidates of strong moral fiber."

"We want the opportunity to go up against them (the Democrats) and to do whatever's necessary after they're elected to assist them and make sure that they govern well," Reid said. "There will be a good old boy network that's resistant to change, but we'll work hard to make sure that change happens."

Evans said he does not believe the Republican support statewide and nationally in the 1984 elections will affect the next county elections.

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