

# Suspect queried on Feazell, wife says

By TOMMY WITHERSPOON

Assistant city editor

The wife of an unemployed meat cutter arrested Tuesday on a federal weapons charge said her husband was questioned by federal authorities about his possible relationship with McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell and the suspected leader of a burglary ring.

Daniel Ralph Arechiga, 37, of 2017 Fort Ave., a twice-convicted felon, was arrested at his residence by agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the FBI for possession of a

firearm.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jan Patterson said Wednesday that Arechiga was arrested in connection with a Sept. 11 incident at a tavern on South Eleventh Street. During a hearing Wednesday, U.S. Magistrate Dennis Green ordered Arechiga held without bond, scheduled a bond hearing for Jan. 22 and appointed Waco attorney Paul Gartner to represent Arechiga.

Catherine Arechiga, the suspect's wife, said Wednesday that her husband told her he was taken to the federal building

by authorities after his arrest and asked if he knows Feazell and burglary ring suspect Clyde Kelly Jr.

Ms. Patterson, who would not say if Arechiga was taken to the federal building for questioning, said his arrest has nothing to do with an Austin federal grand jury investigation of Feazell under her direction.

"It was a standard arrest. It has no relationship to the grand jury investigation. It is strictly a firearms case," she said.

Arechiga, who is thought to be an ac-

complice of Kelly, was arrested Sept. 12 for burglary of a habitation in connection with a case also linked to Kelly. Police say Kelly, 21, might be involved in 125 burglaries. Arechiga was free on \$15,000 bond when he was arrested Tuesday.

Ms. Patterson took custody of Kelly on Nov. 15, and Feazell has claimed that the federal prosecutor is attempting to link Feazell to the burglary suspect by asking Kelly if Feazell ordered him to burglarize the offices of three Waco attorneys.

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Mrs. Arechiga said when agents arrived to arrest her husband, they refused to identify themselves and refused to produce badges or an arrest warrant. Federal authorities have declined to comment on the arrest or to say whether Arechiga was taken to the federal building for questioning before being transferred to the McLennan County Jail.

Agents with the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms deferred comment to Ms. Patterson.

Arechiga was arrested shortly before 6 p.m., his wife said. Jail records indicate he was booked

into jail at 11:05 p.m.

Gloria Krise, Arechiga's sister, said Wednesday that she phoned Waco Police Chief Larry Scott and FBI officials in San Antonio Tuesday night in an attempt to find out who had arrested her brother and for what reason. She said she had been told that members of the Waco Police Department Drug Enforcement Unit also were involved in the arrest, but Scott told her that they were not.

She said FBI officials in San Antonio told her that its agents also were not involved. She said she left her unlisted home telephone number with Scott and the FBI in case they received some information about her brother, adding that she

received an anonymous, threatening phone call Wednesday morning.

"The caller said I had stepped on some toes last night and advised me not to go public with this information," Mrs. Krise said. "We were done an injustice and all I wanted to know was the procedures because I thought what was done to my brother was wrong. Those men who took him away should have identified themselves."

Mrs. Arechiga went to her sister-in-law's home after her husband was arrested and said federal authorities brought Arechiga by his sister's residence to get his coat out of his car. She said she

handcuffed in the car, and he told her that "all they are asking me about is Vic Feazell."

"He said they were asking him if he knew Vic Feazell, if he was an acquaintance of his, if he had done any work for him and if he knew Clyde Kelly," Mrs. Arechiga said.

She said when she returned home about 10:45 p.m., there was a note on her door from Waco FBI agent Bob Zane explaining that he had searched her home while she was away and had seized a "receipt book." The note also indicated that the search was conducted with her husband's permission, she said.

Zane would not comment on the arrest or say whether his agency is involved in the case.

Feazell, who said that he does not know Kelly or Arechiga, has claimed that he has come under investigation by the FBI, the Department of Public Safety, the Waco Police Department, the Internal Revenue Service and the Austin federal grand jury in retaliation for challenging murder confessions made by Henry Lee Lucas, a drifter who at one time claimed to have murdered numerous people.

Lucas recanted many of his confessions during a McLennan

County grand jury investigation last year. The investigation was spearheaded by Feazell.

"It is obvious that these (federal) folks are making one last-ditch effort to try to put something on me, no matter how ridiculous," Feazell said of the reported questioning of Arechiga. "The whole thing smacks of Nazi Germany."