

WACO TRIBUNE

Herald

SUNDAY

Feb. 22, 1987

EDITORIALS

A logical site to try Feazell

Government attorneys have raised the possibility that the racketeering trial of District Attorney Vic Feazell could be held in Waco instead of Austin, as is now the plan. There is much that can be said in favor of holding the trial in Waco's federal district court instead of 100 miles away.

Conducting the trial in Waco would keep the proceedings close to the citizens who are most concerned about the outcome. Feazell is the first elected public official ever to stand formally accused of criminal acts in McLennan County, and the impending trial has generated intense public interest.

Bits of the government's case against Feazell which have been made public so far indicate the majority of the witnesses who will be called to testify in the trial are people who live in the Waco area. The trial might proceed more smoothly, and with fewer delays, if it were held in the city where most of the people who will be involved have their residences.

Expedience is a major factor in the trial of criminal cases. In the case of the U.S. Government vs. Vic Feazell, it is an overriding consideration.

The sooner the Feazell matter is brought to whatever conclusion lies ahead, the sooner law enforcement and prosecution of other criminal cases in McLennan County can regain a semblance of normalcy.

The presiding judge, and the attorneys who will be prosecuting and defending the case, are not likely to reach total agreement on all aspects of the arrangements. But if all the legal questions involved can be resolved to the satisfaction of both sides, it would be to the local community's benefit to have Feazell's racketeering trial conducted here instead of Austin.

After all, this is the scene of the alleged crime.