

CBS airs report on Feazell

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Wacoans heard the question they have been asking for months put to a national audience Sunday night.

"What everybody wants to know now is, does McLennan County have a crooked district attorney, or is the Department of Public Safety, FBI and Justice Department trying to teach Vic Feazell a lesson for stepping on the wrong toes?" asked "60 Minutes" correspondent Harry Reasoner during a 16-minute report on the murder confessions of Henry Lee Lucas and a federal probe of McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell.

Reasoner recounted how Feazell and state Attorney General Jim Mattox led a grand jury investigation of Lucas' confessions to three unsolved McLennan County murders.

The Texas Rangers Homicide Task Force at one time cleared more than 180 murders they directly attributed to Lucas. The McLennan County investigation, and a subsequent *Dallas Times-Herald* report showed Lucas could not have been responsible for many of the murders he had confessed to committing.

Feazell said that the Lucas probe severely bruised the ego of the Texas Rangers and its director, along with Col. Jim Adams, director of the Department of Public Safety and former associate director of the FBI.

Feazell said Adams ordered a DPS investigation of him, and is directly responsible for a federal grand jury probe of Feazell being conducted in Austin.

Mattox told "60 Minutes" that he believes the federal investigation of Feazell was retaliatory for Feazell's actions in the Lucas probe.

"I think the original intent of starting the investigation was because of Feazell's aggressiveness towards the Lucas matter. I think they're continuing the effort, and I'm convinced they would very much like to find something, regardless of how big or small it might be, to try and impugn this investigation we conducted, and Vic Feazell personally," Mattox said.

Feazell said Sunday night from his Waco residence that he was pleased with the 60 Minutes report, "as far as it went."

"I've been telling the truth since this thing started, and I'm ready for everybody to start understanding what's happening. I'm tired of this, 'Vic Feazell, is he crooked?' I've been taking that junk for more than six months, and I think it's time for (the federal investigators) to put up or move on," he said.

Feazell said he was not surprised that "60 Minutes" aired a report on the controversy.

"Not at all. I was saying all along that this was a story of national importance. I was a lone voice crying in the wilderness."

Adams told "60 Minutes," as he has told the *Tribune-Herald*, that he did not order a retaliatory investigation of Feazell.

"Any investigation that the Department of Public Safety gets involved in is based on a reasonable basis to conduct that investigation, and retaliation, harassment, whatever you want to call it, is not a criterion for establishing an investigation," Adams said.

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