

Chief Denies D.E.U. Involvement In Federal Arrest

Suspect allegedly
questioned about
Vic Feazell

Waco Police Chief Larry Scott, denied involvement of Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) officers in the arrest of Danny R. Arechiga, 37, of 2017 Fort Ave. on January 7, 1985. Arechiga was arrested at his residence for possession of a firearm by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the F.B.I., according to Catherine Arechiga, the suspect's wife, who said this happened about 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Arechiga alleges her husband was arrested by unidentified "civilian-clothed" officers, Tuesday, Jan. 7, at his home at 2017 Fort, for felony charges and was held for five hours at the federal courthouse before being arraigned.

Danny Arechiga is currently being held at the McLennan County jail for a crime he allegedly committed on September 12, 1985. His wife Catherine, and his sister, Gloria Krise, allege that the civilian-clothed officers who arrested Danny Arechiga would not show a search warrant nor would they identify themselves.

"When I talked with Danny, he told me that all they wanted to know was about a burglary and about Vic Fea-

zell," said Gloria Krise, "and he tells me that he doesn't even know the District Attorney. They had him up to four hours without letting his family know where he was," she added.

"I went to the police station, to the sheriff's office and even called the FBI in San Antonio, and no one would tell me where Danny was. The men we described with cowboy hats were said to be DEU," stated Mrs. Krise. She further told TIEMPO that after leaving these law enforcement agencies her unlisted phone number, she received a phone threat. "The next morning at about 6:00 a.m., some female voice called my unlisted number and told me that I had stepped on someone's toes; and then she said that if I knew best, I would not go public with this," revealed Mrs. Krise.

Further, Mrs. Krise told TIEMPO that she saw Arechiga for the first time at about 10:15 p.m., the night of the arrest, then up to ten civilian-clothed officers took Danny to her residence and told her that they had come for his coat.

"There were men in front of the house, at the side of the house, and by

the cars outside," she said, "and only one man spoke. It was only then that I discovered that he would go before Judge Dennis Green at the federal courthouse."

"At least four of them were wearing cowboy boots and hats. When they took him, we went to the courthouse on Eighth and Franklin, and there were lights on upstairs," she added.

McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell claims that Danny may be a pawn and a "political prisoner" for being held and questioned up to four hours about someone he had never even met.

Feazell stated that "They are desperate because they know that the filing deadline for the District Attorney seat is only three weeks away; and they want to get Vic Feazell in order to run an opponent successfully." "They appointed Paul Gartner, former Republican candidate who ran for this office unsuccessfully in 1982, as Arechiga's court-appointed attorney," he stated.

Waco Police Chief Larry Scott denied that any of his D.E.U. officers

were involved in the arrest, as stated by Mrs. Krise. "I don't think those were my officers involved," said Scott. "The vice people were right here during school sessions being given by Jan Patterson," he stated when asked when was the last time he had seen U.S. Attorney Jan Patterson.

Though Arechiga was in custody by agents at 6:00 p.m., he was not booked into jail until 11:05 p.m.

Mrs. Krise questioned, "Why didn't these men identify themselves? We never did see a warrant and why did the F.B.I. OFFICE IN San Antonio tell me they didn't have anyone on this case? I really got burned up in the courtroom after they said they were going to hold Danny without bond and Jan Patterson told Judge Green that the case was still open, pending an arrest warrant for Adam Bridge Puente. He's my father . . . What do they have a warrant out on him for? I wanted to get some things straight and the Judge just said 'case closed.'"

U.S. Magistrate Dennis Green ordered a bond hearing for Arechiga on January 22nd.