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Evangelist, Fezell Testify About Lucas

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EL PASO, Texas (AP) District Attorney Vic Fezell and a jailhouse evangelist testified that some officials tried to pressure Henry Lee Lucas to reconsider his recanting hundreds of murder confessions.

Lucas is charged with first-degree murder in the May 1983 slaying of 72-year-old Librada Apodaca in El Paso.

Once thought to be the greatest serial killer in history, Lucas recanted his confessions saying he'd taken the blame to make fools out of law enforcement officials anxious to clear unsolved cases.

Lucas' attorneys have filed a motion asking state District Judge Brunson Moore to rule their client's confession to the Apodaca killing inadmissible.

Fezell, McLennan County district attorney, testified Wednesday that Williamson County Sheriff Jim Boutwell visited Lucas at the McLennan County jail before Lucas was to testify before a grand jury in 1984.

FEAZELL TESTIFIED IT was his understanding that Boutwell told Lucas he would not be able to see Clemmie Schroeder, Lucas' spiritual advisor, if he recanted his confessions.

Three FBI agents demanded to see Lucas the morning he was to testify before the grand jury regarding his confessions to murders in McLennan County, Fezell said.

The agents turned down his offer to let them see Lucas after the grand jury testimony and insisted on talking to him before, Fezell said.

"I said no. I don't think these guys are used to hearing no because they were pretty upset about it," he said.

Fezell was indicted in September on federal charges he took bribes from defense lawyers. He predicted last year he would be indicted because his questioning of the Lucas case embarrassed the Texas Depart-

ment of Public Safety. The Texas Rangers' Henry Lucas Task Force, part of the DPS, has been criticized for its handling of the Lucas investigation. The task force coordinated probes by law enforcement agencies nationwide into Lucas' confessions.

MS. SCHROEDER, ALSO known as Sister Clemmie because of her spiritual work with prisoners through New Life Jail Ministries, became close to Lucas while he was in jail in Georgetown, Texas.

Ms. Schroeder testified that after Lucas had recanted, Boutwell asked her to convince Lucas he must "go back to confessing, to do the Lord's way." Boutwell told her if she refused, she'd be sending Lucas to death

row, Ms. Schroeder testified, adding that she denied Boutwell's request.

"The next morning Henry was sent back to death row" she said.

Lucas was already on death row for his conviction of the 1979 murder of an unidentified hitchhiker in Georgetown. He had been taken out of the state prison at Huntsville while he made his confessions.