

PRESS CLIPS



718 WEST 5th ST AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 477 6755

Daily News
Mexico, Texas

JUN 19 1987

Feazell starts to tell his side of story

AUSTIN (AP) — After the prosecution wrapped up its case, a federal judge refused a defense request to dismiss bribery charges against McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell.

At the end of government testimony Thursday, defense attorney Gary Richardson asked for the dismissal, saying prosecutors had not proven Feazell accepted bribe money as the indictment charges.

U.S. District Judge James Nowlin refused, saying he would let the jury make that determination.

Pat Murphy, former felony division chief under Feazell who was the first defense witness, then testified that the Waco office sometimes used "desk-drawer probation" just as other prosecutors do.

Murphy said that from time to time, Feazell's office would tell a defendant in misdemeanor cases that he would hold the file for maybe six months and then dismiss it if the defendant had caused no more trouble.

But earlier government witnesses said Feazell had put some drunken driving files in his desk drawer and dismissed them later in return for a share of the legal fees charged by some Waco attorneys.

Murphy also said the office used a "speedy trial waiver" procedure in a similar manner.

"This was not an effort to defraud anyone," Murphy said. "If at the end of six months a person had not gotten into any more trouble, we would dismiss it."