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FEAZELL SUBJECT OF DPS PROBE, by Darrell Dunn, Tribune-Herald Staff Writer

District Attorney Vick Feazell said Wednesday he asked the Department of Public Safety Director Colonel Jim Adams to investigate discrepancies in the Texas Ranger homicide task force probe of Henry Lee Lucas, but Adams refused and, instead, is investigating Feazell and two of his staff members.

Feazell said he met with Adams in Austin on May 8 and discussed the McLennan County grand jury investigation of Lucas and what Feazell says are discrepancies surrounding nearly 100 of the 189 murders that Rangers have attributed to Lucas.

Feazell said Adams told him he would not investigate the discrepancies, but informed Feazell that he (Adams) had personally authorized a DPS investigation of Feazell and two local district attorneys' office investigators working on the Lucas probe.

"I showed Adams some of the evidence we have looked at," Feazell said Wednesday in his speech to the Waco Founder's Lions Club.

Feazell said, "I tried to tell Adams, wouldn't the most obvious thing be to put it on your desk and let you figure which one (murders) Lucas committed and in which there are still murderers out there?"

"The answer I got was, it's not my problem. When you're through with your circus in Waco, (Lucas) will be back in Georgetown. I'm not going to put a dollar on it, I'm not going to put a man on it," Feazell quoted Adams as saying.

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In a prepared statement released through his press office Wednesday, Adams said he is interested in cooperating on the Lucas investigation.

"I have made it clear to the district attorney's office and the attorney general's office from the beginning that I would cooperate with their inquiries, and that the DPS is interested in receiving any information which conflicts with previous information obtained by the task force," Adams said.

The Texas Rangers are a division of DPS, under the direction of Adams.

Feazell said that in addition to himself and his staff, two members of Mattox's staff also attended the conference with Adams on May 8. Feazell said Adams had no comment on why he is investigating him (Feazell).

"I had heard a rumor and I confronted him with it, and he admitted he had personally authorized an investigation of me and both of the staff members that are helping in the Lucas investigation," Feazell said.

"As a matter of general policy, I don't comment on whether an investigation is being conducted concerning a public official," Adams said Wednesday. "However, I can assure you that no investigation is initiated unless there is a factual basis justifying one."

Adams reportedly has a policy that before any DPS field officer can initiate an investigation, the field officer must first gain approval from Adams.

"Right now, there's not any communication between my office and the DPS," Feazell said Wednesday.

"I requested a meeting. I went down there and talked for three hours, and nothing came of the meeting.

" I had hopes the DPS would pick up the Lucas investigation. I thought the proper place for the investigation was the DPS, the state police agency," he said.

Feazell said he does not believe problems between himself and Adams would result in problems between his office and the local DPS.

Lucas, a drifter who at one time claimed to have killed hundreds of people, was brought to Waco on April 12. He has since recanted his confessions and claims the only person he ever killed was his mother. He claims the Texas Rangers coerced him into making false murder confessions.

Feazell says he believes the task force may have operated in an "unethical or improper" fashion during an 18 month period in 1983 and 1984, when Lucas was taken by the task force to places throughout the United States, where he talked to law officials about hundreds of unsolved murders.

"It's so obvious that here is a man telling law enforcement things that only the killer should know, but there are records that place him in prison at the same time," Feazell said Wednesday.

"There are records my office has seen in the last month where on certain days when Lucas signed up for food stamps in Florida, there have been murder cases cleared in California and Texas.

"The truth must come out. I'm going to find out what's happening or at least go down fighting, because it's not right that there are murderers running around that no one is looking for because someone chose to take the easy way out," Feazell said.