

WEDNESDAY

April 29, 1987

Feazell charges reduced

DA calls move a moral victory

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No surprises were revealed in a superseding indictment issued Tuesday against McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell by a federal grand jury in Austin.

Not even the issuance of the indictment was a surprise.

The only significant difference in the indictment, which Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Frels of Austin said last week would contain only "cosmetic" changes, was the number of counts against Feazell.

Two mail fraud counts against Feazell were deleted, reducing the total counts in the indictment from 12 to 10.

Frels, who will serve as lead prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Jan Patterson, who has led the investigation until recently, or U.S. Attorney Helen Eversberg of San Antonio could not be reached for comment Tuesday about the superseding indictment.

Feazell was arrested in September after the original indictment was issued and charged with accepting bribes for favorable disposition of cases, mailing fraudulent case disposition records to various law enforcement agencies, filing false statements relating to campaign contributions and expenditures and filing of false court documents.

Feazell, who has been free on a \$100,000 personal recognizance bond since his arrest, said Tuesday he views the reduced counts in the indictment as a minor moral victory.

"The way I see it is I haven't even gone to court yet and I have already won on two counts," Fea-

Please see **FEAZELL**, Page 4B

Feazell calls reduced charges in indictment a moral victory

□ **From Page 1B**

zell said.

Under the terms of the old indictment, Feazell faced a maximum penalty of 90 years in prison and a fine of \$560,000 and restitution. Feazell said the new indictment reduces his possible maximum prison term to 80 years and reduces his possible fine.

As in the previous indictment, Feazell is charged in the new indictment with accepting 14 sepa-

rate bribes totaling \$19,360 between May 29, 1984, and April 10, 1985. The smallest alleged bribe is \$200 and the largest is \$4,500.

During a pretrial hearing in Austin Thursday, U.S. District Judge James Nowlin postponed Feazell's trial until May 26. He scheduled a pretrial hearing to consider several remaining motions for May 11-12, including a motion to move Feazell's trial to Waco.