

TUESDAY

Feb. 16, 1988

Grand jury on Feazell

To the Editor:

In response to your editorial of Feb. 4, "Take charges to grand jury," you are wrong in assuming that Mayor David Sibley and the City Council acted responsibly in concluding that the McLennan County grand jury (hand-picked, by the way, by whom? — not the DA or his staff) is the proper body to investigate charges of misconduct against Police Chief Larry Scott by District Attorney Vic Feazell. Everyone knows (or should know) that any time there is a conflict of interest in the DA's office and an investigation, the case is turned over to the attorney general's office for the appointment of a special prosecutor. I think in this case there is definitely a conflict of interest, therefore making the attorney general's office the only agency to handle this matter.

You also said that Larry Scott and the detectives involved deny the charges. That statement is wrong. Scott and Detective Fortune deny the charges, Detective Fuller declines comment. If Scott and the detectives were not involved in any way, why won't they take a polygraph?

You said City Manager John Harrison's suggestion of an investigation by the Texas Rangers drew a predictable response from Feazell. What did you expect, that he would jump at the chance to have the very organization that was instrumental in having him indicted and arrested investigate charges he has brought against Larry Scott? Come on.

You are right in saying the people are entitled to far, far more than they are getting. The DA was re-elected by the people of McLennan County, even after he was arrested and indicted. Who elected Larry Scott?

Cindy Campos
Hewitt

THURSDAY

Feb. 18, 1988

2 murder cases dismissed

Two capital murder cases against death row inmate Muneer Mohammad Deeb were dismissed this week after the Court of Criminal Appeals ordered Waco officials to determine the fate of the remaining two cases.

Deeb was convicted of capital murder in March 1985 in Cleburne for engineering a bungled murder-for-hire scheme that resulted in the July 1982 deaths of Jill Montgomery, Raylene Rice and Kenneth Franks at Lake Waco.

Deeb was given the death penalty in the stabbing death of Montgomery. Capital murder cases in the deaths of Rice and Franks had been pending until Monday, when 54th State District Judge George Allen dismissed them on a recommendation of the McLennan County district attorney's office.

Since being placed on death row, Deeb has filed a series of motions seeking the disposal of the remaining two cases against him. In a Jan. 14 letter from the Court of Criminal Appeals to Allen, the justices gave the judge 60 days to respond to Deeb's motions by either setting the cases for trial or dismissing them.

McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell has said he never intended to try Deeb a second time in the Lake Waco killings like he did convicted murderer David Wayne Spence. The dismissal orders say the cases were dismissed for "prosecutorial discretion and in the interest of justice."

WEDNESDAY

Feb. 17, 1988

Attempted sexual assault

A 32-year-old Waco man was convicted Tuesday of attempted sexual assault.

A jury of seven men and five women deliberated about four hours before finding Robert Earl Sanders guilty in the July 26 attack of a 25-year-old Waco woman.

The punishment phase of the trial begins at 9:30 a.m. today. Sanders faces a maximum 10-year sentence and a \$5,000 fine.

The victim on Monday identified Sanders as the man who grabbed her around the waist and threw her into a vacant house near South 13th Street and Clay Avenue.

The woman said Sanders, who was convicted of two felony burglaries in 1983, beat her and threatened to kill her before she disabled him and escaped.

Jurors told 54th State District Court Judge George Allen they were deadlocked 7-5 for conviction at 3:30 p.m. Allen told them to continue deliberations.

At 4:30 p.m. jurors told Allen one juror wanted to "think about it overnight" and continue deliberating this morning.

Allen again told them to continue and about three minutes later, jurors returned the verdict.

During jury summations Tuesday morning, defense attorney Hoagie Karels suggested that Sanders was the victim of mistaken identity. He acknowledged that someone had assaulted the victim but said it was not Sanders.