

McLennan DA hires defense attorney

By GAYLE REAVES Star-Telegram Writer

McLennan County District Attor-ney Vic Feazell said Wednesday that he has hired well-known Austin defense attorney Roy Minton to represent him if he is indicted by a federal grand jury that is reportedly investi-gating Feazell's office.

Feazell and law enforcement sources, who have asked not to be named because grand jury proceedings are secret, say a grand jury that was convened this week in Austin is investigating allegations of malfeasance and corruption in the Waco prosecutor's office.

Feazell said he is proud of the record of his office and that federal and state investigations are "witch hunts" prompted by his criticism of law enforcement agencies.

Federal prosecutors have declined to confirm whether Feazell is the target of such an investigation, as has the Texas Department of Public Safety

Minton and his partners earlier this year successfully defended Attorney General Jim Mattox, a good friend of Feazell's, on charges of commercial bribery. Minton's firm has defended many public officials against criminal charges.

Feazell on Wednesday also announced that he is running for re-

election as district attorney.
"I want to put to rest any rumors that, number one, I may be resign-ing, number two, that I may not be intending to run for re-election, or number three, that I might be interested in running for some higher office at this time," he said.

'I am not going to be run from office. If I leave this office it will be because the people of McLennan County make that decision." Feazell said he would continue to serve the people of his county, "whether against the criminal on the street or

(against) some police impropriety."
Feazell said Tuesday that he fears
he could be murdered or wrongly indicted because he has criticized the work of the Texas Rangers and other law enforcement agencies in their handling of Henry Lee Lucas, the thrice-convicted murderer who confessed to killing hundreds of people, then recanted those state-

Department of Public Safety officials have declined to confirm whether the agency is conducting any investigations concerning

Feazell also said his telephone had been illegally tapped. He said telephone company security personnel had determined that wiretapping equipment had been placed on the telephone pole near his house, although it was not there when the phone company checked.

Wednesday, Department of Public Safety spokesman David Wells labeled the wiretap charges "utter nonsense" as far as that agency is concerned.