

Tribune-Herald
CENTEX

TUESDAY

Dec. 17, 1985

Officials to investigate Feazell allegations

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U.S. Justice Department officials in Washington, D.C., said Monday the agency will investigate allegations of a conspiracy to violate the civil rights of McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell.

John Wilson, assistant director of public affairs for the U.S. Justice Department, said a letter from Feazell outlining some of his complaints was received Monday afternoon. He said the criminal section of the civil rights division will investigate to determine if there have been federal violations.

Feazell told the *Tribune-Herald* on Dec. 3 that he had mailed a letter to Assistant U.S. Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds asking for an investigation of an alleged conspiracy to violate Feazell's civil rights.

Feazell said that representatives of the U.S. Justice Department, FBI, Texas

Department of Public Safety and Waco Police Department reportedly are involved in the alleged conspiracy.

In the complaint, Feazell alleges the conspiracy was developed under the direction of DPS Director Jim Adams in retaliation for Feazell's involvement in a grand jury investigation that raised questions about the Texas Rangers Homicide Task Force's probe of murder confessions made by Henry Lee Lucas.

Feazell also said that Assistant U.S. Attorney Jan Patterson, Waco Police Chief Larry Scott, DPS intelligence officer Ron Boyter and an unknown FBI agent "conspired to suborn perjury by offering a convicted felon money and federal protection to falsely testify to a federal grand jury against (Feazell)."

Adams has called Feazell's allegations "silliness" and denied he ordered a retaliatory investigation of Feazell. He said he was not worried about a Justice Department investigation. Ms. Patterson and

Scott have declined comment.

"The allegations will be reviewed carefully to see what the situation is," Wilson said late Monday afternoon. "We'll want to determine the facts to see if there has actually been a federal crime committed."

"Excellent. I'm glad to hear it," Feazell said when told the Justice Department acknowledged receiving his letter. "I want this to be investigated."

In addition, Feazell said he had sent copies of his letter to U.S. Sens. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., and Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Mark Goodin, a spokesman in the office of Thurmond, said last week that Thurmond had received a copy of Feazell's letter.

Goodin said that to "ensure proper and thorough consideration," the letter had been forwarded to Reynolds' office.

A spokeswoman in the office of Ken-

neddy said she had not seen the letter, but said it would not be unusual for it to take a couple of weeks to get a letter routed to the senator's office and delivered.

Feazell said in addition to Thurmond and Kennedy, he also sent letters to "60 Minutes" reporter Harry Reasoner, *Dallas Times Herald* reporter Hugh Aynsworth and FBI criminal investigator Floyd Clark.

Ms. Patterson is leading a federal grand jury investigation of Feazell in Austin. In November, Ms. Patterson took custody of Waco burglary suspect Clyde Kelly Jr., a man Waco police say was responsible for more than 90 residential and business burglaries in 1984 and 1985.

Feazell said that he believes Ms. Patterson has offered Kelly money and a plea-bargain arrangement to get Kelly to implicate Feazell in the burglary of some Waco law offices.

Ms. Patterson has declined comment about Kelly.