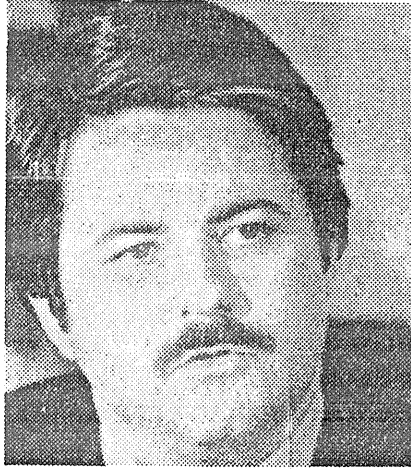


Vic Feazell: "Politics are behind investigations"

By Ernesto Fraga

Within the last ten years Vic Feazell has evolved from being a counselor for drug problems and family therapy, to becoming an attorney, politician and public servant as the District Attorney for McLennan County. For the local community, every step of his career has not been without full public attention. In this very short



Vic Feazell

period of time, Vic Feazell has become a widely talked about influence in the Democratic Party statewide and is now running for re-election in 1986.

As District Attorney, Feazell claims to be running his campaign based on performance. It is his performance in controversial cases that will be either behind him or used against him by opponents whom he says are motivated by politics and the Republican Party.

Investigations that are being carried out by the Waco Police Department, the Department of Public Safety and The FBI are said to be reactions to his efforts in exposing the investigation into the highly publicized non-confessions

of convicted murderer, Henry Lee Lucas and the practices of the Texas Rangers. The task force that was investigating confessions of Lucas had one Ranger removed, Clayton Smith, for admitting to giving information to Lucas during investigations about possible murders, according to Feazell.

Feazell disclosed that "ever since the Lucas case," our personal family life has been the experience of loss of privacy, phone tapings, and my wife would many times cry in the middle of the night."

But by the coming elections in 1986, Feazell feels that it will be obvious that the Republican Party has been behind all this "harassment." "Chief Scott,"

he says," works under David Smith (City Manager), who is a longtime personal friend of Jim Adams (DPS). Jim Adams was of course appointed to his position by Governor Bill Clements, a Republican." Bill Clements is running for a second term as Governor of Texas. Prior to that, Feazell adds, "he (Adams) was a Deputy Director of the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover for seventeen years."

All of these connections are obviously linked to the Republican Party according to Feazell.

"I'm tired of being poked at," says Feazell. "I have shown the highest conviction rates of felonies last year by the Board of Pardons and Paroles; I have

proved to have the highest DWI conviction rate than Dallas County or Tarrant County." This and other highly publicised cases such as the triple murder slaying convictions will be on Feazell's record when he campaigns for re-election next year.

However, local Republicans claim that the District Attorney's office will be a major target for a statewide sweep by the Republican Party next year. Craig Reid, local Republican Party Chairman is not hiding the fact that a Republican challenger may try for Feazell's position.

Describing today's political climate, Vic Feazell says that "the economy will be getting worse; unemployment will be

higher, and this country could be becoming a land of persecution."

"I never would have thought about persecution until my own family and friends started experiencing the investigations on me this year," said Feazell. "The Republicans want the voters and the power." But they are not out to help the poor. They are there for AT&T, Exxon and money."

I think I am being targeted because I am seen as a potential statewide Democratic leader. We must get politically organized; today the Republicans help to oppress the Black majority in South Africa. In 1990 they will oppress the Hispanic ma-

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jority in the Southwest.”

Feazell claims to be supportive of the strong law enforcement. Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Agency grants to local police departments

give local police direct links to information gathering for the federal government. “If it is used for law enforcement, that is a good thing, but for intelligence gathering on private citizens, it is not.”

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ters the program, to present 3,000 Hispanic high school seniors in the classes of 1987, 1988, and 1989 with scholarships and awards for use at the college of their choice. A total of 1,500 students will receive scholarships of \$1,500; an additional 1,500 students will receive honorable mention awards of \$100.

In 1984, the first year of the original three-year Mellon grant, 500 students received scholarships and awards. This year, a total of 700 students have been selected as recipients; in 1986, 500 stipends of each type will be made.

“Through the National Hispanic Scholar Awards Program, we not only recognize superior academic achievement by Hispanic high school seniors, but we are also able to identify other academically well-prepared Hispanic students and encourage their recruitment by post-secondary institutions,” said Board President George H. Hanford. “This continued support from the Mellon Foundation is particularly significant because it helps to raise the relatively low number of Hispanic youths who

enter college.”

Students enter competition for the Hispanic awards by taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in their junior year of high school, and by identifying themselves as Hispanic at that time. A percentage of those students with the highest scores are invited to apply for a Hispanic Scholar Award.

From this applicant pool, winners are chosen on the basis of their overall academic achievements, including their grade point average, high school records, scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and other criteria such as personal qualities and community involvement.

The names of all semifinalists are listed on a roster of outstanding Hispanic students, which is released to colleges and universities to encourage them to seek out these talented Hispanic students as potential candidates for admission. In 1984, 1,100 students were listed on the roster; this year, over 1,600 became semifinalists.

For more information about the National Hispanic Scholar Awards Program, contact Evelyn M. Davilla, the director of the program, in the Board's New York office.