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Suicide notes name DA in 'legal' problem

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A Waco doctor's purported suicide notes released by the Waco Police Department on Wednesday link a \$12,500 debt to District Attorney Vic Feazell and Waco lawyer Guy Cox, a candidate for justice of the peace in Saturday's Democratic primary.

Waco police report the notes were found at Dr. Anthony Quinn's home while the police were investigating his death from a single gunshot wound on April 8. Police Chief Larry Scott turned a copy of the notes over to the *Tribune-Herald* in response to a formal request made under the Texas Open Records Act.

The notes were given to federal authorities shortly after Quinn's suicide, according to Waco police. A federal grand jury in Austin reportedly is investigating Feazell's activities.

Feazell said Wednesday afternoon that he received no money from Quinn and believes the release of the notes is politically motivated.

Cox also denied receiving money from Quinn.

"If there was anything to this they'd be arresting me, not leaking this to the press three days before the election. I think Larry Scott should be ashamed of himself for this one," Feazell said.

The information released by the police

department includes a two-page note that police say they believe Quinn wrote the day of his suicide, a five-page note written several days prior to the suicide and two pages of diagrams.

In a subsection of the five-page note titled "Legal," there is a paragraph in barely legible handwriting:

"Basically, pay Guy Cox \$12,500, and 'the problem' no longer exists — because of my profession and status in this country (as a British immigrant), this obviously is not negotiable, and under other circumstances would be paid and perhaps the incident closed???. However, this must involve the D.A. who is already up to his ass in this type of problem — so

how reliable a solution if the going got tough?? No GUARANTEES and I am sure I am expendable!!! Plus money does not exist, so no money — no lawyer — no arrangement with D.A. — all hell on wheels breaks loose!!"

Cox said he had told Quinn he owed him \$12,500, but said the money was for 16 months of legal consultation, including work Cox did on Quinn's behalf in civil matters.

"I feel they released this to smear Vic Feazell, and I don't know whether they have an ax to grind with Guy Cox or not. These are the types of things where elec-

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Feazell calls release of suicide notes political

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tions are won and lost," Cox said.

In a diagram included with the notes, the figure "12,500" is written with two arrows extending from the figure. One arrow points to the words "Guy Cox," and the other arrow points to the letters "D.A." There are question marks over the arrow that points to the letters D.A.

"Everywhere there are any allegations, there are question marks," Feazell said. "I'm sure Larry Scott, (Assistant U.S. Attorney) Jan Patterson and the FBI have checked this out backwards and forwards, if this is in fact a genuine note. If it were evidence at all in a criminal case, they would not be releasing it to the media.

"They've had this note for more than a month, and now they release it. Larry Scott is fighting to keep his job, because I think he knows that if I am elected by a big majority there's going to have to be some changes made, and I don't think they'd stop at anything to get me out," Feazell said.

Fezell, in his bid for re-election, faces Waco attorney Bill Vannatta in Saturday's Democratic Primary.

"I'm not going to respond to anything (Fezell) says," Scott said.

Scott denied that the release of the notes was politically timed.

"It wasn't from us. Apparently someone stirred something up or we wouldn't have been hit with the requests (to release the notes)," Scott said.

The notes detail Quinn's problems with alcoholism and debts.

Waco police records show an off-duty state trooper arrested Quinn on Oct. 19, 1985, a few blocks from his home and charged him with driving while intoxicated, aggravated assault on a police officer and evading arrest.

Fezell and Cox said that they worked out an agreement to allow Quinn to serve an "informal probation."

Fezell said that he allowed Cox to file a waiver of speedy trial in the DWI case and told Quinn to undergo alcoholism treatment. He said had Quinn completed a year-long alcoholism program and stayed sober for another year, he would have dropped the DWI charge.

"It was a more strenuous regimen of treatment than he would have received on probation for a

first-time offense," Fezell said.

The five pages of handwritten notes and two pages of diagrams Quinn left make no mention of such an arrangement with the district attorney's office.

"I told him that Vic Fezell would stand by the agreement as long as he didn't drink, but he if began drinking it's all over," Cox said.

"It killed me to read the notes. Here was a friend of mine who was crying out for help, and there was nothing I could do about it," Cox said.