

**THURSDAY**

Feb. 4, 1988

## **EDITORIALS**

### *Take charges to grand jury*

Mayor David Sibley and the Waco City Council majority acted responsibly in concluding that the McLennan County grand jury is the proper body to investigate charges of misconduct against Police Chief Larry Scott by District Attorney Vic Fezell.

City Councilman Jay Larsen wanted the City Council to conduct an investigation of the police chief, but Larsen's motion died for lack of a second at the council meeting on Tuesday.

Fezell charged in December that Scott and two Waco police detectives attempted to frame him for violations of the narcotics laws. Scott and the detectives deny the charges, and until Tuesday the City Council had appeared to be unanimous in support of the police officers.

Fezell's charges mark a bizarre turn in the long-running feud between the district attorney and the police chief. They supposedly involve taped telephone conversations and accusations by a three-time convict who is being held in McLennan County Jail on new charges.

City Manager John Harrison's call for an investigation by the Texas Rangers drew a predictable response from Fezell. The district attorney also has an ongoing feud with the Rangers and dismissed Harrison's recommendation outright.

Fezell now says he has referred the alleged plot against him to the Texas attorney general's office. Fezell claims Attorney General Jim Mattox as a close friend and supporter.

The attorney general's office is not the proper agency to conduct this investigation. Fezell should lay his entire case against Scott and the Waco Police Department before the McLennan County grand jury. If he does not, the grand jury should start an investigation on its own initiative.

While still reserving judgment on the substance of Fezell's charges, it is safe to say the law enforcement system in Waco and McLennan County is in an appalling state. The people are entitled to far, far more than they are getting.