State and Local

Waco lawyer offers testimony against Feazell in bribery trial

USTIN (AP) — A Waco lawyer ified Wednesday that his law n's business prospered after an eement was made with District orney Vic Feazell to share fees on

Our business seemed to continue ncrease," said Dick Kettler, who eared as a government witness in zell's racketeering and bribery

ettler said Tuesday that he and partner, Don Hall, made an eement with the McLennan nty prosecutor in May 1984 that zell would get one-third of the le-fees paid for cases that Feazell

eazell, 35, who is still district at-ey, is being tried in U.S. District irt on charges he accepted bribes llegal campaign contributions in ange for his influence over

Feazell has denied the charges. Kettler said Wednesday he never actually saw Feazell receive any money but he and Hall talked frequently about amounts to give Feazell for help in certain cases.

Under questioning Wednesday, Kettler said he had a written agreement with the government to plead guilty to a felony charge of tax evasion in return for his testimony. He said his attorney was still negotiating with U.S. attorneys over the

The jury heard an hour-long tape recording Wednesday made in Kettler's office on Sept. 12, 1986 of a conversation between him and Feazell. The district attorney did not know the recording was being made. Most of the conversation concerned

the grand jury investigation in Austin into Feazell's office.

At one point in the tape, which was arranged by the FBI, Kettler told Feazell: "I don't know of anything that can connect you and us."
He was asked what he meant.

At that time I did not know they had any records to connect Don Hall and me making payments to Feazell," Kettler replied.

At another point in the tape, Feazell reminded Kettler that "you have

the privilege. Kettler said this meant "I didn't have to divulge anything between me and my attorney.

Kettler said when the agreement was made with Feazell in May 1984, the firm's standard fee for handling DWI or drug cases was \$200 to \$300 if the client wanted to plead guilty or

If there was a chance the DWI charge might be dismissed for lack of evidence or decreased to public intoxication, the fee would be \$1,500 to \$2,000, Kettler said. But after the agreement with Feazell, he said, the fee in such cases was increased to

"Feazell's share was generally one-third," Kettler said. "Hall would tell me how much money to get out of the office safe, and I would give that amount to him. I did not ever see Hall give the money to Feazell."

Kettler was questioned about a number of individual cases.

In one case, a client was charged with delivery of drugs while still on probation from another charge

"We agreed to pay one-third of the \$6,500 in cash minus 20 percent we would have to pay for income

Appeals court rules in favor of AT&T over charge of discrimination by PUC

AUSTIN (AP) — The 3rd Court of Appeals it ruled Wednesday that the Public Utility mmission discriminated against AT&T Comnications of the Southwest, Inc., and certain er long-distance telephone companies by lev-"access charges" on them but not Southwes-

An access charge, as defined by the court, is a paid by AT&T and other long-distance com-

The charge pays for the carrier's "access" to lotelephone exchanges operated by Southwesn Bell and small independent telephone com-

nies, or "local exchange carriers." Access to the local telephone exchange is nec-ary to originate and complete customers' long-

tance calls, Chief Justice Bob Shannon of the According to Shannon, AT&T and others erred in sustaining PUC orders "which imposed access charges on them but not on SWB and other similarly situated telephone companies, even though SWB and the others use the same telephone exchange facilities for the same pur-The problem originated with the federal court

decree ordering divestiture of the Bell Telephone System, Shannon said.

Texas was divided into districts known as "Local Access and Transport Areas" — or LATAs. Local exchange carriers — and Southwestern provide long-distance service intra-

AT&T also may compete for that long-dis-

The PUC, it was noted, leveled access charges

riers whether they were providing intra-LATA

"In contrast, the commission's order did not require the local carriers and SWB to pay access charges or to reflect an access charge as an el-ement of their intra-LATA toll rate," Shannon

AT&T and others argued that through access charges which, for certain distances, are higher than the entire retail price of the local exchange carrier's or Southwestern Bell's toll call, "they are being forced to subsidize their competitor's toll business," Shannon said.

The 3rd Court of Appeals reversed the Austin trial court judgments, whic' had affirmed the PUC order. The trial court was instructed to remand the issues to the PUC "for further proceedings" consistent with the appeals court opin-

wo hurt sailors from USS Stark

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Two ilors injured when Iraqi missles ruck the USS Stark received rple Hearts in ceremonies Vednesday at the hospital where ey are recovering from exten-

get medals

Ray Dery, a spokesman for rooke Army Medical Center, id the families of the two Navy etty officers were present when ear Adm. David R. Morris.

Lawrence Mark Bareford, 23, Fredericksburg, Va., and mes R. Wheeler, 28, of El Paso, ere among the injured aboard the Stark when it was hit in the lay 17 Persian Gulf attack.

They arrived at Brooke, which as the U.S. military's only burn enter, on May 20 and are now in tisfactory condition and doing ell, Dery said.

Dery said Bareford's mother nd father, Beale and Nancy Bareford, attended the ceremo-nies, along with Wheeler's mother, Nan, and two brothers, Army Specialist 4th Class Walter heeler and Jonathan Wheeler.

Morris is chief of naval air aining at the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

'Master forger' victimizes sellers; is wanted by police in six states

DALLAS (AP) — A convicted counterfeiter who wrote a book called "Nation's Master Forger" while in prison is being sought by authorities in six states in connection with a scheme to rip off people hold-

ing garage sales.
Police say James S. Jennings, 49, an escapee from a federal prison in Big Spring, uses counterfeit cashier's checks to buy goods at garage sales or from people selling valuable merchandise such as electronic equipment, cameras or computers through classified ads.

"He's able to accomplish this not because his cashier's checks look so good but because he gains these peo-ple's confidence," Dallas Police forgery investigator Ricky Smith said. He has filed two cases against Jen-

nings in the past five months. Smith said Jennings usually passes checks ranging from \$800 to \$4,000 and tries to conduct business after banking hours so verification of the

check cannot be made. Some of the checks have been drawn on banks in Houston and a defunct bank in Plainview

Jennings allows the sellers to take information from his driver's license when they accept the authenticlooking checks, authorities say.

But they say he is apparently capable of making phony driver's li-

U.S. Marshal Clint Peoples said

Jennings' record includes five prison sentences in three states for forgery and counterfeiting.

He has used as many as 30 aliases, Peoples said.
"We have not been able to estab-

lish a pattern in Jennings' movements, other than the fact that he seems to make sure he follows no

patterns," Peoples said. Authorities in Houston are

"It's going to take some citizen who's a little bit leery to catch him. He's very paranoid about things, and the smallest thing not seeming right can make him go on somewhere

— Jack W. Lisano, investigator

among the most interested in catching Jennings.
"We've got him indicted on three,

but we've got 15 or 20 more cases," said Jack. W. Lisano, an investigator with the Harris County district attorney's office. "There isn't any use indicting him on any more because he's already wanted by so many

"It's going to take some citizen who's a little bit leery to catch him. He's very paranoid about things, and the smallest thing not seeming right can make him go on some where else.

Lisano said Jennings has used phony credentials at times indicating he was either a pilot for Delta Air Lines or Continental Airlines. He said Jennings apparently faked the airline identification himself.

Authorities say Jennings was serving a second prison term in 1973 when he wrote a book called "Nation's Master Forger" about his exploits. He vowed to give up his life of crime. The book didn't sell well, and Jennings made the rounds of television talk shows before returning to the profession that brought him no-

He was sent to prison three more times after that, the last time in February 1986, for possessing and cashing counterfeit cashier's checks. He escaped later that year.

In addition to Dallas and Houston, Jennings is wanted by Texas authorities in College Station, Port Arthur, El Paso, Odessa, San Antonio, Amarillo, Austin, Waco, Canyon and Temple. Outside Texas, he is wanted by authorities in Oklahoma City; Little Rock, Ark.; Shreveport, La.; Albuquerque, N.M.; and Phoe-



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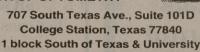
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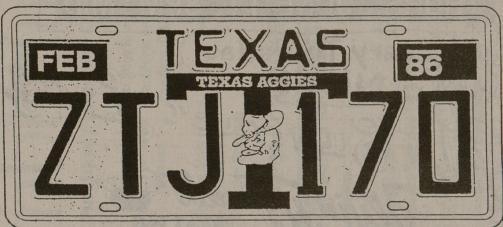
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