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Man accused of wrong murder-for-hire

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WACO (AP) — The father of a teen-ager whose body was found hacked to death along with two other teen-agers in July 1982 said police told him when he reported his son missing that the youth was "probably out sleeping off a drunk."

Richard Franks, the father of Kenneth Franks, testified during Monday's opening day of testimony in the capital murder trial of David Wayne Spence.

Spence is accused of killing Franks and two teen-age girls in July 1982 near Lake Waco in

what prosecutors say was a bungled murder-for-hire scheme instigated by Muneer Mohamad Deeb.

Six witnesses testified Monday in 54th State District Court on the opening day of the trial, which is expected to last about a month.

During his opening remarks to a jury of eight women and four men, McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell said evidence will indicate that Deeb offered Spence \$5,000 to kill Gayle Kelly, a Methodist Home

resident with whom Deeb was linked romantically at the time. Deeb is also charged with three counts of capital murder.

The prosecutor said Miss Kelly bears an uncanny resemblance to Jill Montgomery, who might have been the victim of mistaken identity when she, Franks and Raylene Rice were abducted from Koehne Park and stabbed to death.

Spence, 25, is on trial for the death of Miss Montgomery, but faces two more capital murder charges in the deaths of Franks

and Miss Rice. If convicted, he faces death by injection or life imprisonment.

Deeb, 25, is the former co-owner of the Rainbow Drive-In Grocery near the Methodist Home and became acquainted with Franks and Miss Kelly, who had a "brother-and-sister relationship," while both were residents of the Waco home.

Feazel said that Deeb reportedly took Miss Kelly to Dallas when she decided to leave the Methodist Home and paid for her

residence at the Northwood Apartments.

Nicknamed "Lucky" Deeb was jealous of the relationship between Franks and Miss Kelly and reportedly took out a \$20,000 life insurance policy on Miss Kelly three weeks before the Lake Waco triple homicide, Feazell said. Miss Kelly is expected to testify in Spence's trial.

"Miss Montgomery and Miss Kelly had similar names, Jill and Gayle, both worked at Fort Fisher, both lived at the Methodist Home, both knew Ken

(Franks) and both looked alike. Some people would even confuse the girls," Feazell said.

On July 13, 1982, the night they died, Miss Rice and Miss Montgomery, who both were living in Waxachachie, paid a "surprise visit" to Franks after they picked up Miss Montgomery's paycheck from Fort Fisher campground in Waco.

The girls picked Franks up at his house about 8 p.m. and the trio drove to Koehne Park, a popular meeting place for Waco's youth.