

3 accused of torture

# Sheriffs' trial finishes

United Press International  
HOUSTON — A federal prosecutor urged a jury to show law officers they are not above the law by convicting three former Texas lawmen on charges they water-tortured prisoners to obtain confessions.

"The defendants were successful at muting the screams of their victims by sticking towels over their mouths, but I submit to you this case is screaming for a verdict and that verdict is guilty," Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Woodward said in final arguments

Tuesday.  
A six-man, six-woman jury was to begin deliberations in the case Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. CDT.

Former San Jacinto County Sheriff James "Humpty" Parker and former deputies Carl Lee and John Glover faced prison sentences ranging between 12 and 14 years on conspiracy and civil rights charges if convicted.

A fourth defendant, former deputy Floyd Baker, had his trial severed from the others' by U.S. District Judge James DeAnda on

grounds Baker had a conflict of interest with the other defendants.

Baker surprised his codefendants by testifying Monday he and they tortured prisoners, but that he was only taking orders from them and had no criminal intent.

During the two-week trial, six former prisoners in the rural San Jacinto County jail testified the defendants handcuffed them to chairs, draped towels over their faces and nearly drowned them with water poured over the

towels.  
Other law enforcement officials backed up that testimony.

"These defendants took the U.S. Constitution and wadded it up and tossed it," Woodward argued.

Parker's defense attorney, Tom Taylor, said the convicted criminals had selfish motives for testifying against the law officers who put them behind bars.

"They all have something to gain by conviction of Mr. Parker," Taylor said.



staff photo by John Makely

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## Continental Airlines frets over \$84 million

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Management officials of Continental Airlines, concerned about an \$84 million loss during the first half of 1983, met with various employee groups to discuss airline operating costs, a spokesman said.

pilots, flights attendants, agents and clerical workers was "another in a series" of meetings to discuss the airline's financial status.

"We're meeting with the leadership of different employee groups," Hicks said. "We've had several meetings on restructuring the company."

Hicks would not disclose the nature of the meetings, but cost-restructuring often includes management asking labor to consider concessions on wages and other benefits.

"We'll probably have some more things to say specifically about the meetings later on," Hicks said.

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