

# Verdict Continued from Page 1A

In closing arguments at the trial, however, City Prosecutor David Logan steered away from saying the store incident was racially motivated. Instead, Logan said Tackett believed the City of Springfield was going to raise taxes so he decided to harass Adonri, whom Logan said identified himself as an employee of the city.

"He's got a motive to behave in the abusive way he did to Mr. Adonri," Logan said.

Defense Attorney Dan Brown insisted Adonri's credibility was the issue. "He was by far and away the most inconsistent witness in this case," Brown said, pointing out differences in a staff memo Adonri wrote hours after the incident and the official police report.

Taking the stand in his own behalf, Tackett testified store employee Paul Hawk gave him the toy pistol while he was talking with Adonri. Tackett said he put the object on the counter where it remained the entire time Adonri was in the store.

"I never pointed it at Mr. Adonri," Tackett said.

Tackett also denied that the "watering hole" remark was racial in origin, saying he was referring instead to his store and the Springfield economy.

"It started out as a race thing," Tackett said, in reference to media attention over the incident.

"My 13-year-old daughter balled when she saw the paper," he said. "No one can know what it's done to my family."

Adonri testified that after he walked into the store and identified himself, Tackett grabbed the cap gun and remarked, "you city officials are here again to raise my taxes."

According to Adonri, Tackett grabbed official papers from him and began flipping through them.

"He still had a gun in his hands. I wasn't going to do anything to make him mad,"

Adonri said.

When Detective Art Hartman of the Springfield Police Department walked into the store on unrelated business, Tackett "changed his attitude" and put the gun down, Adonri said.

Adonri testified that he picked up the papers at that point and left the store. He walked to a nearby phone booth where he calmed himself before returning to his office. Once there, he reported the incident to his supervisor and filled out a memo.

After the six-person jury returned their verdict after 40 minutes of deliberations, Judge Richard Curtis imposed a fine of \$250 on Tackett but withheld a jail sentence.

"I'm happy he didn't go to jail because he has responsibilities to take care of. That's all I can say right now," Adonri said as he left the courtroom.

Tackett said, "I don't have anything to say. I just think it's ridiculous."

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