

## Beer war on Canada brews

REUTERS

TORONTO — A beer war between the U.S. and Canada is frothing up again, with Washington expected to slap a duty on Canadian beer and Canadians vowing to hit back.

Industry officials and analysts say Washington is expected to announce today a tariff of about \$3 a case on Canadian beer.

"If the Americans launch some actions on beer that is not consistent with the GATT, we'll take that very seriously and there could well be a very strong response," Canadian Trade Minister Michael Wilson said yesterday.

GATT is the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the world watchdog for international trade issues.

The U.S. duty is expected to be aimed mainly at the province of Ontario, where an environmental levy on nonrefillable containers is affecting U.S. brewers who sell beer in cans. U.S. beer also is subject to a state warehousing charge for imports.

The province's premier,

# N.Y. gets real on fakes

## New anti-counterfeit law

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY — The state will soon crack down on sellers of bogus Rolex watches, fake Vuitton luggage, pretend Polo products and other counterfeit goods under legislation signed into law yesterday by Gov. Cuomo.

The new law, one of dozens signed yesterday, makes it a crime to sell, make or distribute good with a counterfeit trademark.

The bill had been promoted by a group of manufacturers that have been targeted by counterfeiters, including Chanel Inc., Rolex Watch, Fendi, Louis Vuitton and Polo-Ralph Lauren.

"The counterfeiting business as a whole is a multi-million-dollar business, and it affects all industries, from luxury goods like ours to companies in the entertainment business, to sneakers and medical supplies and auto parts," said Veronica Hrdy, vice president and counsel at Chanel.

Counterfeit products are usually of poor quality and hurt a company's reputation, she said.

Counterfeiters also cost the state money, since they gen-

erally don't collect or pay sales taxes, she said.

The legislation defines first-, second-, and third-degree trademark counterfeiting. First-degree trademark counterfeiting involves products with a value greater than \$100,000 and is a felony; second-degree trademark counterfeiting involves goods with a value greater than \$1,000 and is a felony; third-degree trademark counterfeiting is a misdemeanor and involves goods worth less than \$1,000.

"Our objective was not focused strictly on the little guy selling counterfeits on the street but more the high-level counterfeiter who is probably doing a lot of other illegal things, a distributor-manufacturer on a very large scale basis," said Hrdy.

**The counterfeiting business as a whole is a multi-million dollar business.**

— Veronica Hrdy



**SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES:** Thousands of counterfeit Cartier watches that had been seized being bulldozed in Manhattan a year ago.

# Salomon back in the swim

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

share, in the same period of 1991.

"A quiet perception remains that the market perception is slightly tainted."