

# Miller moves into soft drinks

MILWAUKEE (AP) - Miller Brewing Co. is shaking up its beverage lineup with the beer maker's planned entrance in the gourmet drink market.

Miller is assuming control of three gourmet sodas - root beer, vanilla cream and orange cream - produced under the Henry Weinhard's brand name. The Milwaukee-based company acquired the sodas in April through its purchase of beer brands from Stroh Brewery Co.

It marks the first time Miller has produced non-alcoholic beverages - except for Sharp's, its non-alcoholic beer - since the repeal of Prohibition.

Miller's two largest rivals - Anheuser-Busch Inc. and Adolph Coors Co. - do not produce sodas.

"We view it as an opportunity," Miller spokeswoman Susan Henderson said Friday. She added that the Weinhard sodas had double-digit sales growth in 1998, with sales continuing to grow in the first half of 1999.

The Weinhard sodas are higher-priced specialty products sold primarily in Oregon, Washington and California, Henderson said. Miller plans to continue that market focus, although there will be limited distribution in other states, Henderson said.

In the three-way April deal, Stroh

sold its brands to Pabst Brewing Co. and Miller.

In addition to the sodas, the Stroh brands sold to Miller were Henry Weinhard's beer and Mickey's malt liquor.

The Weinhard soda and beer brands both are produced at Stroh's brewery in Portland, Ore., which is scheduled to close soon.

When that happens, Miller plans to transfer production of both the Weinhard's beer and soda brands to its Tumwater, Wash., brewery, Henderson said.

Pabst has sold the Tumwater brewery to Miller, and Miller is to assume control of that site on Sept. 1.

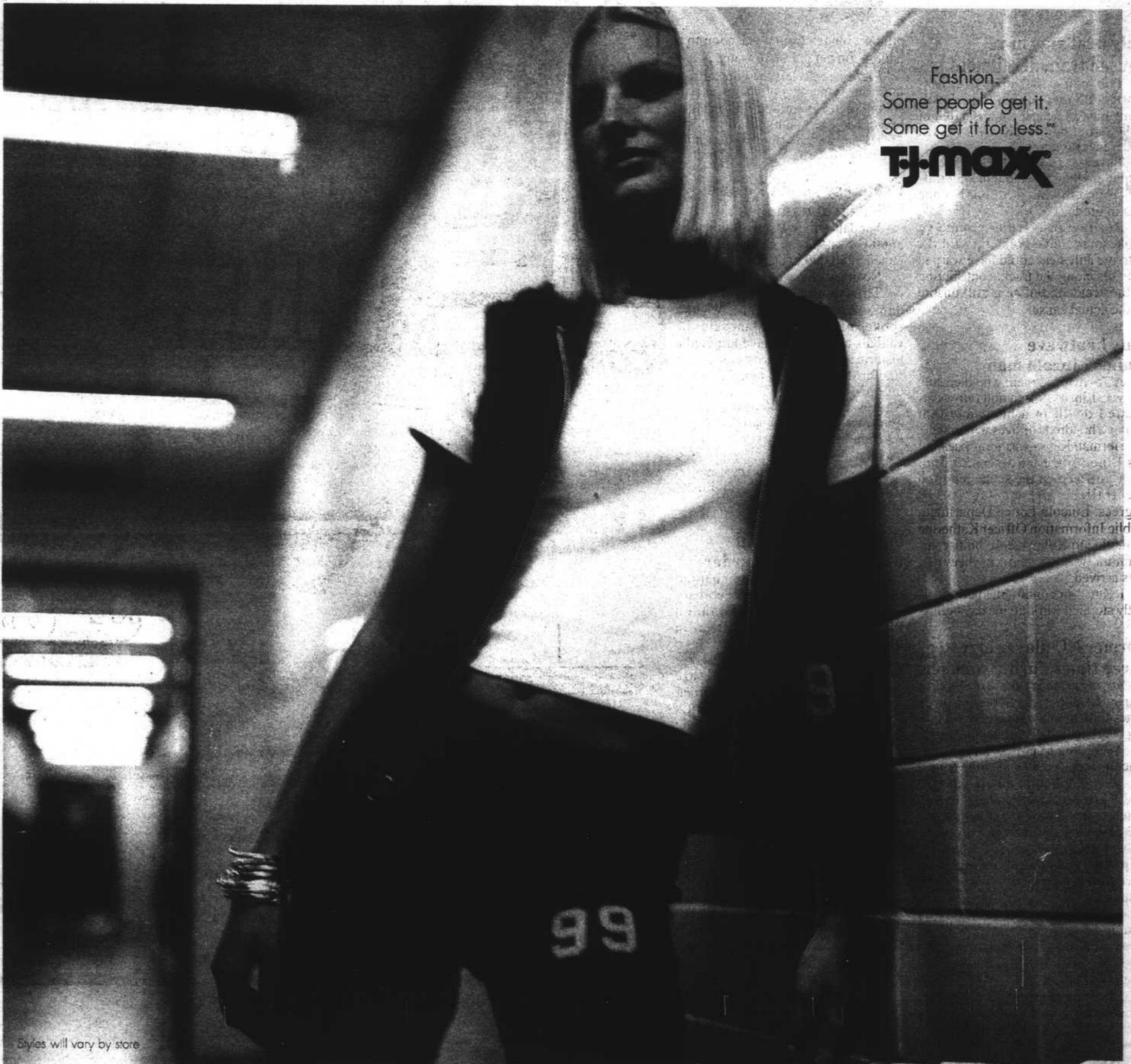
# CIA pulls security clearance of ex-chief

WASHINGTON (AP) - In a highly unusual move, the CIA pulled the security clearances for former Director John Deutch, unwilling to excuse his violation of agency rules by keeping secret files on an unsecured home computer.

Central Intelligence Agency spokesman William Harlow said Friday he knew of no precedent for the action taken against Deutch, a

former deputy defense secretary who spent 38 years in public service before leaving the CIA in December 1996.

The decision to suspend Deutch's security clearances was made by CIA Director George Tenet, Deutch's successor. Tenet acted after reviewing an inspector general's report on Deutch's improper handling of classified materials.



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