

# Economic Warfare Going Global

THE FBI raid in Tulsa involving pirating of popular motion pictures by copying to sell or rent for use in homes or overseas brings to our state an aspect of international economic warfare.

The United States has patent and copyright laws intended to protect inventors and creators of original works in order that they might profit from them. This right of exclusive ownership is a fundamental part of the American free enterprise system.

The copyright law was strengthened by Congress in a law passed in 1976. This was needed to give better control over wholesale copying of books, records, tapes, movies and articles. Use of photo-copying machines and electronic devices was cutting in on royalties and other income due copyright owners.

Although single reproduction copies of materials without any intention of commercial advantage might not be regarded as infringement, the law strikes at systematic, continuous reproduction and distri-

bution of copies of copyrighted materials.

Besides theft of property rights by pirates who illegally export films and tapes in multimillion dollar frauds, American business firms are fighting foreign infringements on trademarks and illegal copying of their merchandise.

An American inventor can file a single international patent application with the U.S. Patent Office, and the U.S. Tariff Commission has power to keep out products that infringe on U.S. patents.

Still, the burden of initiating actions regarding copyright, trademark or patent infringements rests heavily upon the owners.

An international ripoff that is costing more than \$100 million a year is described in U.S. News & World Report (Jan. 15, 1979). This is unauthorized use of famous manufacturers' trademarks on often shoddy merchandise that appears to be genuine.

Levi-type blue jeans are being sold by truckloads in Western

Europe. Fake Cartier watches and jewelry are openly sold in Mexico. Counterfeit Louis Vuitton handbags and wallets are being paddled down the street from the true store in New York.

Most bogus products apparently are made in one country and sold in another. Southeast Asia is a prime source for the United States, Europe and the Middle East.

Negotiations are going on in Geneva to include an anti-counterfeiting section on new trade rules for 99 nations. This includes most major countries, except Russia and China.

The proposed agreement would authorize governments to seize and destroy all phony merchandise at ports of entry.

In the old days, pirates used ships to overtake and rob vessels of their cargoes. Modern pirates use technology to set up factoring and turn out continuous cargoes of fake merchandise that they can convert into cash. The term "robbery" still applies.