

(This story was published in *EuropaStar*, a watch-trade magazine in 1999. The Clinton/Lewinski scandal, a US class action against Swiss banks and the arrest in America of an 11-year-old Swiss boy for alleged sexual offences were in the news. ETA is a Swiss manufacturer of watch movements, belonging to the Swatch group.)

SWISS WATCHMAKERS FACE HUGE U.S. CLASS ACTION

Swiss watch companies that have sold automatic watches in the United States are being sued billions of dollars in a nationwide class action.

They are being invited to negotiate with Mr Hank Friendly, of Honest and Friendly Inc., a prominent Las Vegas firm of attorneys, representing millions of ordinary Americans suffering from severe energy-challenge syndrome.

“We’re talking around 28 billion dollars,” said Mr Friendly. “It’s disgraceful what these Swedes have done. I thought they were supposed to be neutral. Complaints are pouring into our offices.”

A long-term sufferer who has not received a cent of compensation, Ms Beluga Broadbutt of Two Dogs Creek, Fla., summed up the wave of anger and bitterness sweeping the country. “I haven’t got the energy to swat a roach. Unwrapping a burger is an ordeal, ” she sobbed.

Millions like her blame Swiss watches marked “Automatic” for secretly stealing the energy from unsuspecting Americans. Professor Ernest Streetwise of the Hype Propulsion Laboratory estimated the amount of energy being stolen by Swiss watches is equivalent to six million barrels a day.

Oil prices rose sharply in London today with benchmark Brent crude trading up 15 at 50 dollars a barrel.

Minority activist, Ms Pamela Strydent, said anger against the Swiss was exploding across America since talk-show host Copra Houston admitted having had three sex-

change operations after wearing a Swiss automatic watch. "I never told anyone to buy a Swiss watch. Never ever," he lied.

Minorities from all over the country face a constant drain on their energy as they prepare to hit the networks for tomorrow's million movement march on Washington.

Meanwhile reports are coming in of serious injuries when a lesbian fat pride stampede ran over a counter-demonstration by the SPiritual Energy Renewal Movement.

Eyewitness Klompie van Dickhead, a visitor from Amsterdam, Italy, told CNN: "I was just taking a leak, when I put my finger in this dyke and all hell broke loose," he confessed. Mr Van Dickhead, aged 11, was led away in chains.

Fifth-generation watch guru, Lionel Codbean III of Boston MA, stunned a congressional hearing with the sensational disclosure that none of the Swiss automatic watches had a battery and that they were in fact using the energy of the person who was wearing the watch.

"Those thieving communist Swiss are gonna hurt for this," said Burk Inbred, of Flatulence Falls, Col. "I always buy American like Swatch or Seiko."

Hundreds of local consumer organizations are urging their members to dump Swiss watches before their energy runs out entirely reducing them to vegetables.

Speaking at the Saint-Patrick's day parade, New York senator, Murphy Niceguy, threatened to disclose historical evidence that the Swiss had been amassing hoards of looted energy in secret bank accounts since World War II, if the Swiss did not immediately pay \$80 billion to a fund for Irish-famine survivors.

New evidence is emerging that the Swiss watchmakers have secret links with ETA, an automatic terrorist movement, believed to be flooding the American market with a cheap, highly addictive automatic derivative that is having a devastating effect on American youth.

Milwaukee congressman, Bent Person, called for immediate sanctions and a no-fly zone. The eighty-seventh fleet and the battle-carrier Nimitz armed with cruise missiles have been ordered to Switzerland. "The American people will not be caught with our pants down again," President Bill Clintgate told a White House lawn.

Meanwhile former white house-bimbo, Ms Monika Monte Christo, is leading a top-level delegation to Tel Aviv to find out who the Swiss president is in a last-ditch attempt to avert massive air strikes against Swiss watch production centers hidden deep in underground bunkers in the Swiss Alps. "We want to make Sweden safe for democracy," she said.