

Rocky Hopes to Restore Death Penalty

New York [RNS] — Gov. Rockefeller has announced plans to try to have capital punishment reinstated in New York State, despite a State Court of Appeals ruling that struck down the state's death penalty law.

In its ruling, the appeals court

had declared that the law gave juries too much discretion in deciding whether to impose a death sentence on persons convicted of certain crimes.

Responding to the court's

action, Gov. Rockefeller said the decision is expected to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. If the high court does not reverse the ruling, he added, he will introduce legislation to restore capital punishment.

In a statement, the governor declared, "I am deeply convinced that the deterrent provided by the death penalty for the murder of peace officers including policemen and prison guards has been undermined" by the court ruling.

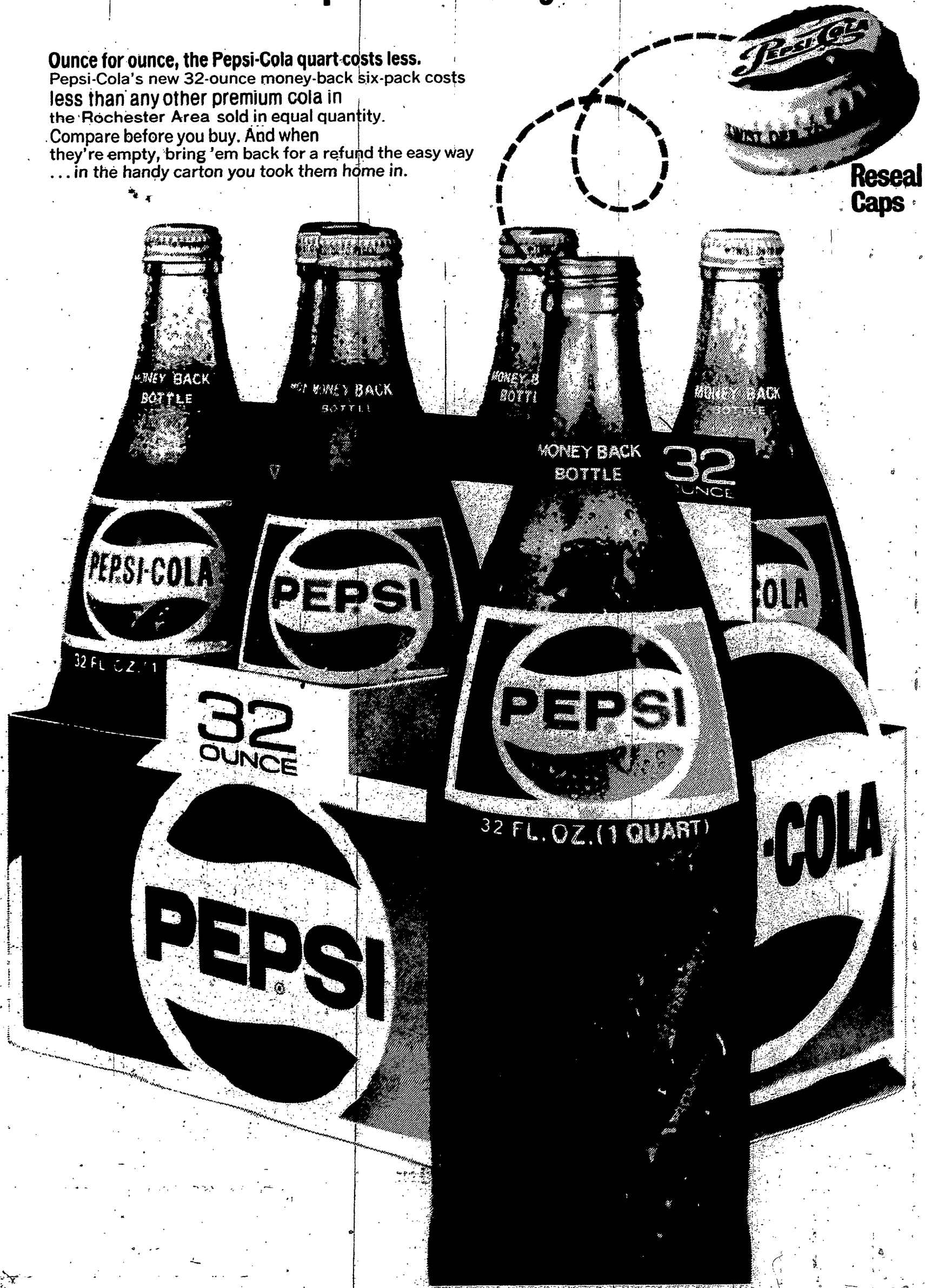
He indicated that the legislation that he would propose would "eliminate the discretionary nature of the death penalty."

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