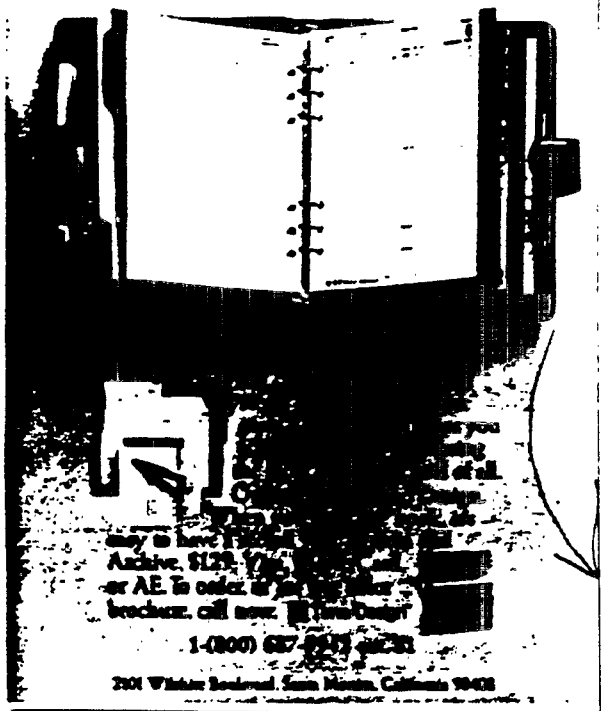
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Buying Agents See Continu For Economy in '86, Strong

By Jeffrey Lincoln
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

NEW YORK – The nation's purchasing managers see continued growth in the economy in 1986, with particularly strong growth coming in the second quarter.

The latest semiannual survey by the National Association of Purchasing Management indicates that most believe by a 3-to-1 margin, that 1986 will be better than 1985.

The fourth quarter of 1985 is expected to be modestly better than the third and improvement will continue in the first quarter of 1986. Purchasers feel growth will accelerate in the second quarter of 1986, with a majority predicting the first half of 1986 will be modestly better than the first half of 1985.

Optimism among purchasing managers cools for the second half of 1986, as only 37% predict the second half of 1986 will be better than the first.

The outlook for prices among purchasers is highly favorable. While 33% of purchasers are looking for prices to rise over the next six months, 86% see only selective increases and 97% feel increases will be slight or moderate.

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State Court Rules Workers Can Sue Their Employers

By a Wall Street Journal Staff Reporter

TRENTON, N.J. – The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that employees have the right to sue employers in personal injury cases.

Previously, New Jersey workers were barred from suing their employers for personal injuries and were restricted to worker compensation awards for injuries. In a case brought by more than 200 current and former Du Pont Co. employees, the state's highest court ruled 5-2 that employees have the right to sue their employers if they can meet two burdens of proof, David Jacoby, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said.

As a result of the court decision, an employee, seeking to bring suit, must prove that his employer acted "knowingly, with substantial certainty," that injury would result or that the company "fraudulently concealed" that information. An employee can also sue the doctor or plant physician if he able to prove a conspiracy between the doctor and the employer, Mr. Jacoby said.

In Wilmington, Del., a Du Pont spokesman said the implications of the decision were "broader than Du Pont." He stressed that it was "absolutely and positively" not a ruling indicating "negligence" on the part of Du Pont.

In the suit, originally filed in 1980 with the Superior Court in Camden, the plaintiffs charged that Du Pont had exposed them to asbestos and then concealed the harm done by the substance

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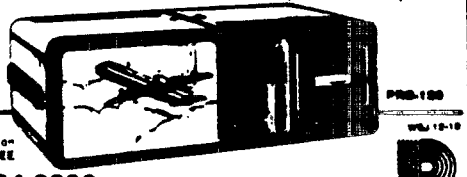
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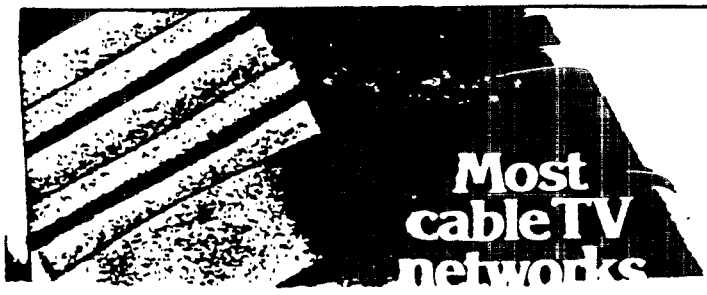
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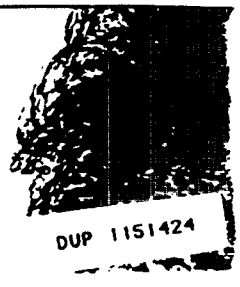
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