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Document 0676
                                                                               The Wall Street Journal will report events of the past century that stand as milestones of American business history . )
                                                                                                                                                                          (SQ_member) (ADDR-up) (CAUS) (CONJ.member) (
              Thomas Jefferson ev-w2888f7_u_nobody
            [20676003]
                                                                                                                                       PAT-arg
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                                                                        h the decimal system of metric weights and measures the French had invented ev-w1750f1
                                                                            for the inches , feet and yards the colonists had brought with them .
            Scientists felt differently
ev-w1298f1
             Businessmen took their cue from the engineers .
            [20676010]
                                                                                   the Metric Conversion Act in 1975 , industry was far ahead .
            Because the law made compliance voluntary , it inspired little more than jokes ev-w1923f2 _ _ _ _ ev-w1715f2_u_nobody _ _ _ _ _ _ _
            [20676012]
                                                                                                                                                                                         PAT-arg
           (The press had a field day with questions about what would happen to "six-footer", " "yardstick " and " inchworm . ")
                                                                    PREC PAT-arg RSTR
                                                                                                                                                             (CONJ.member) (RSTR)
            General Motors , for example , uses metric terms for its automobile bodies and power trains .
                                                                                                                 PREC -
                                                                                                                       PAT-arg
         (In auto advertising , however , items such as wheelbases are still described in inches . )
           Farm-machine makers such as Caterpillar and Deere work in the metric system .
          The liquor industry went metric 10 years ago .
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