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The News in Brief

The State

Pregnancy Study Planned

The Cupertino-based Semiconductor Industry Assn. agreed to conduct a national study to see whether miscarriages and other adverse health effects result from chip workers' exposure to toxic materials. The announcement came at a meeting of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. The industry's trade association said it supports a board resolution calling for a "prompt" investigation by "highly credible independent scientists" acceptable to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, the University of California and the state Department of Health Services. Concerns about the safety of semiconductor workers were raised by a 1986 study of female workers at a Digital Equipment Corp. plant in Massachusetts, which showed a high rate of miscarriages.

A federal judge in Fresno dismissed a lawsuit against the California Raisin Advisory Board by a businessman who claimed that its directors stole his idea of dancing raisins. The decision could allow the board to proceed immediately with plans to sell dozens of such items as T-shirts and coffee mugs bearing the likenesses of the raisin characters, featured in a popular national television ad dancing to the 1960s song, "I Heard It

Through the Grapevine." U. S. District Judge Robert E. Coyle dismissed the copyright and trademark infringement suit by Robert Reiter of Plattsburgh, N.Y., saying that humanized raisins could no more be copyrighted by the man that first drew them than nude statues could be copyrighted by the artist who first sculpted them.

A judge in Chicago approved an agreement between a homosexual father living in California and his former wife to allow their daughters to visit their father during the summer, despite the mother's earlier concerns about acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Benjamin Schatz, director of the AIDS Civil Rights Project of the National Gay Rights Advocates, said that the couple, known in court documents as John and Susan Doe for protection of the children, divorced in 1978 and that in 1983 the mother won a court order denying the father overnight visits with the children after she discovered that he was sleeping in his one-bedroom apartment with another man. American Civil Liberties Union spokesman Harvey Grossman said the settlement "acknowledges the value of John's relationship with his children while rejecting irrational fears about AIDS transmission."