

NASA preparing spacecraft

United Press International
 CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has ordered around-the-clock shifts, seven days a week, in an effort to make the space shuttle Columbia ready for its scheduled initial test flight Nov. 9, NASA disclosed Tuesday.
 About 600 employees of Rockwell

International, builder of the shuttle and of the space agency, were assigned to the triple daily shifts.
 The first priority this week was removal of the plastic substitutes for about 8,000 ceramic tiles in the shuttle's 34,000-tile heat shield. As the dummy tiles were removed, work crews cleaned the surface to prepare it for cementing the re-

placements.
 Officials at the Kennedy Space Flight Center said a six-week-long test of the shuttle's major combined systems would begin next week.
 A mock-up copy of the shuttle's external fuel tank was scheduled to arrive at the space center today to be used during the testing program.

Two dummy rocket boosters to be used for fitting and checking of the shuttle before the flight hardware is ready have already reached Cape Canaveral.
 NASA officials have said there was no better than a 15 percent chance that Columbia will be ready on time for the Nov. 9 flight date.

Weber case is Bakke sequel

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — Can a company and a union voluntarily a job training program that plainly prefers minorities without subject to "reverse discrimination" suits by whites?
 The Supreme Court scheduled 90 minutes of arguments Wednesday on that issue, raised in a sequel to last June's Bakke reverse discrimination in schools.
 The ultimate decision could have an important influence on American workplace.
 Due to Justice John Paul Stevens' decision to disqualify from the case and Lewis Powell's absence following surgery, seven members of the court were to question lawyers in the draped courtroom. Powell has not yet said whether he participated in the ruling.
 Last June, the court ruled 5-4 a white medical school named Allan Bakke had been discriminated against by a special university admissions program for minorities.
 The new case raises questions left unresolved about the 1964 Civil Rights Act which prohibits discrimination in employment.
 It was begun by a blue-collar worker named Brian Weber, who won lower court rulings that he and other whites in a Gramercy plant run by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp. were excluded on racial grounds from half the seats in an on-the-job training program.
 The training program, adopted in 1974 as part of a national collective bargaining agreement with the United Steelworkers union, temporarily reserved one-half of all seats for minorities until the percentage of blacks employed as craftsmen in the plant reached 39 percent.
 The program balanced Kaiser's efforts to comply with government demands that federal contractors recruit qualified against union demands that its members — mostly white — be allowed to participate.
 Weber, a strong union man, went to court after his application was denied even though some blacks had less seniority.

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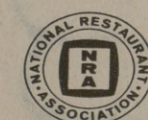


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