

# Space shuttle program will move from Texas to Florida

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — NASA Administrator James Beggs predicted Thursday some space shuttle planning and control functions — the program's "center of gravity" — will move from Texas to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Beggs also said he expects active cooperation from Japan and some of America's European allies in development of a permanently manned space station planned to begin operations in 1992.

Beggs said the shift would have to occur gradually, over

five to 10 years, because of the space agency's heavy investment in shuttle-related equipment at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"I think over time we will see more of the operational role moving to KSC," Beggs said at a news service interview. "Bit by bit, we're going to force the center of gravity in shuttle operations from Johnson to Kennedy."

The Johnson Space Center, which led the development of the shuttle during the past decade, recently was named to head work on the \$8 billion space station — NASA's next big project.

The Florida base was the primary nerve center for NASA during the Mercury manned spaceflight years. In 1961 NASA decided to establish the Manned Spacecraft Center, later named for President Johnson, near Houston.

The Kennedy Space Center, however, remained the launch base for manned spacecraft and now is also the primary landing site for the shuttle fleet. The second shuttle launch base, at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, is expected to be ready for operation late next year.

NASA expects to be able to reduce the control center workload for shuttle missions as

flights of the reusable rocket plane become more routine. Up to 24 flights a year are planned for the late 1980s.

Looking into the 1990s, Beggs said the second generation shuttle probably would be a completely reusable ship. The shuttle's large external fuel tank now is jettisoned after each launch.

Beggs also said that once the space station is established, it and the shuttle will give the United States a powerful tool to handle more ambitious ventures by the end of the century.

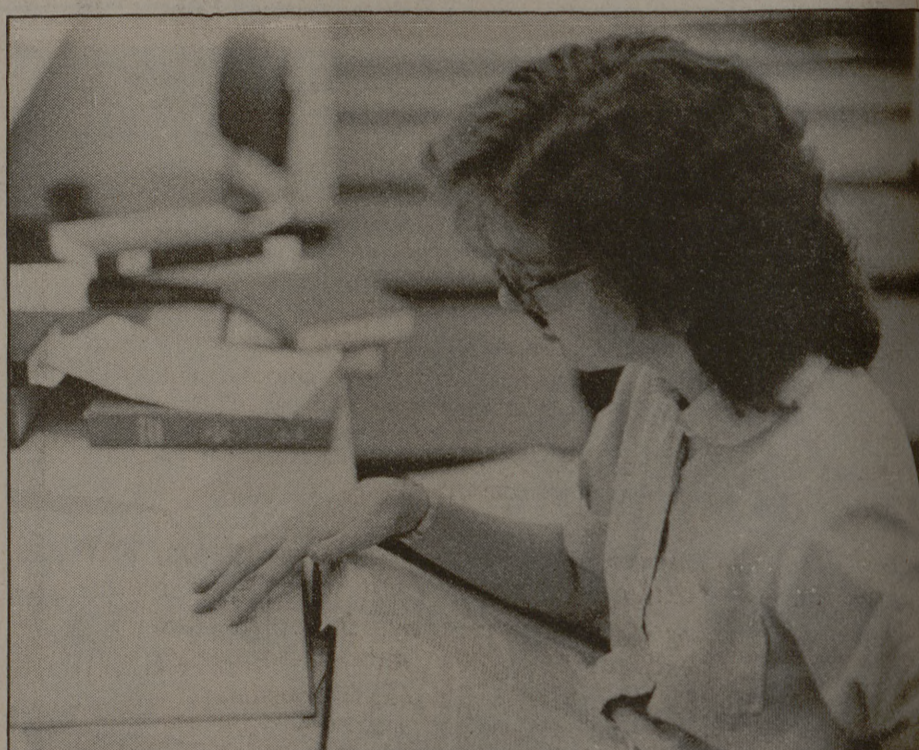
He mentioned manned visits to asteroids, establishment of a manned base on the moon, and possibly even manned flights to Mars.

Beggs said he expects West Germany, Italy, Japan and probably France to take some role in America's manned space station.

"It's just a question as to how they will participate," he said.

Beggs said a delegation of Europeans is expected to visit the United States next month to discuss avenues of cooperation on the project.

Beggs said earlier this week he expects the Europeans to contribute \$2 billion to the program and the Japanese \$1 billion.



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## Pot ship judgment due today

**United Press International**  
 BROWNSVILLE — A federal judge says he will rule today whether the U.S. Coast Guard had jurisdiction to seize a Colombian cutter carrying 19 tons of marijuana in international waters last February.

The defense has asked U.S. District Judge Ricardo Hinojosa to dismiss charges against 14 South Americans on grounds the Coast Guard did not have the authority to detain the ship outside U.S. waters.

Hinojosa also will rule on several other defense motions, including one to suppress use of the 19 tons of marijuana as evidence.

A jury was selected Thursday to try the 13 Colombians and one Guyanan who were taken into custody Feb. 5 after a 20-hour chase by the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Durable out of Brownsville.

Charges were brought against the men for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute the marijuana.

Several of the men also were charged in connection with the ramming of the cutter by the Colombian vessel.

U.S. Customs officers also have filed documents to appropriate the seized vessel.

The 14 defendants could face up to 15 years in prison and fines of up to \$60,000 each if convicted.

## Two waging bitter battle for Supreme Court seat

**United Press International**  
 AUSTIN — While candidates for chief justice of the Supreme Court have run the general campaigns usually associated with Texas court races, candidates for another spot on the high court have waged perhaps the most bitter judicial contest in state history.

The Democratic primary battle for the Place 2 seat between incumbent C.L. Ray, 53, and Fort Worth attorney Shelby Sharpe has grabbed headlines and stirred interest in the normally low-key race.

The other three seats open this year on the nine-member court have had uneventful races.

In one, Justice Franklin Spears is running uncontested. In another, former attorney general and gubernatorial candidate John Hill and Justice Sears McGee are battling quietly for the chief justice post.

Texas Ward of El Paso also is a candidate in the battle for Place 2, but he is considered a long shot.

There are no GOP candidates in the hotly contested race, meaning the Democratic primary winner is assured of election.

Sharpe kicked off his campaign by accusing Ray of violating judicial ethics by having telephone conversations with a lawyer who had a case pending before the court. He also said Ray accepted airplane rides in the same lawyer's airplane.

Ray, a former legislator and Texarkana appeals court judge, has not denied those assertions but says judicial ethics do not preclude him from having social contacts with lawyers. He also denies ever having discussed a pending case.

In addition to the harsh

words between Ray and Sharpe, the race is considered important because it could alter what is viewed by legal observers as a 5-4 split on the court in favor of plaintiffs who file damage or personal injury cases.

Although Sharpe, 43, has said he doesn't favor either defense or plaintiff lawyers, he has gained the support of the Texas Association of Defense Counsel, the Texas Association of Businessmen and the Texas Medical Association.

Ray has received support from "several hundred" trial lawyers, he says.

*In addition to the harsh words between Ray and Sharpe, the race is considered important because it could alter ... a 5-4 split on the court in favor of plaintiffs who file damage or personal injury cases.*

In the chief justice race, Democrats Hill and McGee have battled quietly for the post being vacated by the retirement of current Chief Justice Jack Pope.

Hill, who narrowly lost his bid for the governorship to former Gov. Bill Clements in 1978, indicated he would run for the court even before Pope announced his retirement.

Hill has raised nearly \$350,000 in campaign funds compared to McGee's \$25,000 and with higher name identification is considered a strong favorite in the race. The winner of the primary will face Republican candidate John L. Bates, a Waco attorney.

Hill has denied any use of the court as a stepping stone for another run at the governor's office and also denied McGee's claim that he is in side with plaintiffs in personal injury cases.

In keeping with tradition, battles for three open positions on the Court of Criminal Appeals — the state's highest final appeals court — have been low-key.

In the Place 1 contest, incumbent Judge Sam Houston, frequently viewed as the court's most liberal and an early member, drew opposition from State District Judge Kitzman, 49, of Brownsville. Kitzman has criticized Houston for an opinion he wrote which voided hundreds of convictions for cocaine possession.

The Place 1 contest is only one of the three that start a Republican challenge to the sole GOP contender, Gil Mulanax of Gilmer.

Incumbent Judge W.C. faces three Democratic opponents in the Place 2 race, the strongest opposition to come from former Dallas relations Judge George of future nez and Roy E. Green, an Austin attorney. Bush, 48, also is a Democratic candidate for the post, and has not campaigned actively.

But the Dallas attorney Kerry has been a raid appears to be the runner in the race for the 3 seat vacated by Judge Odome, but the number of testaments almost surely of the campaign into a. Other candidates are district Judge Thomas B. 55, of Dallas; former County prosecutor Bill former Upshur County Attorney Harry Heard of Justice George Ellis of Justice George Ellis of Walter Boyd of Houston William B. Phillips of Heights.



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