

AROUND THE NATION

**Shuttle Set to Lift Off Tuesday
On Mission to Collect SDI Data**

CAPE CANAVERAL—After a 1½-month delay because of cracks in door hinges, space shuttle Discovery stands ready to lift off Tuesday for a flight devoted to research on parts of the Strategic Defense Initiative that will require tricky maneuvers and quick responses by its crew.

Every second of the eight-day flight, considered one of the most complex missions ever, will be crucial.

"There's virtually no time for any errors," said astronaut Richard Hieb, who with Gregory Harbaugh will operate a Strategic Defense Initiative spacecraft that will measure infrared and other kinds of radiation emitted from Discovery 161 miles above Earth.

The Defense Department intends to use this information and data about chemical and gas emissions in space to develop sophisticated sensors for detecting missiles headed toward the United States or its allies.

The Discovery countdown began at midmorning yesterday, 15 days after Atlantis left on the year's first shuttle mission.

It will be the 40th flight of a shuttle and the eighth mission for the Pentagon. Unlike the earlier military flights, this one is not cloaked in secrecy, although some of the data collected will be classified.

\$58 Million Libel Award for Ex-Prosecutor

■ WACO, Tex.—A jury ordered a television station and a reporter to pay a record \$58 million to a former prosecutor, saying they defamed him in a 1985 series.

Vic Feazell, the former McLennan County district attorney, said the 11-part series by Dallas television station WFAA and reporter Charles Duncan ruined his reputation and led to an FBI investigation.

The series accused him of taking payoffs in exchange for dismissing drunken driving cases. Feazell, who contended in a lawsuit the series was malicious, inaccurate and defamatory, was acquitted of federal racketeering charges in 1987. He resigned the next year to enter private practice in Waco.

Mike McCarthy, senior vice president and general counsel of A.H. Belo Corp., which owns WFAA, said Friday that the verdict will be challenged.

The libel award exceeds the \$34 million a jury ordered the Philadelphia Inquirer to pay in May 1990 over a 1973 story that criticized a lawyer's handling

of a homicide case when he was an assistant district attorney.

Addenda

■ An intruder who claimed to have a bomb was arrested at horror writer Stephen King's home, but the bomb turned out to be fake and no one was injured, police said in Bangor, Maine. The man, tentatively identified as Erik Keene, 26, of San Antonio, was held on charges of terrorizing and burglary.

■ A 16-year-old boy who authorities say stole a Philadelphia trolley car picked up and discharged passengers during Friday morning's rush hour. His stunt was not discovered until the trolley collided with a car at a switch point, and the youth was arrested.

From news services