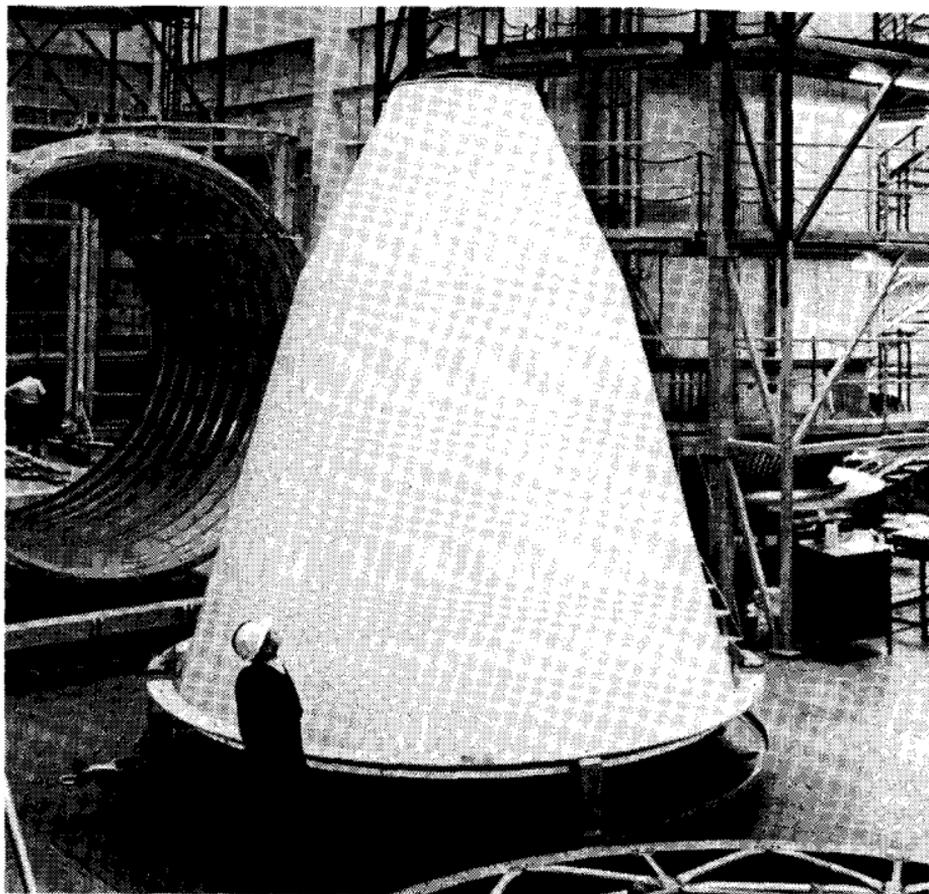


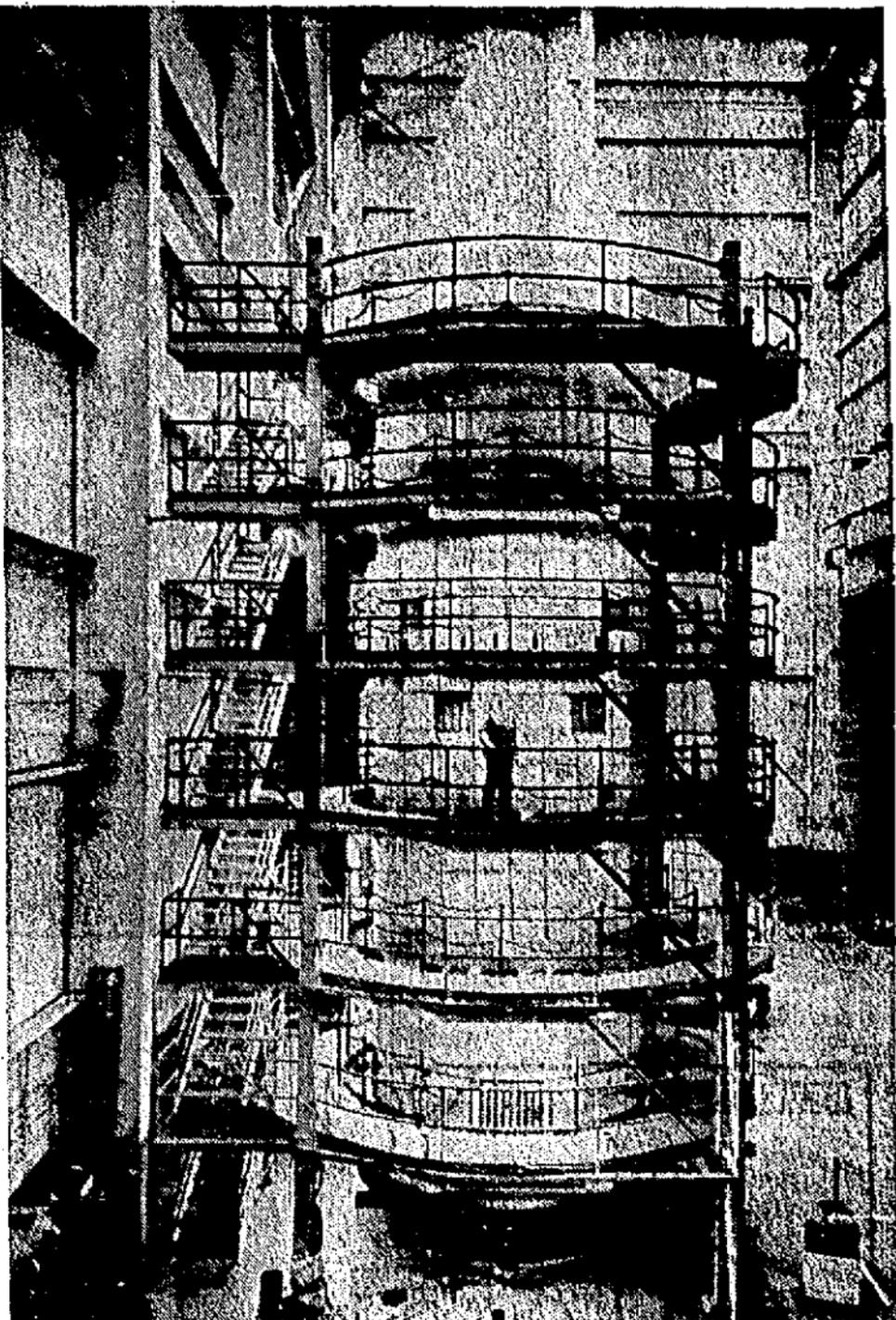


February 11, 1972



Centaur Shroud

This three-ton shroud was produced for Lewis' Centaur booster and the Viking spacecraft at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company, Sunnyvale, California. The Viking spacecraft is scheduled for a soft Mars landing in 1976. The shroud will protect the booster and spacecraft from stresses and friction as they soar through the Earth's atmosphere.

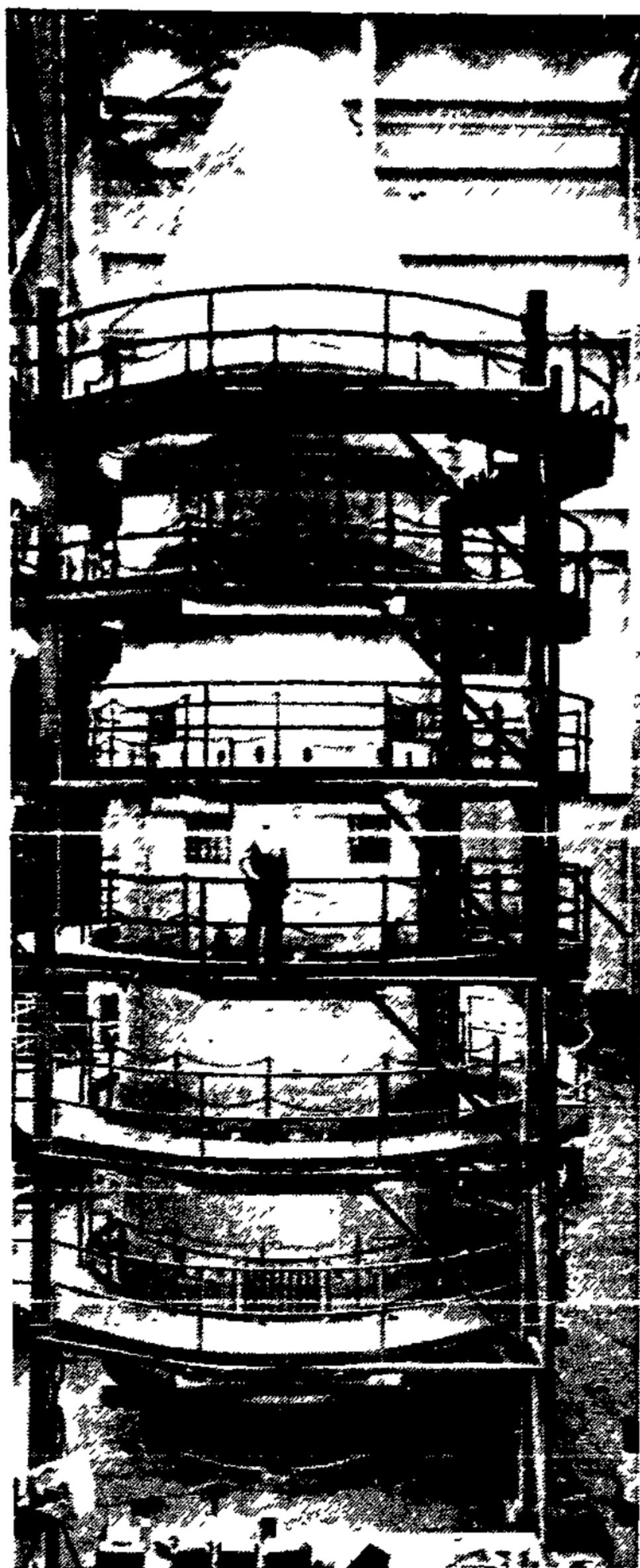


UPI Telephoto

Aiming for Mars

This six-story Centaur standard shroud dwarfs Program Manager Malcolm Avery, standing on the third "deck" of a test stand at Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. in Sunnyvale. A total of 14 feet in diameter and weighing more than three tons, the aluminum-magnesium-steel structure is undergoing final alignment before being ship-

ped to NASA's Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, for extensive testing. Shrouds protect the spacecraft and Centaur boosters from stresses and aerodynamic heating as they soar through the Earth's atmosphere. Centaur boosted spacecraft are destined for a soft landing on Mars in 1976.



SPACECRAFT SHIELD — This massive Centaur Standard shroud will protect a Viking spacecraft during launch and ascent through the earth's atmosphere enroute to Mars for a bicentennial landing on July 4, 1976. Once free of the atmosphere, the spacecraft will shed the shroud and continue its voyage. Weighing more than three tons, the six-story shroud contains nearly 5,000 pounds of aluminum, including main structural ring forgings, which are 14 feet in diameter, and are made at Aluminum Company of America's Cleveland Works. The aluminum shroud, as big as the fuselage of a jet transport, is seen here on a test stand during final alignment checks with a laser beam.