

# **communications contract under renegotiation**

The Tundra Times has learned that the contract which was negotiated between the Governor's Office of Telecommunications and RCA AlasCom to provide for a television demonstration project in 23 villages and 5 cities in Alaska is currently being renegotiated.

The original contract, negotiated in October, came under strong protests from members of the legislature recently. When the legislative council met on November 8 to review the contract, a motion was passed which requested the Governor's office to renegotiate the contract.

Dissatisfaction with the original contract stems from a provision in the contract which would have allowed toll telephone service to pre-empt television transmissions to villages and cities included in the

project.

Dr. Robert Merritt, telecommunications consultant to the legislature is involved in the new negotiations. It is expected that a new contract may be signed this week, possibly today, which could mean that cities and villages in the project may receive live television beginning January 15, 1977.