

# Public Radio Network to Air Legis.

**FAIRBANKS** — The Alaska Public Radio Network, currently made up of four stations, has been created to give public broadcasters in the state immediate access to information on legislative happenings.

Members of the network, which is funded by the Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission, are KUAC at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; KOTZ in Kotzebue; KYUK, Bethel; and KTOO, Juneau.

According to Dave Geesin, program director for KUAC, the new network is a "24-hour dedicated interconnect" which provides programming from Juneau. Geesin described a dedicated interconnect as a permanent circuit much like those used by commercial networks.

The commission has hired Elaine Mitchell of Juneau as network coordinator and primary reporter. She gathers news stories and offers them to member stations. Included in the network feeds are a ten-minute daily legislative wrap-up, and voice actualities of legislators and government officials which can be used by members in news stories.

The network also carries some significant committee and subcommittee hearings as well as major addresses to the state legislature.

Geesin said a secondary function of the network is to carry non-legislative programs such as a science program, to determine how much use the public broadcasters have for such material.

The only station with sending capability on the network now is KTOO in Juneau.

The network replaces an earlier commission-funded effort which involved having a reporter in Juneau call each member station by telephone each day to give them the legislative wrap-up.

In Fairbanks the only material KUAC takes from the network is the wrap-up which it airs at 6 p.m. on radio and 10 p.m. on KUAC-TV Channel 9.