

Pollock Praises Distance Dialing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Howard W. Pollock this week praised the Air Force for including commitments for statewide direct distance dialing and 24-hour telephone service to remote Alaskan communities of bidders seeking to buy the Alaska Communications System.

He added, however, that the

Air Force still has not approved other features which he and Senator Ted Stevens have asked be written into the ACS purchase agreement.

Pollock and Stevens have urged that the vital micro wave links in the ACS system be included in the sale and that government traffic be required to use commercial telephone facilities after the sale of ACS is completed.

"Of course I am happy about both the direct distance dialing feature and 24-hour telephone service for Alaska," Pollock said.

"But I do not feel these commitments are sufficient to assure that the best interests of Alaskan public will be served," he added.

Stevens and Pollock also claim the Air Force has set too high a price on those parts of the ACS it is offering for sale.