

# RCA moves for permanent hike

**ANCHORAGE**—RCA Alaska Communications, Inc. Monday announced that it is filing its permanent rate request with the Alaska Public Utilities Commission. Alascom's President Ben Agee stated, "Service is our sole purpose for being and this increase will allow Alascom to continue providing good telephone service."

This increase will have no effect upon the charges for interstate long distance calls. The price of those services has been reduced twice in the past 23 months, and it may be lowered for the third time in 1979. An average interstate call has been reduced from \$7.00 in 1971 to \$2.40 today.

On the intrastate side, present rates are lower than almost any other state in the nation. The requested increase will be reflected in an average increase of approximately \$6.00 per month. This is based on an intrastate rate of return of 5.7 percent, much short of what RCA Alascom feels it will ultimately need to continue providing telecommunications service, to upgrade existing service, and to further expand to areas where service is now nonexistent.

Assuming the APUC schedules hearings on this request, the actual dollar and cent effect on each of the various areas of service will be determined during the hearings. Some services could receive a large increase while others may receive a smaller portion of the requested increase.