

Telecommunications hearing set

The House Labor and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on telecommunications in your community via the statewide teleconferencing network from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Representative Terry Martin, the committee chairman, said that rather than focus on any specific area of telecommunications, the committee will open the hearing to 11 problem areas.

The following is the list of 11 issues network participants may want to address:

Is there a danger of government "crowding out" private businessmen by becoming involved in telecommunications?

What should be the state's policy regarding telecommunications?

Is there a danger of a telecommunications monopoly developing in Alaska?

Who should own the satellite T.V. "dishes" in the villages?

Should the state set up a loan program for telephone co-ops to replace the 5 percent federal loan fund which is being phased out?

Can the state improve on its

present system for transmitting computer data from all of the various departments? What new kinds of technology in telecommunications can give the state "the most bang for its buck?"

Should the state encourage more in-state programming and more Bush programming, or should it stay away from being involved in what plays on state-funded satellite television?
