

# Public Programming

An organization of public agencies is being considered to help plan for adequate public programming of future satellite and other communication networks in Alaska. The Educational Telecommunications Consortium may be an outgrowth of a series of workshops held by the Governor's Office of Telecommunications to obtain information on the Alaska Satellite Demonstration Project.

Many agencies attending these workshops found they had similar needs for a communication system to convey health and educational messages to the public or for internal communication between their district offices. The cost of a communication system is too high for any one agency, but could be very cost-effective when shared.

The Consortium will try to see that public programming is of high quality and that duplication is avoided. A second

series of workshops to identify information for telecommunications planning is to be held in Fairbanks on December 2; in Anchorage on December 5; and in Juneau on December 7. Those who have not participated before should contact Bill McCaughan (UAA Media Services, 272-5522 ext. 350) for background information as soon as possible.

---