

Alascom Warns Eavesdroppers

Alascom, Inc., the state's long distance carrier, wants to remind all users that it's unlawful to listen in on and then tell about conversations of other parties.

The technical characteristics of the VHF radio system are such that it is possible, under certain conditions, for conversations to be intercepted by a third party equipped with the proper electronic devices. Such eavesdropping, though, may violate State and Federal laws.

The matter of unauthorized persons listening in on conversations and then telling about them is a matter of great concern to Alascom.

Alascom's Community Affairs Representative, Bert Campbell said that Alascom is concerned about two instances reported to them of a third party repeating telephone conversations. "We (ALASCOM) have received some information from concerned people that third parties are repeating telephone conversations that they have listened to. FCC regulations guarantee privacy and secrecy in telephone conversations. Fishermen use the VHF channels for communi-

cation, but they know that there are others who may be listening in so they guard what they say. Telephone conversations have more privacy."

Mr. Campbell said that the FCC or ALASCOM cannot travel out to the bush to take away radios or could not tell individuals not to listen to radio frequencies which ALASCOM uses in statewide radio communications.

Talking about others' telephone conversations is illegal.

The eavesdropping was reported to come from the Dillingham area only.

Under Section 605 of the Communications Act of 1934 and other FCC rules, the interception and disclosure of written or oral communications by unauthorized personnel or persons is prohibited. Violators can be fined up to \$10,000 and receive up to two years in prison.

Alascom urges that all users respect the privacy of others making local and long distance calls.

The Company has a total of 151 satellite earth stations in its statewide network.