



EQUIPMENT—The photograph shows a piece of equipment which will provide voice communications via ATS-1 satellite between the University

of Alaska to Fairbanks and the Kuskokwim Delta. The equipment was donated by Walker G. Buckner of Buckner & Co.

Philanthropy Aids Satellite TV

WASHINGTON—A cash gift from a New York philanthropic organization will enable the State of Alaska to embark on an innovative satellite communications experiment, according to U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska).

Senator Gravel announced Monday that Walker G. Buckner, of Buckner & Co., a member of

the New York Stock Exchange, and president of The Foundation for the Needs of Others, Inc., provided the funds necessary to purchase two earth stations capable of receiving very high frequency radio signals from a NASA satellite.

The foundation agreed to participate in Senator Gravel's pro-

posed experiment due to its interest in education and audio-visual aids to classrooms.

The two earth stations will be placed on the University of Alaska campus at College, Alaska, and at Bethel, Alaska. Bethel is the center of the Kuskokwim Delta area, with a native population of about 16,000.

The University will transmit educational and cultural radio programs to the delta area through ATS-1, an experimental satellite which will be used for the radio program as well as an experimental television program also proposed by Senator Gravel.

The earth stations will operate in a frequency band which has never been consistently used through a satellite. The success of the experiment may open a new era of economical application in frequencies so far denied the communications industry, Senator Gravel said.

Buckner's gift follows on the heels of several announcements by the Communications Satellite Corp., American Telephone and the Columbia Broadcasting System regarding the urgency of establishing a domestic communications system.

Senator Gravel introduced a bill in the Senate last month which would amend the Communications Satellite Act to permit more than one domestic satellite system.

The Gravel Bill, now awaiting public hearings, would also remove the middle-man charges to customers by allowing public entities, such as universities, to own and operate individual earth stations.

"By having more than one satellite system, we can avoid being influenced adversely by foreign interests in the international satellite system," Senator Gravel said.

He charged that the domestic system has failed thus far to respond to the urgent needs of public broadcasting, particularly in the area of educational and cultural television.

The Alaska experiment will serve the 16,000 Kuskokwim Delta residents with radio communications. At present the only radio available in the region is short wave broadcasts from the Public Health Service.

The program, dubbed "The Agony Hour" within the state, gives an ill person the opportunity to discuss his symptoms with a physician, who then determines if further medical attention is necessary.