

Satellite TV Interest Asked

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

If you qualify for any of these jobs, or are looking for a job, apply at the Alaska State Manpower Center, located at Sixth and Barnette in the State Court and Office Building, Room 131. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Employers may telephone 452-1501 to place job orders. There is no charge to either employer or applicant for this service.

A Fairbanks legislator has urged the state's smaller communities to take a serious interest in the proposed pilot program for satellite communication.

State Rep. Mike Bradner, of Fairbanks, called the satellite program for educational broadcasting a significant breakthrough for small cities and towns.

"We are at a cross-roads between the advent of satellite systems offering full communication services, including live television," Bradner said, "and the exit of cumbersome overland microwave systems that can never offer expanded services."

"What happens in the next year could determine whether the State is in a position to insist on a statewide satellite approach as RCA takes over the Alaska Communications System," Bradner added.

The Fairbanks lawmaker urged city councils and utilities boards in small cities across the state to demand that the State Public Service Commission keep them informed on the pilot program and RCA developments.

"Smaller cities cannot afford expensive lawyers and consultants to help protect their interests," Bradner said.

"In this instance due to the crucial significance of the RCA takeover I believe the PSC should make an all-out effort to keep Alaska public officials informed."

Bradner further warned that RCA might possibly romance larger cities with promises of live television at an early date, while antiquated systems never capable of services such as live television, are installed in smaller towns.

"We have heard a great deal in the news lately about live television by late 1970, but this applies to Anchorage and is ironically due to RCA acquiring a 50 per cent interest in the COMSAT satellite ground station at Talk-eetna.

Bradner continued: "In these same releases there are comments from RCA about overland microwave surveys for smaller cities."

"What this means," Bradner said, "is we're reading headlines evidencing satellite means communications progress very fast, and in the same article they confess to making progress to installing an outmoded system for most of the state that can never offer sophisticated services."

"It was this contrast, and the evidence that no community can court modern industry without modern communications, that lead U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel to develop the pilot program."

The Fairbanks legislator said the whole concept of the pilot program has forced COMSAT, NASA, RCA, and the State into an extremely close cooperating roll where they will have to seriously view the advantages of satellite communications on a statewide basis.

Bradner further urged public officials in communities throughout the state to make their interests and demands known to Don Hall, executive director, State Public Service Commission, Juneau, Alaska.