

Congressman Howard W. Pollock (R-Alaska) has called for a state-federal meeting on the prospects of satellite communications for Alaska.

Expressing dismay that Alaska has so far been left out of any proposed satellite system, Pollock suggested that a Committee appointed by Governor Walter J. Hickel travel to Washington early next month to meet with appropriate federal officials and representatives of private industry.

The purpose of the meeting is to alert those responsible for planning the satellite system of Alaska's needs on the one hand and to inform Alaskans of what can be done to include the state in this vital area.

Those invited to address the Alaska group are representatives of the Federal Communications system, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Communications Satellite Corporation and experts in educational television.

The Communications Satellite Corporation is currently studying the possibility of building a ground station in Alaska. The study was initiated at the request of Senator E. L. (Bob) Bartlett (D-Alaska).

"Important decisions will be made in this field in the next few months," Pollock said. "Unless Alaska speaks now to those responsible for planning this new communications system, we are in danger of being left out.

"It is my hope that the meeting I propose will focus attention on Alaska as a place where satellite communications are desperately needed."