

Women's commission to meet

The Alaska Commission on the Status of Women will be holding four public hearings on women's issues in Anchorage on Friday and Saturday, October 5th and 6th.

Topics will include violence against women 3p.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, October 5th, and sex bias in education 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. that evening. Hearings on the welfare system will be held Saturday, October 6th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and on displaced homemakers' concerns from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. that afternoon.

The public hearings will be held as part of the Commission's regular fall business meeting in the 4th floor assembly room of the State Court House, 3rd and

K Streets.

Testimony from outside the Anchorage area will be taken at a teleconference hearing to be held on Friday, October 5th, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Alaska Daylight Time) through the Legislative Teleconference Network. The teleconference program will include Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Kodiak, Kenai, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka.

"These hearing will lead to direct recommendations to state government," said Jane Yamashiro, Chairperson of the Status of Women Commission.

"We want to hear testimony on these issues from both women's groups and individuals," she said.

Alaska has one of the highest rates of violence against women in the nation. The Commission wants testimony on the problems and proposed solutions for displaced homemakers' needs, particularly in the areas of employment counseling, child care, career training, and job placement.

Sex bias in education is prohibited by proposed House Bill 411. The Commission wants to hear from parents, students, school personnel, and others who have experience with sex bias in either the public schools or the university system, particularly in the areas of sports, physical and vocational education, counseling, and employment.

Welfare reform is the subject of proposed Senate Bill 124 and House Joint Resolution 29. The intent of the legislation is to require able-bodied welfare recipients to work.

Women receiving AFDC also believe the system needs to be changed, particularly in the areas of eligibility for child care, transportation, housing, child support, food stamps, medical assistance, and social



Commission members Carolyn Jones, Jane Yamashiro, and Jean Van Dohrman.

security. Women have reported that they need assistance in finding jobs that pay enough for them to get off AFDC. The Commission wants to hear what specific problems face AFDC. The Commission

AFDC recipients and what solutions can be proposed.

Written testimony can also be submitted to the Alaska Commission on the Status of Women, MacKay Building, Suite 850, Anchorage, Alaska 99501