Breakthrough

JUNEAU-In a wire to the chairman of the Comsat Board of Directors, James McCormack, this week Gov. Walter J. Hickel greeted Comsat's announcement that it has applied for authority to build a satellite ground station near Talkeetna as the most important breakthrough in communications in Alaska in a generation.

"The ground station will prove the key to an educational TV system reaching all points of rural Alaska and will provide a breakthrough of major significance in the state's efforts to help rural Alaskans to full employment through education," Hickel said.

Hickel also called the probability of live TV broadcasts an event of major importance to Aalskans.

"Alaskans share with other citizens of the United States a strong desire to learn the news while it is news and a keen interest in the sports events and other programs of national interest TV brings right into the home," Hickel said.

"In this day and age, learning the news while it is news means seeing it happen on the TV screen. Now Alaskans will have the opportunity to join 200 million other Americans in seeing treaties signed, rockets launched, the Olympics and championship baseball games as they actually occur."

Hickel told McCormack he has wired the Federal Communications Commission backing Cosmat's application and requesting early approval.

The Governor learned of Cosmat's requset for the construction permit from McCormack.

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Communications Hickel Fires Off Telegrams to Alaska's Delegation to Make Jones Act Changes "Beyond that, we must in-

JUNEAU- Gov. Walter J. Hickel fired off telegrams last week to Alaska's Congressional Delegation disclosing a twopronged attack-both through renewed efforts to revamp the Jones Act-aimed at heading off what the Governor called "a new threat to the U.S. domestic petroleum industry."

The wires went to Alaska Sens. E.L. Bartlett and Ernest Gruening, Sen.-Elect Mike Gravel, and Rep. Howard W. Pollock.

In the wire, Hickel said, "The need to alter Federal Maritime Regulations - particularly the Jones Act-has become even more urgent as a result of a new attempt by some oil companies and refineries to increase imports of foreign oil into the United States.

These companies have made applications to the Federal Foreign Trade Zone Board, and to the Secretary of the Interior, for authorization to undertake such activity by establishing 'Foreign Trade Sub Zones."

"We know," the Governor said, "that foreign oil can be landed in the contiguous United States at a lower cost per barrel than oil from Alaska, because foreign freighters can be used to transport it.

"But oil from Alaska must be transported in American freighters because of the Jones Act, even though to do so generis more costly than using

Gale May Have Interfered with Roast Turkey

By HAROLD RIACH Wrangell, Alaska

It has been windy in Wrangell for the last couple days. In fact, many southeast Alaskan cities had strong winds up to 70 miles per hour. In some places much damage was done.

In many cities, including Wrangell, the power was off on Thanksgiving because of the strong winds.

Many people had a hard time trying to get their turkey roasted in their oven, I bet.

Wrangell was lucky that the power was off only about two hours altogether. Some cities had the power off for many hours.

Economical

• an Alaskan

Industry

• Clean

foreign freighters.

"Unless the United States requires foreign oil to be brought into the U.S. aboard U.S. vesselsor Alaskan oil is allowed to be shipped in foreign vessels-it will be catastrophic to allow the quota limitations on foreign oil to be circumvented through the device of these 'Foreign Trade Sub Zones," Hickel said.

The Governor revealed that Atty. Gen. G. Kent Edwards filed a suit in U.S. District Court in Anchorage aimed at halting the Foreign Trade Sub Zone applications.

Hickel disclosed that the Maine Port Authority, and the Occidental Petroleum Corp., have filed mutually dependent applications to establish a Foreign Trade Sub Zone in Machiasport, Maine.

If the application were approved by the Federal Foreign Trade Zone Board and the Secretary of the Interior, the companies could import 300,000 barrels a day of foreign crude oil into the Sub Zone, and could also use it to import 100,000 barrels a day of refined products from the Sub Zone into the customs territory of the United

The Georgia Ports Authority and Tenneco Oil Co. have filed similar applications with the Federal Foreign Trade Zone Board and the Interior Department which would allow them to import and refine 200,000 barrels a day of foreign curde at Savannah, Ga., and other companies reportedly are considering similar applications.

For the moment," Hickel declared, "our goal must be to secure an injunction preventing the approval of these applications.

"The ability to import foreign oil without stringent quota limitations would induce oil companies to spend their exploration and production dollars in foreign countries-thereby reducing exploration and production acitvities in domestic areas such as Alaska.

American ports. This means that the oil and natural gas from Alaska, or any other production area in the U.S., cannot be shipped to Hawaii or other American ports in foreign-built vessels. Just such a situation will exist in Alaska becuase the Jones Act will prohibit the shipment of liquified natural gas from the Kenai Peninsula to Honolulu-

crease our efforts to secure relief

from the Jones Act so American

petroleum producers will be en-

couraged to make even greater

use of the oil and gas stocks

already known to exist on Amer-

use of foreign-built vessels in the

shipment of goods between

The Jones Act prohibits the

ican soil."

or even other Alaskan portseven though the special refrigerated ships being built in Sweden to haul the gas will be the only such vessels in the world. Hickel said that if the Foreign Trade Sub Zone applications are

approved, "Alaska will undoubtedly be the hardest-hit of all the states." He added, "I have been advised that there is sufficient basis

these applications cannot be legally granted. "Consequently, Atty. Gen. Edwards has filed a suit which seeks a declaratory judgement

upon which to conclude that

that the establishment of this STEEL PLATES ANGLES CHANNELS IN STOCK FOR IMMEDIATE

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particular type of Foreign Trade Sub Zone and the granting of the requested import licenses are illegal and beyond the jurisdiction of both the Federal Trade Zone Board and the Interior Department."

The Governor continued, "The State is also seeking a permanent injunction to prevent these officials from authorizing such activity.

"The growth, security and continued health of the petroleum industry in the United States depends substantially on the development of important, recently-discovered oil resources in Alaska."

"In addition," he said, "Alaska's oil reserves are priceless national assets to the security of the United States. When developed, they will greatly decrease the nation's dependence on foreign oil in time of national emergency."

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