

Study for White House Suggests A Radio Network to Alert Public

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—A confidential White House study proposing a Government-controlled communications network to provide services and information to the American people was made public today by Representative William S. Moorhead.

A White House official promptly announced that the study had been "categorically rejected on technical grounds."

As envisioned in the study, the communications network could be used, among other things, for linking health and police departments, for transmitting educational and cultural programs into schools, for electronic delivery of mail and for providing a disaster warning service.

For the disaster warning service, the study proposed that every home radio and television set and boat and automobile radio be equipped with a special FM receiver device that could be turned on automatically by a Government agency to alert a locality to an impending natural disaster.

The study, entitled "Communications for Social Needs: Technological Opportunities," was prepared for President Nixon's Domestic Council under the direction of Dr. Edward E. David Jr., head of the Office of Science and Technology in the White House.

The 300-page study, dated August, 1971, is stamped "ad-

ministratively confidential," a classification commonly used within the White House for an internal staff paper that has not been formally approved.

In making the study public, Mr. Moorhead, a Pennsylvania Democrat who heads House Government Operations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information, protested, "This is a blueprint for Big Brother propaganda and spy system which George Orwell warned about in his novel, '1984.' But the Government plan could put it into effect even earlier—in some cases by 1975."

Mr. Moorhead also made public a letter he had written to Mr. Nixon calling upon him to explain what plans he had for such a "massive and costly computer-electronic network" that he said carried with it "the implications of Big Brother, intrusion of the Federal Government into the daily lives of virtually every American."

A spokesman for Dr. David, in commenting on the Moorhead statement, said that the study "was categorically rejected on technical grounds at the staff level in the Office of Science and Technology" and "never got to the level of the Domestic Council." The spokesman explained that the study had been found to be "soft," both in its broad proposals as well as in its details.