

'Wired Nation' Proposal Scrapped

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House says a secret suggestion to give the government a direct electronic link to every home and car in America was just one of many ideas that were rejected as too extreme before it even reached the planning stage.

And, said President Nixon's science adviser, the Democratic congressman who disclosed the proposal Tuesday

was just seeking headlines.

Rep. William S. Moorhead, D-Pa., said the plan for a "wired nation" apparently was designed to provide the government with a disaster warning system and a wide scale means of dispensing various services.

Moorhead, a member of the House Committee on Government Operations, said the plan is also a blueprint for a

government-operated propaganda and spy system. He called on the administration to let the nation know of the plan, which he said was prepared for Nixon's Domestic Council.

Dr. Edward E. David Jr., Nixon's science adviser, said afterward that Moorhead's suggestion that the council was advocating some sort of

"big-brother" communications link to every house in America was "absolutely wrong."

David said the suggestion was one of many received, of which "some are good and some are terrible." He said this one was rejected because "it did not take account of the right of privacy of citizens, nor of the social acceptability of such a scheme."

David said it was "rejected

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Long Ago, White House Says

outright" by the White House Office of Science and Technology over a year ago and was never submitted to the council for review.

"Had the congressman asked anyone, we would gladly have informed him of the facts," David said. "But I guess he was more interested in a headline than a fact."

Moorhead responded: "I

don't think it's as dead as they would have us believe. But I can understand why they would say this."

The study Moorhead disclosed was stamped "Administratively Confidential" on each of its 300 pages. It was dated August, 1971 and, Moorhead said, was delivered to his subcommittee last Saturday by someone in the Nixon

administration.

The study contains detailed descriptions for disseminating disaster information, educational, cultural and social services through a public broadcasting network based on the required installation of a special receiver in every radio and television set and every car and boat. The receivers could be turned on

only by the government.

At a news conference in Pittsburgh, Moorhead said "every American should and indeed must be shocked by this threat to their liberties . . . by the White House itself."

He said he believed the plan should be disclosed "before we go to the polls next Tuesday."