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## Telemarketing company challenges Do Not Call list

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The agency overseeing the national Do Not Call Registry is considering opening a loophole in the year-old program to allow companies to deliver "prerecorded message telemarketing" to American homes.

The Electronic Privacy Information Center, a Washingtonbased privacy watchdog says the change could result in the 64 million people enrolled on the list being bombarded by "answering-machine spam" and other unwanted voices on voice mail. The Federal Trade Commission says it does not believe the change would have any dramatic results.

Allen Hile of the FTC's division of marketing practices, who is overseeing the proposed rule change, said the measure sought by the Voice Mail Broadcasting Corp. is only intended to bring FTC rules in line with those of the Federal Communications Commission, the FCC rules permit prerecorded telemarketing messages to customers of companies.

## Holiday shoppers come out in droves

SHOP, from News 1

that consumers will spend 4.5 percent more during the holiday season this year than in 2003. If that projection becomes reality, that would result in holiday spending of \$219.9 billion.

Initial report and debit card said Will V

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