GM-Hired Detective Sought to Find A Link Between Ribicoff and Nader

By Bryce Nelson
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A New York private detective sought to determine whether there were any private meetings between auto industry critic Ralph Nader and Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.).

This was alleged yesterday by Ribicoff and corroborated by attorney Frederick Hughes. The detective, Vincent Gillen, denied the accusation.

Nader was the star witness at recent hearings conducted by Ribicoff into auto safety hazards. He is the author of "Unsafe At Any Speed," a book critical of the industry's safety design standards.

Condon, a personal friend of Nader's, said in a telephone interview that Gillen questioned him Feb. 21 about Nader's relationships with Ribicoff "three different times, in three different ways."

That was 11 days after Ribicoff announced at a public hearing that he had never met Nader before the 32-year-old author walked into the committee room that day.

Condon described Gillen's visit in a memo supplied to the Ribicoff subcommittee.

"I got the idea," said the detective agency was—their complete insensitivity. "When a large corporation puts its reputation in the hands of men like Gillen, it's tragic." the Senator said.