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Probe of Nader Harassment Report Is Asked

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The Justice Department was asked yesterday to investigate the reported harassment of automobile industry critic Ralph Nader, who recently appeared before a Senate subcommittee investigating auto safety. Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff (D-Conn.), chairman of the subcommittee, called for the investigation.

Nader testified Feb. 10, criticizing car design as being unsafe. He is the author of a book, "Unsafe at Any Speed."

"I feel compelled to draw the attention of the Senate to a situation of grave concern . . . namely, an apparent attempt to harass and intimidate a subcommittee witness," Ribicoff said, citing reports of an intensive investigation of Nader by detective agencies.

Ribicoff cited a section of the criminal code that provides a \$55,000 fine or five years' imprisonment, or both, for threatening or intimidating a witness in any proceeding before a Federal agency or in connection with any congressional inquiry or investigation.

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