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WORLD/NATION BRIEFS

Car Crash Gauges Urged

The staff of a federal safety agency has recommended that automakers install crash recorders in new cars and trucks to better measure the forces of auto collisions.

More precise measurements of collision force could yield improved auto safety designs and components, according to the proposal submitted to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The NTSB, which investigates the causes of transportation accidents and formulates safety recommendations, is expected to vote on the crash recorder proposal today, officials said.

Transplant Trip Denied

A Tennessee judge yesterday rejected James Earl Ray's request to be taken to Pennsylvania for tests to determine his eligibility for a liver transplant. Ray's lawyer, describing the ruling as tantamount to a death sentence, said he would appeal.

Ray, serving a 99-year prison sentence as a result of a guilty plea in the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., has been described as near death with cirrhosis of the liver. He asked the Nashville court for permission to be taken under armed guard to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Ray's London-based lawyer, William Pepper, told Judge Irwin Kilcrease that doctors believe the 69-year-old Ray will die without a transplant.

— Michael Dorman