

NADER

The People's Lawyer

By
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Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey

Exhibit "C"

PEOPLE'S LAWYER

is a sinecure for old-time labor use for training cubs whose only ncy as fast as they can and go to seats."

s, the public is not getting the or Department reporters, for in- "wild non-enforcement of the sets minimum wage and safety doing business with the govern-

ut the corruption in union elec- of pension funds. They've got unions stacked seven, eight feet tment and nobody even bothers knows about the manipulation olitical basis on which they are old-time workers have in pension

itors almost as low as he does ng time ago you just don't take editor. He thinks his only job is e new car models which will be y ad in the back of the paper. If ing that, he is interviewing auto ur production or probing for at job in the Detroit executive

on between the Detroit News an example of people's desire : problems—safety defects, re- ol on the assembly line, and

it papers carried the routine t. But when the auto safety : Detroit News hired reporter International. Irvin was told, me. We want coverage and we automotive page. If you get a

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story it will be played like any other story—on the front page, if it is good.'

"The Detroit *Free Press*, on the other hand, was stuck with it's old-time auto editor and he kept writing the same old stuff. In 1966 and 1967 the disparity between the two papers began to grow immensely with Irvin writing five or six articles a week and turning into the most relentless auto writer in the nation.

"What was the result? Everybody who wanted to really know what was going on in the auto industry, the biggest business in the nation, knew they had to get the Detroit *News*. There was just no question about it.

"Irvin's investigative reporting approach to the automakers gained him a huge readership and the *Free Press*, in order to compete, had to change its style to imitate Irvin."

Does Nader have the nerve to investigate the press despite his heavy reliance on it? He says "yes," and the first target could be *The New York Times*.

"There should be a study of *The New York Times*. Why the *Times* covers what it does. What are the priorities? Why doesn't it have more investigative reporters? Why is it so poor on coverage of the way big banks manipulate the economy? What about the likes and dislikes of its editors? How high up are the decisions on editorials made? *The Times* is a world of its own and a study would be worth doing. It hasn't been done as yet because I feel that other things—such as auto safety, food, health, and safety are more pressing."

Nader's plan would be to have teams of investigators examine the press on a local basis. The only way to tackle press reform, he reasons, is to determine what a newspaper does and doesn't do in its own circulation area. For example, "the *Washington Post* will fearlessly cover issues dealing with the Pentagon, Standard Oil, and General Motors, but when it comes to its local area, it is not as active in investigating price-fixing in supermarkets or the fire hazards in Washington restaurants, which are very bad. The reason for this is advertising pressure. GM or Standard Oil doesn't support the *Washington Post*. The local drug chains, the department