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## Letter to Roger J. Traynor Pertaining to the National Press Council's Chairman Position

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## Nader Calls for a Center to Fill Media's 'Neglected Functions'

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 18— Ralph Nader called today for a "center for journalistic policy" to fill what he called the "neglected functions" of the news media.

Speaking at the fourth annual presentation of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards here, Mr. Nader urged "a redefinition of what is newsworthy."

The consumer advocate spoke at the awards luncheon, held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The awards, intended to honor outstanding coverage of the problems of poverty and discrimination in the United States, were established by a group of journalists shortly after the death of Senator Robert Kennedy in 1968.

They are presented by the Journalism Awards Committee on the Problems of Poverty and Discrimination—with the financial assistance of the Kennedy Memorial Foundation.

Jon Nordheimer of The New York Times won an award for best newspaper coverage in 1971 for his article on a black Medal of Honor winner killed while trying to rob a Detroit grocery store. Patrick Zier and Joanna Wragg won an award in the same category for their series on public housing in Lakeland, Fla. The series appeared in The Lakeland Ledger, which is owned by The New York Times Company.

In the magazine category Edward Kosner, Peter Goldman and Don Holt of Newsweek were honored for the magazine's series on the criminal justice system, and Beekman Winthrop of the magazine New South won an award for his article on intestinal parasites in children.

The television award went to Paul Altmeyer and the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company's Urban America unit for its documentary on discrimination in suburban housing. The radio prize was awarded to Doug Fox of KTOK, Oklahoma City, for a series on the economic problems of blacks there.

Mr. Nader said that while the media were increasingly engaged in self-assessment, "more than ever there is need to explore why the press is so caught up in reacting to styles and fortuities as dominant stimulants to coverage."

He said the proposed center could use the Freedom of Information Act to break down government secrecy. He said it could also review press coverage, analyze the economics and technology of journalism, study standards of reporting and "consider how the press can be more diverse, more accessible to the people and more inviting of their contributions."

The luncheon was attended by numerous members of the Washington press corps and the Kennedy family. Among those present were Senator and Mrs. Edward M. Kennedy, the late Senator's brother and sister-in-law; Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy, widow of the New York Senator; Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, his mother, and Mrs. Sargent Shriver, his sister.

As the guests were eating, Domingo Nick Reyes, executive director of the Mexican-American Antidefamation Committee, went to the microphone and declared that the awards group was "excluding Chicanos as writers or as a people worth noting."