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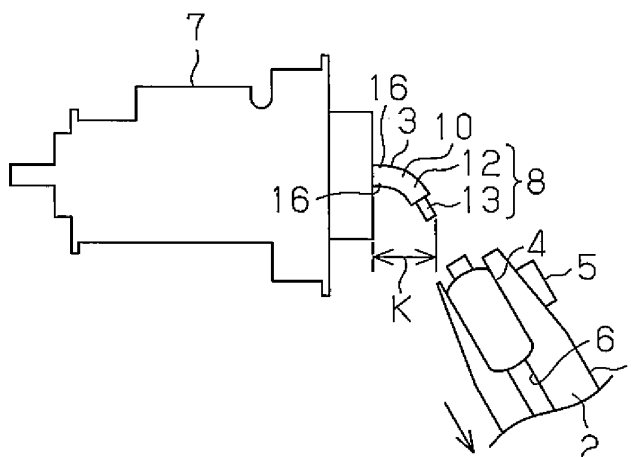
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(54) **Mechanism for protecting vehicle occupant from key**

(57) A mechanism that protects a vehicle occupant from a key when excessive load is applied to the key while obtaining sufficient strength for a key plate during normal usage. A support 4 pivotally couples a key plate 3 to a key case 2. The key plate 3 includes a basal end 8 fitted into and fixed to a key plate socket 9 in the support 4. The basal end 8 includes a thin portion 13 that is thinner than the key plate body 10 to facilitate separation of the

key plate 3 from the support 4. The key plate body 10 includes two grooves 16 located proximal to the basal end to aid bending of the key plate 3. When a jackknife key is inserted into a key cylinder and a vehicle occupant hits and applies excessive load to the jackknife key, the key plate 3 first bends along the grooves 16 and the thin portion 13 then deforms 13 thereby separating the key plate 3 from the key case 2.

**Fig.5(c)**





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 EP 14 15 1217

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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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