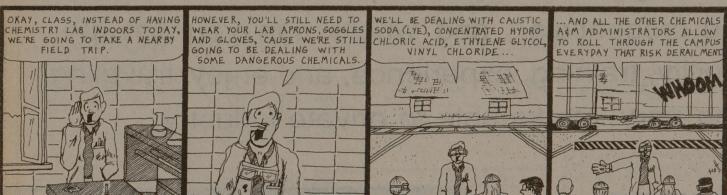
Warped

by Scott McCullar



Gov't workers to be included

Social Security plan given

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Federal orkers and postal service emloyees adamantly oppose a lan to include new government mployees in the Social Security

stem, arguing it will bankrupt neir own civil service retirenent funds. Kenneth Blaylock, president f the American Federation of Sovernment Employees, told

ne House Social Security subommittee Monday that federal orkers are "justifiably para-Wa oid" Congress will not protect sal heir pension plan. Representatives of several

sto ther federal employee and you lostal worker unions were testior ifying Tuesday before the sub-471 ommittee, in its second week of HU learings on the financial prob-ems of the Social Security vstem. Most of the union leaders be-

ieve the National Commission Social Security Reform, *D; which submitted its short-range Ni cure package last month, was far oo optimistic in its estimate of now much money could be aved by including new federal vorkers in the system.

The commission estimated he Social Security retirement und would pick up an addition-

al \$20 billion through 1989 by requiring the new federal workers and employees of nonprofit businesses to contribute to the

eral workers, newer numbers will be in the \$8 billion to \$10 billion range.

The American Federation of Government Employees says the figure for federal and postal service employees alone is closer to \$3 billion, largely due to the Reagan administration's reduction in the federal work force.

ployees believe they "have been used as scapegoats by the Congress and the administration. He said the employees have seen benefit after benefit cut.

Now Congress is saying we want to use your retirement system to bail out Social Security,"

sional leaders, would provide \$168 billion in payroll tax in-

benefits and new taxes on highincome pensioners, in addition to including newly hired federal employees in the Social Security

A majority of the Republican-controlled National Commis-sion on Social Security Reform recommended in a supplemental report the retirement age be increased gradually to 66, after the turn of the century, to help solve the system's long-range

financial problems.

O'Neill, Monday, rejected raising the 65-year retirement age to finance the ailing Social Security system.

The stand by the powerful Massachusetts Democrat makes it unlikely that the option could be approved in the House, but the proposal has strong support in the Senate.

Meanwhile, a panel of senior citizen representatives, told the Security subcommittee they vehemently opposed any reduction in benefits, including raising the retirement age and freezing the annual cost-ofadjustment for six

But subcommittee Chairman J. Pickle argued: "We simply have to consider the years

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Wisconsin blaze kills six in nursing home

United Press International EAU CLAIRE, Wis. — A midnight fire at a downtown nursing home killed six elderly residents. Five others were led to safety by two young women staff members. Lives may have been lost because the alarm was sounded late, officials said Tuesday.

Flames were shooting out the windows at the Silver Leaves Home when firefighters arrived shortly before midnight Monday, Fire Chief Kenneth Mikesell said. The death toll was the highest for a fire in the city's

Fire officials said the deaths might have been prevented if the alarm had been called in beyond. We must consider the young people coming up."

quicker or if the home had been members, officials said. equipped with an automatic "When we got there,

alarm system. Staff members Sabrina Thorson, 19, and Cindy Wold, 21, went back into the burning building to get people out, Mikesell said. Thorson was hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

The victims, all victims of smoke inhalation, were identified as Ludwig Falkner, 80; Don White, Lester Stelter, Rose Mitchell, Margaret Schmidlin and Frank Devney.

One of the staff members came downstairs about midnight and saw flames in a wastebasket. She ran back upstairs to call the owner of the building before sounding the alarm, the chief said.

The home did have smoke alarms which alerted the staff

"When we got there, the residents and the two yo women were outside," Mike said. "I guess they woke upper

ple to get them out."
One body was found near front door of the two-sur frame building, which hour 11 elderly residents. Upstan two bodies were foundinea two beds and one in a hallo the chief said.

'The fire was confined mo to the living room area, smoke and water damage mikesell said. He estimated damage at \$25,000 to \$30,000 but no cause was determin

The rescued residents we treated at a hospital and a leased to nearby homes.



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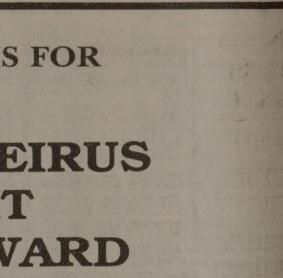
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But the National Association of Retired Federal Employees said, in a testimony prepared for Tuesday's hearing, although the commission estimates \$13 bil-lion of that will come from fed-

Blaylock said federal em-

Blaylock said.

The core of the commission's proposal, endorsed by President Reagan, House Speaker Tho- months. mas O'Neill and most congres-

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