

Perspective

OPINION

Social security

Don't mention subject during election year

By EDWIN FEULNER

Some White House political pros got a real bad case of the jitters recently when President Reagan suggested that many young workers entering the job market probably won't get back from Social Security everything they and their employers pay into the system.

You just don't talk about Social Security in an election year was the message - recalling what Barry Goldwater's candor on the subject did for his campaign 20 years ago.

House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill was quick to jump on the president, and trotted out some tired old warhorses from the past who ritualistically declared the president all wet.

The only trouble is, the president is right. It's Speaker O'Neill who needs the towel.

Despite disclaimers from a variety of "experts," most of them involved in creating the current Social Security mess, research done by Peter Ferrara for The Heritage Foundation clearly indicates that young workers will be lucky to break even when they retire.

Ferrara, a former senior staff member in the White House Office of Policy Development, is realistic enough to know that the Social Security system is not going to be rebuilt overnight. Nor, in fact, is it probably going to be tinkered with at all. Not now, anyway.

So perhaps now is the best time to try for second best;

to set the record straight, and let the Baby Boom and post-Baby Boom generations know what a "great deal" is in store for them.

We might even start planning for the day when the Pepsi Generation starts thinking Geritol and demands changes in the government pension plan. I can assure you that day will come, and it's probably not that far off.

Ferrara, in his latest paper on the subject, proposes that we lay the groundwork now for the work that inevitably lies ahead. Not by tampering with Social Security. Congress won't touch it, so why bother?

Instead, Ferrara suggests the following:

1) That the maximum tax-deductible contribution to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) be raised to equal the maximum employee "contribution" to Social Security. This would raise the max from \$2,000 to about \$2,600.

2) Raise the maximum IRA contribution a non-working spouse can make from the present \$250 to the same max allowed working people.

3) Indexing the maximum IRA contribution allowed, so it will automatically increase at the same rate Social Security increases.

4) Allowing individuals to apply a portion of their IRA contributions to the purchase of life, disability and retirement health insurance.

Modest steps, these. But taken together they would mean that when the inevitable happens, a retirement program paralleling Social

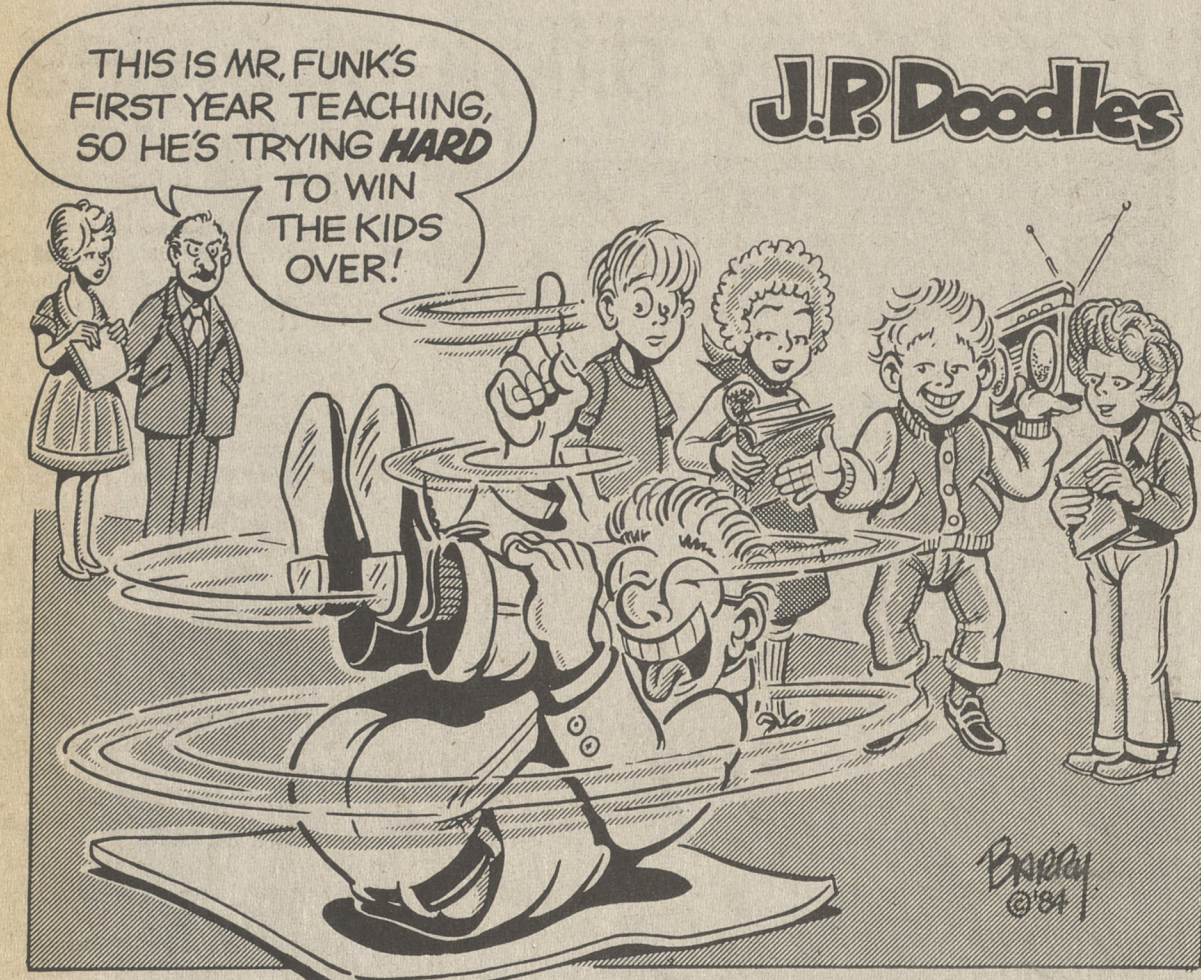
Security will already be in place.

Ferrara also suggests what might be called a "Truth-in-Packaging" law for Social Security: requiring the Social Security Administration to: (a) publish each year an estimate of the rate of return on Social Security contributions; and (b) furnish each worker with a "Statement of Account," indicating his or her contributions for the year and the anticipated rate of return under current law. In addition, he wants the employer's share of the payroll tax to be reported on each worker's paycheck, as well as the amount of employee payroll tax withheld and what kinds of coverage are being provided. This would "help workers understand the full amounts being paid for their Social Security benefits and enable them to compare more easily what they could obtain for the same funds in the private sector."

It would also help workers recognize how much of their money is going into portions of the program for which they are not eligible, such as single workers paying for Social Security survivors insurance.

Tip O'Neill notwithstanding, Social Security is a bad deal for the Baby Boomers and post-Baby Boomers. And it will become a worse deal. The least we can do is require the government to tell it to us straight.

(Feulner is president of The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research institute.)



Trying too hard

Looks like this guy's trying a little too hard to get his students to like him. First-year teachers have a hard time getting adjusted, however, those who try too hard to win the students over may find themselves with a serious discipline problem.

Only yesterday

8500 people join in demand for Dallas-Tunk. highway

50 YEARS AGO - SEPT. 21, 1934
Over 8,500 people joined in a demand for the highway between Dallas and Tunkhamock. Assurance from the State Highway Department that reconstruction of Route 92 would be one of the first jobs in 1935 was acknowledged as victory for local committees conducting the campaign.

Rev. Mrs. G.B. Ross, one of the few ordained Free Methodist preachers of that time was named to succeed Rev. H.M. Faulkner as pastor of the Dallas Methodist Episcopal Church.

You could get - Round steaks 29c lb.; chuck roast 14c lb.; sausage 23c lb.; sugar 10 lb. 52c; Wheaties 2 pkg. 23c; English breakfast tea 39c lb.; peaches doz. lg. cans \$1.85; onions 19c lb.; leg of lamb 23c lb.

40 YEARS AGO - SEPT. 22, 1944
Mr. and Mrs. D.L. Edwards and children Faith and Barre of Trucksville were among those caught in the hurricane that swept the Atlantic Coast and inundated Long Beach Island, New Jersey. The Edwards were vacationing when the hurricane struck.

T-Sgt. Theodore Scouten, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scouten of Noxen was awarded the silver star for gallantry in action in France.

Engaged - Cornelia Parkhurst to Lt. W.L. Conyngham.

You could get - Chickens 39c lb.; sliced bacon 37c lb.; cauliflower 25c lg. hd.; onions 5 lb. 19c; Cream of Rice cereal 18 oz. pkg. 21c; pancake flour 20-oz. pkg. 7c; Boscol Coffee 33c lb.

30 YEARS AGO - SEPT. 24, 1954
Although the Washington, D.C. Zoo expressed interest in the terrapin captured by Rollie Bulford recently, the turtle, named Torty, was given to the Nay Aug Zoo in Scranton. Torty weighed 43½ pounds.

Everell V. Chadwick, assistant county agent of Clinton and Lycoming counties was named assistant to Luzerne County Agent James D. Hutchison.

Engaged - Priscilla Cooper to Alexander Gulis; Eleanor Makravitz to Henry Penza Jr.

Married - Priscilla Davis to William Hugh Perry.

Deaths - Capt. Philip Reynolds, formerly of Trucksville; Daniel Derby, Noxen.

You could get - Chuck roast 39c lb.; frying chicken 45c lb.; fig bars 25c lb.; cheese spread 2 lb. pkg. 69c; 3-lb. can non-fat dry milk 79c; cauliflower 2 jumbo hds. 29c; Tokay grapes 10c lb.

20 YEARS AGO - SEPT. 17, 1964
Fernbrook Major Little League team captured top place in the league for the second straight season. Team members were Jimmy Regan, Bob Samans, George Stolarick, Dick Samanas, Brian Duffy, Gary Martin, Alfred Nash, Paul Kunkle, coach, Dickie Morgan, Jeff Gruver, Ricky Belles, Thomas Burkhardt, Ray Goeringer, Tex Wilson, manager and Dennis Lahr.

Lake-Lehman and Dallas High Schools selected princesses for the Rotary Fall Fair. JoAnn McKeel

and Linda Rae Piatt represented Lake-Lehman while Dallas representatives were Patricia Cully and Maryanne Baloga.

Engaged - Jane Parks and Paul Soltis; Libby Cleasby and Calvin Sutton.

Married - Denise Maureen Hall and G. Richard Clark.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sidorek, Dallas, 25 years.

Deaths - Herbert Sickler, Vernon; Laura M. Smith, Huntsville Road; Rev. Ira Button.

You could get - Rib steak 79c lb.; boneless turkey roast 85c lb.; shrimp 49c lb.; Bartlett pears 2 lb. 29c; Italian prunes 4 lb. 49c; celery 2 bnch. 25c; Crisco 3 lb. can 77c; 1-lb. pkg. Wise Potato Chips 59c; Nabisco Ritz Crackers 1 lb. pkg. 37c.

10 YEARS AGO - SEPT. 19, 1974
Lake-Lehman School Board passed a three-year teachers contract. Provisions included salary increases averaging \$3.00 over the next three years.

Trucksville Parent Teacher Organization met for the first meeting of the year. Board members were Mrs. Robert Roushey, Edward Price, Mrs. Richard Montgomery, Mrs. Edward Jones, Mrs. Thomas, Jr.; Walter Prokopchak, Mrs. John Roushey, Mrs. Benjamin Roberts, Mrs. Terry Evans and Luther Rozelle.

Engaged - Maureen Yakobovic and Bruce J. Kapral.

Anniversaries - Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sundras, Dallas, 25 years; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Pieczynski, 25 years; Mr. and Mrs. John J. Gildea, Dallas, 25 years.

Deaths - C. Nathan Jacoby, Hunlock Creek; Michael Soltishick, Harveys Lake; Clare Cooke Winters, Dallas; J. Raymond Ide, Lehman; Walter Wesley, Jr., Dallas.

You could get - Semi-boneless hams 79c lb.; boneless pot roast \$1.18; ground chuck 98c lb.; honeydews 79c ea.; Tokay grapes 35c lb.; apples 3 lb. 79c; cabbage 8c lb.; macaroni 3 lb. pkgs. \$1; leg o lamb, whole \$1.19 lb.

Foundation gives trees

The National Arbor Day Foundation is giving 10 free trees to people who become Foundation members during September, 1984.

Colorado Blue Spruce, Red Maple, White Flowering Dogwood, Black Walnut, Norway Spruce, Red Oak, Washington Hawthorn, European Mountainash, Pin Oak, and Silver Maple trees will be given to members joining during September.

These trees are part of the Foundation's efforts to foster tree planting throughout America. They were selected because they provide a wide range of benefits: flowers, berries and nuts, as well as shade and beautiful foliage, according to John Rosenow, the Foundation's executive director.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, a \$10 membership contribution should be sent to TEN TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Sept. 30.

LETTERS

Principal commends Post on edition

DEAR EDITOR:

On behalf of all sports fans in the Lake-Lehman High School area, I congratulate you and your staff for the fine "Football Issue" of The Dallas Post.

I am happy that you paid tribute to all of the football players, coaches, managers and cheerleaders of the Back Mountain.

The "Football Issue" was a first-class production and certainly a

credit to the community and The Dallas Post.

JOHN M. ZALESKAS
PRINCIPAL
LAKE-LEHMAN HIGH SCHOOL

LIBRARY NEWS

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK
Library Correspondent

The Back Mountain Memorial Library Children's department located in the Huntsville Road building is holding an on-going book sale. The sale is being conducted in the hallway on the second floor outside the children's room. These are children's books ranging in price from 1 cent up to \$1.00. The books may be purchased during regular library hours.

The Dallas Junior Woman's Club Cookbook is still available for purchase at the main desk in the library on Main Street. These cookbooks sell for \$3.00 and the profit realized is being donated to the library. Help your library, buy a cookbook!

Most of us strive to keep our physical bodies limber, muscles supple, and measurements at a health minimum - especially around the waist. Or at least we worry

about it. But what about our minds? Do you worry about keeping machinery supple-able to absorb new thoughts and new ideas? Is your mind really in shape to keep up with what's new in this fast-changing world? Your library, with its thousands of books and library materials, can furnish you with a steady diet of mental nutrition and new ideas that will keep your "thinking muscles" in tone and capable of keeping up with the world around you. Visit your library soon and see what you've been missing!

New books at the library: "The Killing Doll" by Ruth Rendell is a recent Book Club purchase and is the story of the Yarman family and the story of Diarmid Bawne. By the end of the story, both are inexorably, lethally merged. One woman bleeds to death - an accident or black magic? One man falls in front of a subway car - or is he pushed? This book is a psychological thriller of haunting exploration into obses-

sion and delusion.

"The Technology Edge" by Gerard K. O'Neill tells of opportunities for America in world competition. The book offers a solution for America to achieve new and enduring economic growth that we must grasp before the global competition overwhelms us. The author analyzes current American industry at its best. Americans have always been world leaders at inventing - opening up new businesses; venture capitalism is unique to America.

"Richard III, England's Black Legend" by Desmond Seward is a controversial book that argues compellingly that the tradition view of Richard III is very near the truth. The author believes the King to have been "the most terrifying man ever to occupy the English throne, not excepting his great-nephew Henry VIII. He undoubtedly murdered his nephews almost certainly his cousin Henry VI and, just possible, Henry's son as well.

STATE CAPITOL ROUNDUP

Here is a summary of important events that occurred on Capitol Hill last week from Rep. Frank Coslett, 120th Legislative District.

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS across the Commonwealth could qualify for municipal insurance and pension programs in certain situations if a Senate bill which passed the House Local Government Committee this week becomes law. The controversial measure was amended by the committee and sent to the full House for consideration. It passed the Senate earlier this year. Specifically, the bill would permit supervisors in second-class townships to qualify for the taxpayer-provided insurance and pension programs only if the elected officials work at least 35 hours a week in other municipal jobs. Other

supervisors would be allowed to join the plans if they paid their own way. Some members of the House committee voted to further amend the bill on the House floor.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION procedures in the state will undergo substantial changes beginning in 1987. The state Board of Education approved regulations requiring all teacher candidates to pass a competency test and to undergo a one-year supervised probation period before receiving a teaching certificate. Additionally, teachers certified under the new rules would be required to take six credits of college courses every five years to retain their certificates. The state's two teacher's unions opposed the continuing education regulation.

LOCATING ORGAN donors would be a much speedier and easier process under legislation proposed by Rep. Raymond T. Book (R-Allegheny). Book's bill would require all hospitals in Pennsylvania to record whether a patient is an organ donor and which organs are to be donated. "The measure would establish the basis of a coordinated system for locating organ donors. Since speed and precise timing are all important for a successful organ transplant, such a system would be extremely beneficial," said Book, the prime sponsor of a recently-enacted organ donor identification law. His new proposal would also require hospitals to make information available to the public regarding the donation of organs.

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