

Special Medical Examination

Under the law, the eligibility for people to get Social Security disability benefits is made by an agency of the State in which the person lives. When the available evidence is not enough to support a finding of disability, a special medical examination may be scheduled to help decide if the person meets the medical criteria for disability. The cost

of the examination is paid by the Government.

The scope of the examination or test depends on the information needed to arrive at a decision. For some people, a single test lasting only a few minutes may be enough; others, however, may need more extensive study.

The job of the physician or other health-care personnel

who conduct the examination is simply to obtain the information needed. They do not take part in the disability decision and do not prescribe medication or treatment for the condition. A report on the results of the examination or tests is forwarded to the State agency.

It is the responsibility of State agency personnel to

review the information obtained from the special medical examination together with the evidence already on file and to arrive at a decision about eligibility. The person is notified of the decision in writing. A person who disagrees with the decision has certain appeal rights, which can be pursued.

Failure to keep an appointment for a special medical examination may result in a

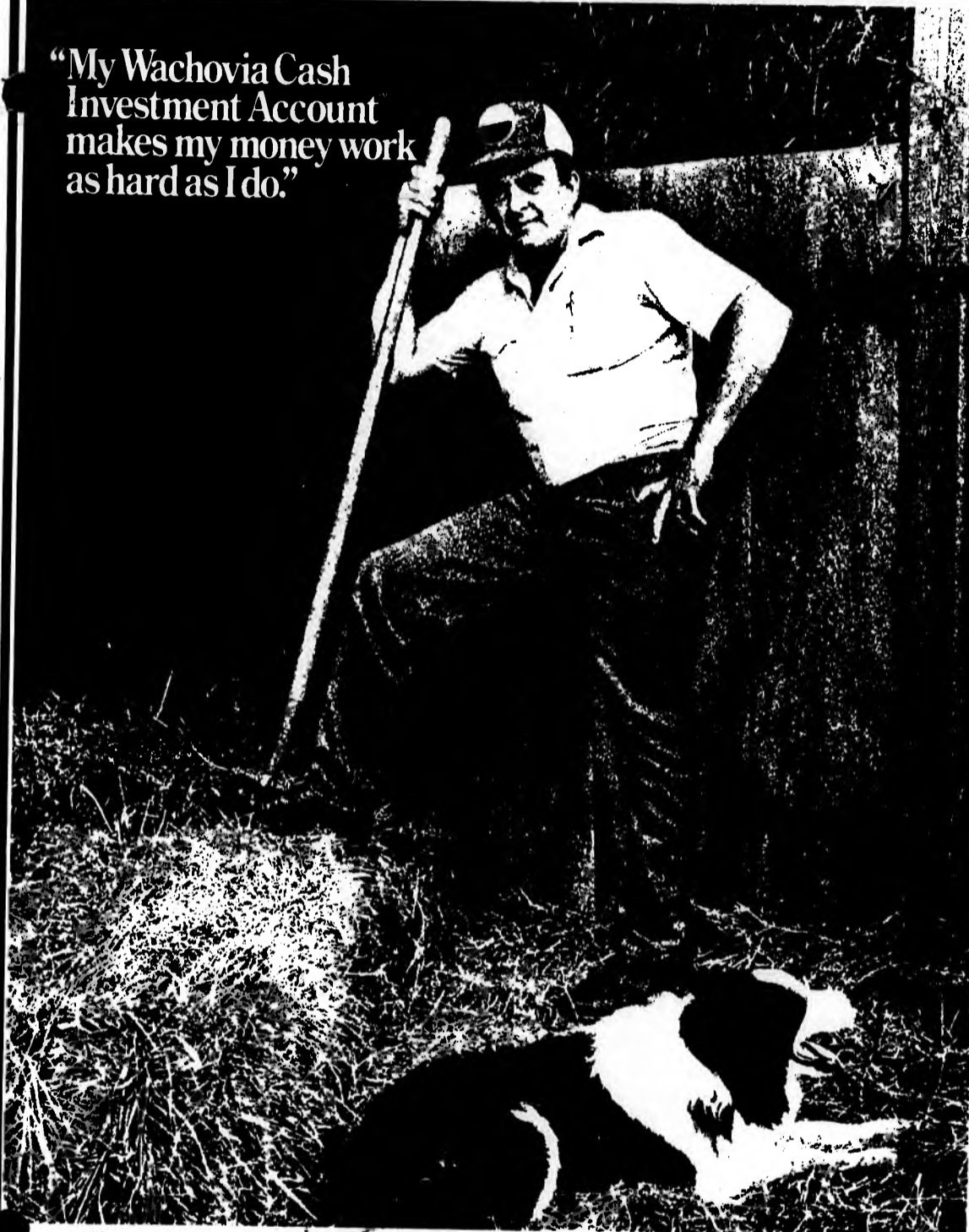
denial of benefits. Therefore, people who cannot keep an appointment should notify the State agency so that an appointment for a more convenient time might be arranged.

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