U.S. Scientists Develop AnOrwellian'BigEye'

By Gabriel Favoino

chicage Sun-Times CHICAGO, Oct. 14-The big| Ted G. Johnson, one of the eye soon may be watching us graduate students working un-

all. In primitive form, it already has been developed by a Northwestern University professor and two graduate students Northwestern University Alternative direction, trained the eye to focus on his necktie. Johnson said that once the eye learned to recognize his students

students. It has been taught to recognize his necktie, the cyc followed it wherever it went within the eye's range. its gaze never leaves the object it has learned to recog-

nize. Inexorably, the eye follows

the object. It's called PRFCS-pattern recognition feedback control system.

The eye is basically a television camera connected to a computer.

According to Gordon J. Murphy, chairman of North-western's electrical engineering department, who conceived the eye, the camera obtains an image that is then converted to an electronic signal.

The signal is fed into the computer and then controls the camera in such a way that it instantly recognizes the object it must watch. The eye can twist its univer-

sal-jointed neck 360 degrees horizontally, and it can tilt its head backward or forward for 270 degrees.