

CAMBRIDGE HAS TWO FACES

A Cambridge, Md. pre-vocational training program aimed at rural unemployment and staffed by Negro and white volunteers has become a stunning example of community unity in an area better known for its divisions.

The month-old project, one of the demonstration programs under the Manpower and Development Training Act, is an attempt to bring applicants' reading and arithmetic skills up to the level necessary for them to take standard vocational training.

Melvin Humphrey, the project coordinator has enlisted the support of housewives, business and professional people and honor students in high schools to serve as tutors in home study programs.

Humphrey, a professor of economics at Morgan State College, said, "I think the response demonstrates that there are common grounds on which the whole population can join hands to benefit deprived individuals and to learn to understand each other."

Each tutor meets once a week with his student and helps him work through a series of six pamphlets, given to the project by the International Correspondence School—three in "practical English" and three in arithmetic.

The student is expected to do 12 to 14 hours a week of homework on the pamphlets and Humphrey said each pamphlet takes about a week to complete.

About 80 per cent of the tutors are white while more than 90 per cent of the students are Negro.

Yet, there are so many volunteers, Humphrey said, that the prospective teachers complain there are not enough pupils to tutor. In Cambridge there are 50 tutors and about 38 pupils now, he noted.

"The people here have felt frustrated as individuals," Maurice P. Rimpo, editor of the Cambridge Banner said, "They wanted to do something, but they didn't know what they could do. Now they can make a contribution, especially the youth."

About 80 per cent of the people in the Cambridge area who applied for regular Training Act classes "failed" the usual aptitude test.

Humphrey is aiming the pre-vocational program at the 70 per cent of these failures who were found to be trainable on specially designed aptitude tests. According to Humphrey, they are handicapped only by poor reading and arithmetic ability.

With the home study pamphlets and tutorials, Humphrey said these students will "at least be able to keep up" with their classes when they enter vocational training.

Some of the students are now two-thirds of the way through the pamphlets and some have entered regular classes in the State Department of Vocational Education's pro-

gram while they continue their home study simultaneously.

Of the 10 vocational programs planned, Humphrey points out that only the clerks-typists require as much as the equivalent of a 12th-grade education.

Other jobs for which the applicants can be trained include: nurses aide and hospital orderly, auto mechanic, cook helper, welder and building maintenance.

The project is designed eventually to handle about 480 applicants for complete vocational training. The Department of Labor plans to supply about \$750,000 in funds for the project with

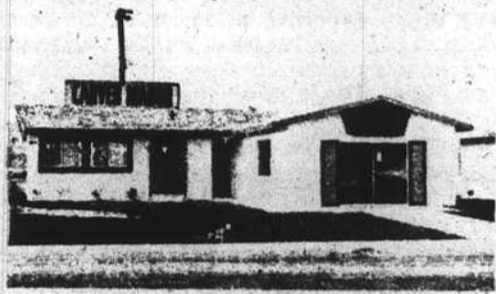
HEW through Morgan State College, the State Employment Service and the Department of Vocational Training under the Training Act program.

Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz pointed to the Eastern Shore pre-vocational project in his report to Congress in March, calling it an example of an "essential first step for the initiating of retraining projects."

But the students are not the only ones who learn from the program. The tutors can learn too, as in the case of a 60-year-old Negro volunteer who told Humphrey, "This is the first time I've been able to understand white people."



PROJECT HOPE--Model of hospital ship USS Hope, which will make good will visit to Guinea, West Africa, this fall, is examined by Guinea President Sekou Toure (left) and Dr. William Walsh, director of project. (See story.)



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