(The newspaper article follows:)

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 3, 1967]

CUTTING RELIEF ROLLS—ADMINISTRATION, STATES STEP UP EFFORT TO PUT WELFARE CLIENTS IN JOBS

By Jonathan Spivak

JACKSON, KY.—Ben Miller, a 50-year-old former coal miner, was all but illiterate until recently. But now, he proudly tells a visitor, he can "sit down and write a letter."

Along with thousands of other jobless, able-bodied adults in remote regions of Appalachia, Mr. Miller lives on public welfare; he receives a $245 monthly grant for his family of nine. But unlike many relief recipients elsewhere, his life is far from idle and aimless.

Four days a week, he labors with shovel and wheelbarrow to help widen a dirt and rock road winding into a picturesque hollow, so 22 children living there can get to school more easily. One day a week he struggles to master the three R's in a barren one-room adult education center nearby, decorated only with a picture of Lyndon Johnson and a calendar from the Breathitt County Funeral Home.

"HELPING THE NEIGHBORS"

For Mr. Miller, this unusual, Federally supported welfare rehabilitation program, operating in 19 Kentucky counties, provides sustenance, self-respect and at least the prospect of future employment. Says he: "It puts food on the table for the kids. And this way we are helping the neighbors." For 2,500 other eastern Kentuckians, the endeavor has already meant deliverance from the dole; their training has led to full-time jobs as carpenters' helpers, school janitors, draftsmen, factory workers and the like.

Kentucky's crusade, it should be noted, has not cut the relief rolls enough to stem the state's rising welfare costs, which now total about $100 million a year. Nationally, public relief spending has also kept climbing—from a Federal-state-local total of $4.3 billion as recently as 1961 to $6.5 billion last year. Among the reasons: More liberal monthly payments; the extension of eligibility to growing numbers of needy families; the decrease in job opportunities for the unskilled.

But many wefare specialists insist that work-training programs offer a long-term solution to the painful cost problem. The aim is to make the nation's public assistance programs a pathway to independence for the poor; now, critics contend, the relief system subsidizes and even perpetuates poverty.

PROMISING EFFORTS

Admittedly, many of the nation's 7.6 million welfare recipients have little hope for self-support—because of advanced age, disability or child-caring responsibilities. But Federal officials estimate that several hundred thousand could benefit from work-training programs. As evidence, they point to such promising efforts as these:

New York City's Port Authority prepares mothers on welfare for office or clerical work; one-quarter of a recent class of 108 graduates received two or more job offers, and 86 are working.

The Clatsop County Community College in Astoria, Ore., tests and trains local welfare recipients for gainful employment. Within two years, the county's welfare caseload decreased 17%, though elsewhere in the state welfare rolls increased.

In the past two years, 970 of a group of 1,145 relief receipients in St. Paul, Minn., were trained and placed in full-time jobs. Their earnings averaged twice as much as their previous public assistance grants.

In Cleveland's Hough slum, more than 400 mothers on welfare were given special permission to supplement their meager monthly checks with outside earnings; half gained full-time employment and left the relief rolls.

Some other cost-savings endeavors, even more experimental, take a different route. In Chicago, the Cook County welfare agency is seeking to reunite 300 deserting fathers with their families; so far, 35 couples have been reconciled, and 10 child-bearing unions legalized. In instances where the fathers earn enough, the families will go off welfare.