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Byfaller

Carter Will Speak At VEP Benefit

ATLANTA, Georgia -- The Voter Education Project, VEP, a nonpartisan private organization which promotes minority political participation in the 11 southern states, has announced that former Governor Jimmy Carter will be Keynote Speaker for its Third Annual Benefit Dinner to be held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta on Monday evening, August 30.

"We are pleased that Governor Carter has honored us with his consent to speak at this annual event," said John Lewis, VEP Executive Director. "We expect to sell out over 1,000 seats at \$100

per person, because the funds are vitally needed to support local programs of voter registration and citizenship education throughout our region."

"Although the Governor is a declared candidate for the Presidency, his participation in this dinner by no means can be construed as a partisan endorsement of his campaign by the Voter Education Project," Lewis declared. "We received bipartisan support in fund raising activities, having alternated between Senator Edward Kennedy, a Democrat, in 1974 and Senator Jacob Javits, a Republican, in 1975 as Keynote Speakers.

"We extend invitations to speakers and project the plans concerning date and time around their schedule," Lewis explained. "Prior to this date, we have invited several nationally known Democratic and Republican leaders who have declined because of schedule conflicts, including President Ford, Vice President Rockefeller, Senator Hubert Humphrey, and Representative Barbara Jordan, among others."

Proceeds from the VEP fund raising event will be used to support efforts to register more than three and a half million persons of voting age in the South who are not currently registered, said VEP officials. The efforts include basic research, citizenship education, and massive publicity efforts to stimulate and motivate unregistered persons.

Tickets to the annual \$100 per plate dinner will be available by reservation from the Voter Education Project. Interested persons may contact VEP at 404 522-7495 for reservations. All contributions to the Voter Education Project are tax deductible.

Harry Huge, a Washington, D.C. attorney and VEP president, said the VEP event is expected to be well attended by "a bipartisan, multi-racial community of business, labor, religious, social, and political representatives from the Atlanta community and across the nation."

"The VEP has been a major force working for progress in the South since 1962," Huge said. "To date, government at all levels has failed to accept the responsibility for seeking an all-inclusive electorate and that critical work has been left primarily to small but dedicated private efforts of the VEP. Since 1965, VEP has supported over 1,500 local non-partisan voter registration and citizenship education programs from Virginia to Texas."