

# voter education project / press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, August 25, 1976

Atlanta, Georgia -- A distinguished committee of Americans -- including Senator Charles Mathias, Jr., Senator Edward Brooke, Senator Jacob Javits, George Meany, Coretta Scott King, Benjamin Mays, and Leonard Woodcock -- has agreed to serve as Chairpersons for the Third Annual Benefit Dinner of the Voter Education Project (VEP), to be held on Monday at the Hyatt Regency-Atlanta.

"We are pleased that this rare assemblage of diverse, bipartisan, national leadership is supporting our last-minute effort to make the Voter Education Project benefit a success," said John Lewis, Executive Director of the nonpartisan VEP. "We are hopeful that their example will boost our efforts to sell out 1,000 seats for the dinner on Monday evening."

The Voter Education Project announced plans for the dinner on Friday, August 20, having just received word that Jimmy Carter had agreed to serve as keynote speaker.

"We are trying to contact a broad spectrum of business, labor, civil rights, religious, and civic leaders to participate as guests, donors, and partons for the dinner," Lewis explained. "With individual tickets at \$100 per person, we have set a goal of raising \$100,000 to support nonpartisan programs of minority voter registration and citizenship education in the 11 southern states."

The Third Annual VEP Benefit Dinner is set for 7:30 p.m. in the Pheonix Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency-Atlanta. A reception will precede the dinner at 6:30 p.m., to be held on the poolside terrace.

For reservations and general information on the VEP dinner, call 522-7495.

- 30 -

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AUGUST 26, 1976

## The Ballot Box

VOTING, AS we all should know, is the key to good government. When enough well-informed voters turn out the chances are decent and competent people will be elected.

When there is apathy, the axe-grinders and those with special interests prevail.

Voting, for instance, has been the key to the solution of racial discrimination in this nation. Boycotts and marches got the publicity but it was the voting power of those who had been discriminated against which brought about the removal of this discrimination.

The Voters Education Project, which has promoted minority political participation in this area, holds its annual fund-raising dinner here August 30 with ex-Gov. Jimmy Carter as speaker. This should be an interesting as well as worthwhile occasion. Increased registration and voting by blacks has done more to bring an end to racial strife and confrontations than other factors. The dinner should remind all, including those of us indifferent to the privileges of the ballot, how it can be used to bring about almost any result provided enough people care enough.