

NEWS

VOTER EDUCATION PROJECT

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1970

VOL. 4 NO. 1 & 2

Southern Regional Council, Inc.

Atlanta, Ga. 30303

JORDAN TAKES UNCF POST; LEWIS NEW VEP DIRECTOR

After four years as its director, Vernon E. Jordan Jr. will depart the Voter Education Project at the end of February to become executive director of the United Negro College Fund.

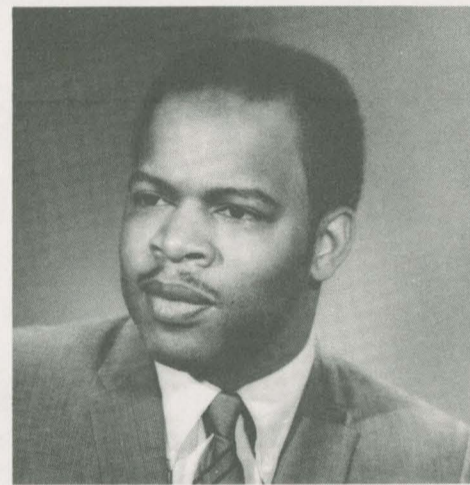
Mr. Jordan's successor will be John Lewis, well known civil rights leader and former national chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Mr. Lewis becomes VEP director March 1.

The changes were announced during January by Paul Anthony, executive director of the Southern Regional Council. Appointment of Mr. Jordan to head the United Negro College Fund was announced at a Jan. 23 news conference in New York.

Mr. Jordan, 34, succeeds Dr. Harry V. Richardson. Before directing the Voter Education Project, Mr. Jordan was an attorney-consultant with the poverty program's regional office in Atlanta and assistant to the executive director of the Southern Regional Council. He serves on many national boards and is a member of the Arkansas, Georgia and American bar.

Mr. Lewis, 30, is a native of Troy, Ala., and is a graduate of the American Baptist Theological Seminary and Fisk University. He was a leader in the 1963 March on Washington and the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery march which led to the Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Lewis was national chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee from 1963 until 1966, and subsequently was associate director of the Field Foundation. Since 1967 he has been director of the Southern Regional



John Lewis,

New VEP

Director

Council's Community Organization Project. He is married to the former Lillian Miles, who is curator of the Negro Collection of the Atlanta University Library.

Mr. Lewis, like Mr. Jordan, was appointed by President Johnson to the Council to the 1966 White House Conference, "To Fulfill These Rights." He was an organizer of the 1960 student sit-in movement in Nashville and was one of the original Freedom Riders in 1961. He has traveled throughout the United States and in several European countries to deliver addresses on the civil rights movement. In 1964, he spent two and a half months in Africa.

He is a board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and of the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for Racial Equality. Mr. Lewis also is a member of the board of trustees of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation.

Appointment of Mr. Jordan as executive director of the United Negro College Fund was announced by Dudley Dowell, chairman of the UNCF board and former president of the New York Life Insurance Company. Mr. Jordan accepted the responsibility of raising \$10 million, the highest goal in UNCF history. UNCF raises funds for 36 predominantly black colleges with a combined enrollment of 40,000 students.

Commented Dr. Raymond M. Wheeler of Charlotte, N.C.,

(Continued on Page 4)



A plaque recognizing his contributions to increasing black political participation in the South was presented to VEP Director Vernon E. Jordan Jr. when he delivered a farewell address to Atlanta's Hungry Club on Jan. 28. Making the presentation is Atlanta Alderman Q. V. Williamson. (Atlanta Inquirer Photo by S. C. Gordon.)

DR. HENDERSON ILL

Dr. Vivian W. Henderson, president of Clark College and chairman of VEP's Advisory Committee, was hospitalized in early February and remained in serious condition as this issue of V. E. P. News went to press. Dr. Henderson became ill while attending an educational conference at Nassau. He was flown to Atlanta and admitted to St. Joseph's Infirmary.

Voter Education Project ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Director

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Editor and Research Director

VERNON JORDAN GAVE VEP IMPRESSIVE LEADERSHIP

(The editorial quoted below appeared Jan. 15, 1970 in *The Atlanta Journal*.)

... Voter Education Project and other civil rights groups around the South have encouraged millions of black Southerners to register and vote. This effort has indirectly prompted many white Southerners to participate for the first time in the election process.

Mr. Jordan has given the Voter Education Project impressive leadership.

At one time, Mr. Jordan was being talked up as a mayoral candidate and lately as a congressional candidate. He would have made a strong campaigner. At least he knows how to get people to the polls. In Georgia alone there have been 100,000 citizens added to the registration list in the last five years.

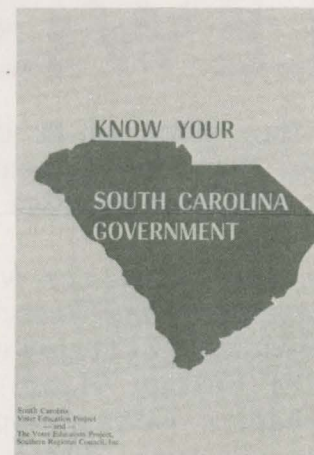
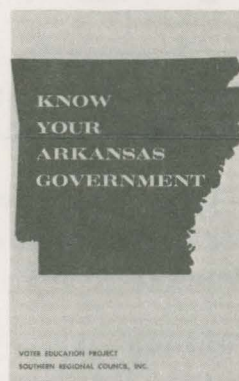
BOOKLETS PUBLISHED ON SOUTH CAROLINA, ARKANSAS GOVERNMENT

South Carolina and Arkansas are the latest additions to the Voter Education Project's series of know-your-government booklets.

"Know Your South Carolina Government" was published in late November. Eleven by 8½ inches, it has 24 pages.

"Know Your Arkansas Government" was published in January. Nine by 6 inches, it has 27 pages.

Research and writing of the South Carolina booklet was done by Dr. George Bowdler for the South Carolina Voter



Education Project. The Arkansas booklet was written by Mrs. Carole Taylor, formerly of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations, with research assistance from Miss Joanna Edwards of the Arkansas Voter Education Project.

Both booklets contain numerous charts depicting the structure of state and local government. They also contain maps showing congressional districts and other geographical units.

Ten thousand copies of each booklet were printed. Copies may be obtained by writing the Voter Education Project. Other booklets in the know-your-government series have been published for Georgia and North Carolina.

1970 Election Calendar for the South

	U. S. CONGRESS		GOVERNOR		STATE LEGISLATURE				Final Filing	DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION		Primary Date	Runoff Primary Date
	Elect a Senator	Representatives To Be Elected	Elect	Term	Upper House Elect	Upper House Term	Lower House Elect	Lower House Term		Primary	General Election		
ALABAMA	No	8	Yes	4	35	4	106	4	To be Determined	April 24	Oct. 23	May 5	June 2
ARKANSAS	No	4	Yes	2	26	4	100	2	June 16	Aug. 5	Oct. 14	Aug. 25	Sept. 8
FLORIDA	Yes	12	Yes	4	48	2	119	2	To be Determined	To be determined		To be determined	
GEORGIA	No	10	Yes	4	56	2	195	2	June 10	July 20	Sept. 14	Sept. 9	Sept. 23
LOUISIANA	No	8	No	4	None	4	None	4	June 26	July 15	Oct. 3	Aug. 15	Sept. 26
MISSISSIPPI	Yes	5	No	4	None	4	None	4	April 3	May 2	July 3	June 2	June 23
NORTH CAROLINA	No	11	No	4	50	2	120	2	Feb. 20	April 18	Oct. 24	May 2	May 30
SOUTH CAROLINA	No	6	Yes	4	None	4	124	2	2 Wks. After State Convention Convenes	May 9	Oct. 3	June 16	June 30
TENNESSEE	Yes	9	Yes	4	17	4	99	2	June 4	July 6	Oct. 3	Aug. 6	
TEXAS	Yes	23	Yes	2	16	4	150	2	Feb. 2	Jan. 31	Jan. 31	May 2	June 6
VIRGINIA	Yes	10	No	4	None	4	None	2	April 15	June 13	Oct. 3	July 14	Aug. 18

(Calendar for Southern states extracted from *AFL-CIO News*, Jan. 24, 1970)

Southern Voter Registration in the '60s

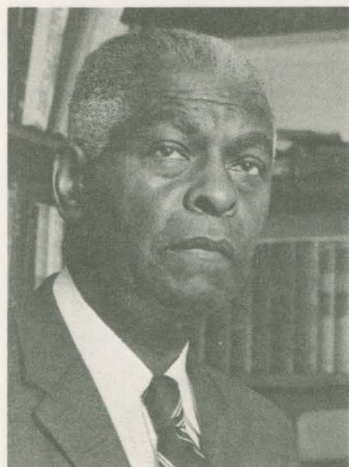
		1960	1962	1964	1966	1968	Summer-Fall 1969
ALABAMA	Negro	66,009	68,317	111,000	250,000	273,000	295,000
	White	860,073	883,732	946,477	1,192,075	1,117,000	1,280,000
ARKANSAS	Negro	72,604	68,970	95,000	115,000	130,000	150,000
	White	517,897	506,799	620,528	598,000	640,000	694,000
FLORIDA	Negro	183,197	182,456	300,000	303,000	292,000	315,000
	White	1,819,342	1,819,342	2,200,466	2,093,274	2,195,000	2,465,000
GEORGIA	Negro	180,000	175,573	270,000	300,000	344,000	370,000
	White	1,020,000	1,152,707	1,340,000	1,378,005	1,524,000	1,590,000
LOUISIANA	Negro	159,033	151,663	164,700	243,000	305,000	313,000
	White	993,118	934,862	1,037,356	1,071,573	1,133,000	1,123,000
MISSISSIPPI	Negro	22,000	23,920	28,500	175,000	251,000	281,000
	White	478,000	390,000	525,000	470,920	691,000	672,000
NORTH CAROLINA	Negro	210,450	215,938	258,000	282,000	305,000	296,000
	White	1,861,430	1,861,330	1,942,000	1,653,796	1,579,000	1,572,000
SOUTH CAROLINA	Negro	58,122	90,901	144,000	191,000	189,000	203,000
	White	480,973	480,793	703,000	718,061	587,000	640,000
TENNESSEE	Negro	185,000	150,869	218,000	225,000	228,000	289,000
	White	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,297,026	1,375,000	1,448,000	1,637,000
TEXAS	Negro	226,818	242,000	375,000	400,000	540,000	475,000
	White	2,078,500	1,840,000	2,601,967	2,600,000	3,532,000	3,020,000
VIRGINIA	Negro	100,100	110,113	200,000	205,000	255,000	261,000
	White	866,794	940,115	1,050,000	1,159,000	1,256,000	1,476,000
TOTAL	Negro	1,463,333	1,480,720	2,164,200	2,689,000	3,112,000	3,248,000
	White	12,276,127	12,109,680	14,263,820	14,309,704	15,702,000	16,169,000

BENJAMIN MAYS HEADS ATLANTA SCHOOL BOARD

Dr. Benjamin Mays was elected president of the Atlanta Board of Education in early January, making him the first Negro head of a school board in a major Southern city.

Dr. Mays, elected last fall to the Atlanta board, was named president by a 6-to-4 vote of the new board, which has three black members.

The 74-year-old retired president of Morehouse College



*Dr. Benjamin Mays,
Atlanta School
Board President*

immediately called for full compliance with federal court desegregation orders affecting the Atlanta system.

A native of Epworth, S. C., and the holder of many degrees, Dr. Mays is a board member of the Southern Regional Council.

BLACKS WIN ELECTIONS IN VIRGINIA, MISSISSIPPI

Two blacks have been elected to the Chesapeake, Va., city council and another has been elected justice of the peace in Leake County, Miss.

Dr. Hugo A. Owens, a dentist, and William P. Clarke Sr., an insurance agent, each defeated six white candidates in a special election to fill vacant seats on the Chesapeake city council. They are the first Negroes to serve as councilmen in the coastal Virginia city.

Bennett F. Smith of Ofahoma defeated a veteran justice of the peace in Leake County's Beat Three by a vote of 307 to 280. The victory came in a runoff election, making Mr. Smith the first Negro to be elected in the central Mississippi county since Reconstruction.

BLACKS TO CONTROL ELECTIONS – JORDAN

(The news account below appeared Jan. 29, 1970 in The Atlanta Constitution.)

Vernon Jordan, a Southern Regional Council official, said Wednesday that Atlanta's new mayor "will have to find a new base of support."

"The white moderate-to-liberal official," Jordan told the Hungry Club, can no longer "make claim to an office controlled by 95 per cent of the Negro vote and 25 per cent of the white vote because black political ambition and the desire to serve will be a competing, if not victorious, force."

Jordan, who becomes executive director of the United Negro College Fund in March, said Atlanta's recent election "may be the guidepost for other major cities of the South."

Here, Jordan said, "a new coalition of voters emerged" as Negroes, with more votes than ever before, parted with Northside whites for the first time since 1953.

In the 1969 city election, most whites voters supported the losing mayoral candidate, he said, and most Negroes backed the winner, Sam Massell.

"Thus, upper middle-class whites and the city's traditional 'power structure' lost their former position of influence in deciding city elections," Jordan said. "Blacks greatly enhanced their influence. And working-class whites maintained their position on the losing side."

Jordan, director of the Voter Education Project of the Atlanta-based Southern Regional Council for four years, said that "members of the white business power structure are bad politicians."

"They have yet to grasp the new dynamic in the city's politics—black political power," he said in his remarks to the Butler Street YMCA luncheon group. "They have failed to understand that blacks will no longer be junior partners in the old alliance."

Atlanta, Jordan said, had a bit more than 34,000 registered Negro voters and one elected official in 1960; now some 87,000 Negroes are on the voting rolls and over 20 hold elected office.

Black political power, he said, will be "our most effective and respected weapon."

"The great new phenomenon of the seventies," Jordan said "is that for the first time since Reconstruction black people now sit at the council tables of government, enacting laws and making public policy decisions that affect every citizen."

In the states of the old Confederacy, nearly 3.2 million Negroes are registered voters—up from 1.5 million 10 years ago, he said. But throughout the past decade, Southern whites still made more money, held more jobs and sent their children to better schools.

Still, Jordan said, "the 60s have brought dramatic changes in the mind and life-style of Negro Southerners."

NEW VEP DIRECTOR

(Continued from Page 1)

president of the Southern Regional Council:

"We regret his resignation, but Mr. Jordan goes with our best wishes and deep gratitude for the contributions he has made to the Council's programs."

"Mr. Jordan's leaving is a real loss to SRC and to me personally," said Mr. Anthony. "Our only consolation is that UNCF is very important to the region, and Vernon will therefore still be serving the region's welfare."

VEP NEWS BRIEFS

John Edwards, director of the North Carolina Voter Education Project, became a proud father for the second time Feb. 2. A daughter, Robin Elizabeth, arrived at 5:37 p.m., weighing seven pounds and eight ounces.

William B. Robertson, former teacher and principal, is the first Negro in modern times to work in a Virginia governor's office. The 36-year-old Roanoke man was appointed in January by Gov. Linwood Holton.

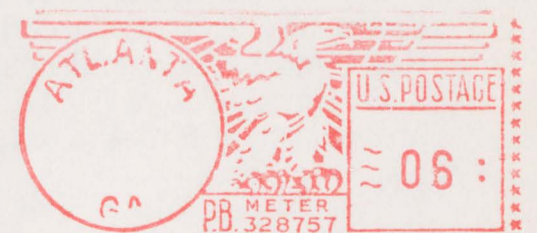
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