MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release
July 17, 2000
Contact: Melissa Northern
(804) 243-8468

Center for Governmental Studies to Examine Career of John Dalton
Chichester, Holton, Others to Discuss Dalton Administration

CHARLOTTESVILLE – State Senator John Chichester and Governor Linwood Holton will headline a stellar lineup of journalists, political analysts and current and former members of Virginia state government during the John N. Dalton Governors Conference on July 20 and 21 at the University of Virginia.

Sponsored each year by the University of Virginia Center for Governmental Studies and the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the Governors Project seeks to review the administrations of Virginia’s modern governors in a non-partisan manner and to determine how each has helped shape today’s Commonwealth. Following the success of the Mills E. Godwin, Jr. Inaugural Governors Conference and last year’s A. Linwood Holton Governors Conference, this year’s event will explore the historical significance of Dalton’s political career.

The adopted son of Ted Dalton, Virginia’s original “Mr. Republican,” John Dalton was the third Republican Governor of Virginia. Elected in 1977, Dalton was best known for curbing the growth and spending of the Virginia state government. Dalton was also responsible for helping to solidify true two-party politics in Virginia by strengthening the organization of the Republican Party in the Commonwealth. Dalton died in 1986 after a battle with lung cancer.

A full schedule of panel discussions held at the Boar’s Head Inn on both days will be highlighted by a special presentation on Thursday evening in the Dome Room of Thomas Jefferson’s Rotunda. The evening will include remarks by Center for Governmental Studies Director Larry Sabato and a keynote address by Senator Chichester, current President Pro Tempore of the Virginia Senate and friend of the late Governor Dalton.

In addition to Chichester and Holton, the conference will feature public figures such as Senators Hunter Andrews and Henry Marsh, Delegate Vince Callahan, former Attorney General Andrew Miller, former Delegates Pete Giesen and Ray Ashworth, and journalists Margie Fisher and Margaret Edds. Other panelists include Joy Manson Wilson, Dalton’s chief of staff; University of Tennessee President Wade Gilley, Dalton’s Secretary of Education; Charlie Davis, Dalton’s Press Secretary; and Charles Walker, the Chairman of Governor Dalton’s Cabinet.

The daytime panels of the Conference are open to the general public, but reservations are requested. Media interested in covering any portion of the event should contact Center for Governmental Studies Project Coordinator Melissa Northern at (804) 243-8468.

Please see attached agenda.

####