

For immediate release
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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Singer Vikki Carr will entertain at President and Mrs. Ford's State Dinner Tuesday night honoring Dr. Bruno Kreisky, Federal Chancellor of Austria.

Miss Carr met the President Nov. 6 in her capacity as National Chairwoman of the 1974 Christmas Seal Campaign. She and the President opened this year's campaign to fight lung disease in a ceremony in the Rose Garden.

Miss Carr will sing a variety of popular songs, including her hits "It Must Be Him" and "With Pen in Hand."

Miss Carr's promotional material refers to her as the only female singer of Mexican-American descent who has become a major recording star. She was born Florencia Bisenta de Casillas Martinez Cardona in El Paso, Tex. Since 1971, she has earmarked a portion of her earnings to help Chicanos receive better educations. Since that time, the Vikki Carr Scholarship Foundation has provided more than \$40,000 to Mexican-Americans, enabling 56 students to attend universities and colleges throughout the country.

She has also become known as a crusader for non-smokers; due in part to her own toxic allergy to cigaret smoke and to her opposition to smoking for health reasons.

In addition to her work with the American Lung Association, Miss Carr has been involved in benefit work for the American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, the Overseas Federal Campaign Fund and Holy Cross High School in San Antonio, Tex.

A 5'1 1/2" blonde, Miss Carr is the eldest of seven children of Carlos Cardona, a construction engineer. Her first singing job was under the name Carlita with a Mexican-Irish band. Now under contract with Columbia Records, Miss Carr has appeared on every major network variety show and makes numerous nightclub appearances. In addition, she has appeared in musical comedies and does dramatic acting, debuting in 1972 as a non-singing guest star on "Mod Squad." She performed in 1967 for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Miss Carr was named "Visiting Entertainer of the Year" by the Mexican Press Association and was also honored as "Singer of the Year" by the American Guild of Variety Artists (1972). The Los Angeles Times named her "Woman of the Year" in 1970.

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