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Rick VC <r.vancoevering@verizon.net> on 04/02/2003 03:33:54 AM 2003 APR -4 P 1: 34

To: CommissionerWeintraub@fec.gov  
cc:

Subject: Exemption for the Socialist Workers Party

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you and your fellow commissioners to advocate an end to the exemption that has been granted to the Socialist Worker's Party from Election Law reporting.

While I firmly believe in the First Amendment and their (SWP members) right to associate, that right cannot be any greater than that of any other political party. The ostensible reason for the exemption is that the members of the SWP might face harassment for their political beliefs. While this may be true, there is no legal protection for anyone from discrimination based upon political belief. A republican, democrat, conservative, or green party member may be fired or denied a job because of his/her political beliefs. The granting of an exemption based upon a "fear of harassment," allows the SWP members to flaunt our laws and engage in activities which undermine the rule of law.

If the SWP is entitled to an exemption from reporting then all political parties should enjoy the same exemption. Either end the exemption for the SWP or grant the same exemption for all other political parties.

Sincerely,

Richard Van Coevering



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