

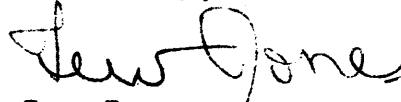
14 Charles Lane  
New York, New York 10014  
May 22, 1974

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a copy of a critical support leaflet put out by the Young Socialists for Rodriguez in San Jose. Kurzweil is a CP member running for tax assessor in Santa Clara County.

Comradely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lew Jones".

Lew Jones  
SWP National Office

YOUNG SOCIALISTS FOR RODRIGUEZWHY YOU SHOULD VOTE JACK KURZWEIL  
FOR TAX ASSESSOR JUNE 4

The energy crisis, the Watergate revelations, inflation, recession, cutbacks in social services, higher taxes and college tuition, pollution, the continued oppression of Blacks, Chicanos, Asians, Native Americans and women--these have caused a deep-going questioning of the traditional American political system, and for good reason!

It is the capitalist system which is the root cause of these problems -- a system where the profits of a handful of very rich families comes first, not human needs. The two-party shell game is an integral part of the way the rich and powerful maintain themselves that way -- rich and powerful.

Young Socialists for Rodriguez, supporters of Olga Rodriguez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor, welcome attempts to organize mass actions independent of the Democrats and Republicans. Unlike the two big capitalist parties, the socialist campaign helps build support for such actions. We know that only when working people act independently in their own interests can we win anything, even partial victories. The San Francisco city workers, Los Angeles county workers, independent truckers, farmworkers, antiwar activists, and others can attest to this fact. This is doubly true in the voting booth.

We believe that the capitalist parties, the parties that support the bosses and are responsible for war, racism, sexism, and other evils of our society, must be challenged, including in the elections. That's why we socialists call on the labor movement to break with the policy of supporting one or another capitalist candidate, and move out to organize a labor party that could fight in the political arena for the interests of the working people.

Jack Kurzweil, Communist Party member, is running for Tax Assessor in Santa Clara County. We think that people in the county should vote for Kurzweil as a way of registering a vote against the three capitalist candidates he opposes, and for the principle of independent working class political action against the capitalist parties.

While urging a vote for Kurzweil, we do not support the policies of the Communist Party in this election. It is around the very question of the need for independent working class political action that our differences with the Communist Party are the sharpest. The fact is, the Communist Party for many decades has been supporting Democrats. In the current California elections, the Communist Party is giving backhanded support to Democrats, from the governor's race on down. Kurzweil's campaign is for a relatively minor post. The Communist Party intends to utilize Kurzweil's campaign as a cover for their basic policy of supporting Democrats for all the major posts and most of the minor ones in the state elections. This pernicious policy leads away from working people breaking with the parties of the bosses, and traps many who consider themselves to be socialists into supporting capitalist candidates.

The Socialist Workers Party, on the other hand, is running Olga Rodriguez for Governor and Dan Styron for U.S. Senate, in addition to a full slate for the other state offices and many congressional and local candidates throughout California. To do otherwise, when we have the resources to carry out such an ambitious campaign, would amount to a conscious decision to leave the field to the capitalist candidates. That's exactly what the Communist Party is doing, so they can continue their policy of supporting the Democrats.

We also do not support other aspects of Kurzweil's program. He fails to raise a fighting socialist program to solve the problems faced by working people. He instead promises to "use the power of the office" but remains silent on using the power of the organized masses to fight the problems caused by capitalism. His campaign platform can hardly be distinguished from that of any liberal capitalist politician.

The Socialist Workers Party, by contrast, is campaigning on a socialist platform, a copy of which is attached.

We also note that neither Kurzweil nor the Communist Party have objected to the undemocratic and brutal treatment of Soviet dissidents, from Solzhenitsyn to Grigorenko. It is incumbent upon all those who claim to be socialists to speak out against crimes perpetrated in the name of socialism by Stalin's heirs. To cover up for these crimes, as the Communist Party does, give reactionaries ammunition in their attempts to discredit socialist ideas.

Finally, nowhere does Kurzweil call for the creation of a socialist society as the only system under which we can begin to solve the problems of humanity. He instead says, "There will not be money to meet our urgent social needs as long as Nixon remains in office." Kurzweil implies that Nixon is the main obstacle to social change. But what about Ford who will take Nixon's place if Nixon is impeached and convicted? What about the liberal capitalist politicians like Kennedy? Are any of them the answer to our problems? No! All the defenders of the capitalist system, whether liberal, conservative or even "radical" are the problem because they defend a system which can never meet the needs of the majority of Americans. What must be built is a working class alternative to all these capitalist politicians and the capitalist parties.

In the 1974 elections, a vote for independent working class political action and for socialism can be cast in California -- for the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party.

We call on people in Santa Clara County to vote for Marianna Hernandez for Superintendent of Public Instruction on June 4. Ms. Hernandez is supported by the Socialist Workers Party.

Vote for Jack Kurzweil for Tax Assessor.

And in November, vote for the only candidates in the state elections who stand for the interests of working people and for socialism, Olga Rodriguez for Governor, Dan Styron for U.S. Senate and the full Socialist Workers slate.

(California Election laws require us to state that this leaflet was not authorized by the Jack Kurzweil for Tax Assessor Campaign Committee.)