

Editorial--Sadlowski for President

BUST UP THE ABEL-McBRIDE MACHINE!

ADVANCE THE FIGHT FOR OUR DEMANDS

It's international election time in our union. Nominations will be up in November for the election of President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurers. Elections will take place in February, 1977 in every local in the USWA.

I.W.Abel, well-known company man, scab and traitor won't be running because he's too old. That's too bad because we would love to see him try and come around to the mills and stand up before us. He can talk big and bad in Steel Labor or when he is guarded by hundreds of staffmen like at the convention, but when he comes around rank and file workers we got some real scores to settle with him.

But in this world sell-outs come in all ages and while he himself isn't running he's got a hand-picked bunch of scabs running in his image. We mean of course the McBride-Williams-McKee ticket.

A vote for them is a vote to keep the Abel machine running. To have more policies of company-union cooperation like the productivity commissions and the ENA no-strike deal.

They stand for more dictatorship over the workers, more gangsterism, more thugs, more dues increases, more sellouts rammed down our throats all in the name of progress.

BUST UP THE ABEL MACHINE

I.W.Abel and his crew have side-tracked and sabotaged our struggle against the companies. We have fought not to be ground into the dirt while he has done the companies' bidding in our union, handcuffing our struggle at every point.

Now he pushes his mug in our face asking for us to put his people in office so they can continue on in his traitorous image.

This is bull. It is like being asked to congratulate a thief after he has robbed you to encourage him to go out and stick you up again.

It's election time and Abel-McBride policies are on the block for all to see. Any election year we would call for no support for these guys but this year with the campaign of Ed Sadlowski, director of District 31 in Chicago, the rank and file has a vehicle to bust up the Abel-McBride machine in these elections. It would be a good thing to knock these guys out of the box to expose the worthlessness of their policies, to build up the forces of the rank and file and to use them as an example that we will never stop fighting to kick the company out of our union.

SADLOWSKI FOR PRESIDENT

Ed Sadlowski, candidate for International Union president has been attacked up and down by the Abel-McBride team.

They have called him every name in the book; they have used all their power to try and keep him out of the race and they will continue to try and keep him from being elected. They even went so far as to shut down John Johns' Presidential candidacy in

order not to split up the Abel Family.

Why so much stir against this "rebel" on the part of the supposedly all powerful Abel machine?

For sure any candidate *at all* is unusual to these guys who favor one-horse races (like the joke they ran the last time) but their fear is based on more than this.

And they sure don't fear any individual or small group of people. The International has a long history of dealing with small groups to their advantage.

What they fear is the fact that Sadlowski reflects the sentiments and aspirations of the rank and file for a fighting stance against the company, for the right to strike, for a more unified and democratic union.

into office.

But when he got in he said, "well, now that I'm elected the rank and file is in power, so there is no need to build more rank and file organization like the Miners for Democracy."

More than busting up the organization of the rank and file, Miller came down hard on workers who took independent action, wildcats, etc. when the company attacked them. Miller said there was no need for the rank and file to get involved at this level-- "that's my job, let me take care of the problem."

In the name of electing a reformer important gains made in the struggle by the rank and file were taken back, and the struggle of the working class was weakened for it.

STEELWORKER PROGRAM

- 1. Smash the ENA and all No-Strike Deals**
- 2. Smash the Consent Decree's divide and rule tactics**
- 3. Fight Discrimination**
- 4. Defeat Productivity Drives**
- 5. Fight Company Attacks on Working Conditions**
- 6. Turn the Union into a Strong Weapon in Our Own Hands**

I.W.Abel is a sell-out, but he is not dumb. He and his crew know who is powerful and who isn't. They know a threat when they see one, and they know that the threat is not Sadlowski, but the righteous struggle of the rank and file against them, their masters and the policies they come up with.

Sadlowski reflects what we, the rank and file, have fought for and built. This makes him a viable and potentially dangerous opponent to Abel-McBride. The rank and file can't all run for President, but what we can do is enter into this election in our own interests, bust up the Abel Machine and create more favorable conditions to fight future battles.

THERE ARE NO SAVIOURS--RELY ON OUR OWN STRUGGLE

We must enter into the Sadlowski campaign. In doing so we must not forget our experience in the steel industry and the experience of all workers when it comes to supporting particular candidates for office. That is, we must look at these campaigns from the point of putting more power in the hands of the rank and file and as a step in the development of the struggle and not as the final goal.

We in the steel industry have seen reformers come and go. Hell, I.W.Abel ran as a *reform candidate* against MacDonald's tuxedo union leadership. The history of recent years speaks all too plainly to what a joke that was.

In the United Mine Workers Union, Arnold Miller was a reform candidate who came from the rank and file. He supposedly was going to represent their interest when he got

So let us be clear on this: we take up the Sadlowski campaign to put more power, to build more unity, strength and independent action in the hands of the rank and file. We have made some gains in the past year; we would be fools if we backed up behind Sadlowski and became just a pressure group to keep him clean.

We propose that in each shop, mill or area that rank and file steelworkers get together, discuss what we have said here, and make plans as to how to work in the Sadlowski campaign in a way that promotes the interest of our struggle.

Nominations for president are up in November. We must move fast. Sadlowski's name must be put in nomination and carried in as many locals as we can get to in the areas where we live.

In doing this we have to pay attention to two points.

#1: Abel's policies are on the block: the ENA, the productivity commissions, the dues increase, the dictatorship, the whole idea of "company/union partnership." These programs must be opposed in every shop and every mill we can reach out to.

#2: We support Sadlowski with the view in mind of building the struggle of the rank and file against the companies and of continuing to organize our forces around our concrete demands (see box on this page).

In this way we can deal a real blow to the Abel-McBride policies of "partnership" and "dictatorship" while not letting the Sadlowski campaign become a substitute for the continuing movement we must build and organize in the steel industry. ■