

National Scene

Abel, Sadlowski-Steeled Racists

'Red-Bits'

GARY, Indiana—"I couldn't care less about racism—it doesn't affect me a bit. The most important issue facing our members is dues." That is not a quote from veteran sellout I. W. Abel, but from the "radical" Jim Balanoff, president of Steelworkers' Local 1010 (Inland Steel), and Ed Sadlowski's right-hand man.

facing steelworkers today. We must defeat racism in order to make a revolution and get rid of the bosses forever, and the bosses are doing all they can to increase racism to prevent this from happening. Racism is splitting the union apart in locals across the country; it is responsible for thousands of segregated craft departments in the mills; it takes untold lives of black workers in coke plants with working conditions that rank among the most dangerous in the world. Rather than ignoring racism, union leaders

any way an honest union leader, trying to do his best? His practice says no. In the past two years, he has sat and watched as 30,000 steelworkers from his district, predominately black and Latin, lost their jobs. He did not organize steelworkers to strike against these layoffs. He didn't even attack Abel for giving up the workers' right to strike.

INSTEAD, SADLOWSKI FORCES have taken the position that "the members should have the right to vote on ENA" and "nobody wants

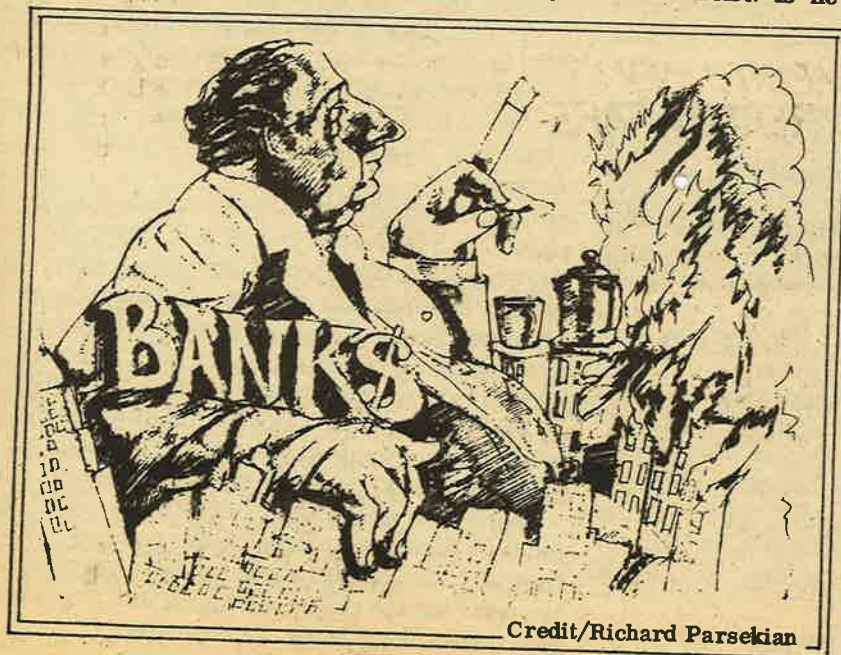
TOTAL LIES DEPT. . . . The absolute disregard that U.S. bosses' presidential candidates have for the truth was revealed by billionaire investment banker Averell Harriman, a spokesman for the liberal section of the ruling class. Harriman, "advisor" to Peanuts Carter, met in Moscow with Soviet Union boss Leonid Brezhnev to reassure him that what was promised in the election campaign was utter nonsense. "I think he was somewhat relieved by what I had to say," Harriman told reporters, but "I'm not sure I was able to persuade him that everything that was said was of no importance." (N.Y. Times, 9/21). There's just no honor among thieves. . . .

MUCH ADO WAS MADE AT THE recent steelworkers convention in Las Vegas, and in the press coverage of it, about the differences between retiring president Abel and District 31 Director Sadlowski, who is challenging Abel's hand-picked candidate to succeed him. In reality, both Sadlowski and Abel hold steelworkers back from getting what they need—socialism. The filthy, dangerous mills from which the steel bosses squeeze every dime out of every worker, no matter how many are injured or killed—these mills cannot be reformed or just improved. They must either be transformed or torn down and their money-grubbing owners torn apart.

As long as there is capitalism, as long as this country is run by whose over-riding concern is profit, the steel mills will always be murderous, racist hell-holes to work in. For Abel and Sadlowski to ignore this fact, as they and all their fellow union "leaders" do, is to sell the workers down the polluted river and condemn them to a life filled with unnecessary pain, suffering and insecurity. The answer to sellout Abel is not sellout Sadlowski, the answer to both is the Progressive Labor Party.

Steelworkers need communist leadership that will organize them to overthrow capitalism once and for all. Steelworkers don't need leadership whose main "accomplishment" is throwing away the workers' right to strike, as Abel did two years ago with the signing of the ENA (Experimental Negotiation Agreement). Steelworkers don't need opportunists like Sadlowski who made the issue of a dues rollback (the one most likely to win him votes) his main concern at the convention—ignoring racism, health and safety, and dozens of much more important problems.

RACISM IS THE MAIN ISSUE



Some of the 1050 workers on strike against Columbia University in N. Y. C.

should be organizing their members to fight it with everything they've got. This is what communist leadership in the union does.

But Sadlowski couldn't care less about racism. His "Steelworkers Fight Back" caucus leadership is all white. None of his three convention speeches even mentioned racism. In one speech, he denied Abel's charges of being a communist and asked him to "name names" (agreeing with Abel that communists are "bad" and that he certainly wasn't one). He also gave a vague speech about the no-strike agreement being adopted in an "undemocratic" way. And his most "rousing" speech was wasted wind in favor of the dues roll-back.

Sadlowski is no communist, but rather an anti-communist. He is certainly not anti-racist. Is he in

to strike but just in case we're forced to, we should have the right to strike." While strikes are not the only weapon the workers have in their fight to seize power from the bosses, they are certainly a powerful tactic, if led by communist ideas, to sharpen the class fight against the ruling class. The ENA's alternative to striking—binding arbitration—is always a loser. It makes peace on the bosses' terms.

True to form, both Abel and Sadlowski are 100 percent behind the bosses' racist ticket of Carter and Mondale. Carter/Mondale—Ford/Dole—there's no difference. All are out to serve the bosses and build racism. No politician has ever done anything for steelworkers or any other workers. Instead of supporting these millionaires' flunkies, we should be organizing sharper battles against the bosses—against racism, for 30 for 40, health and safety—with the understanding that to gain and maintain them workers must take state power. Then and only then will we have government officials who serve the workers' interests. It will be a workers' government that outlaws bosses, profits and the whole capitalist system of exploitation.

In the upcoming election for officers of the USWA, we call on steelworkers to reject both the Abel-backed slate and the phony "Steelworkers Fight Back" Sadlowski slate. Instead, steelworkers should join Progressive Labor Party and build communist fractions in the union. Then there will be a real alternative to sellout union leaders.

STOMACH ACHES . . . A fifth of the \$2 billion dollars worth of subsidized food supplied to school lunch programs by the federal government and local school districts this year will be thrown into the garbage can by children who find the lunches inedible.

Nutritionist Mary Goodwin explains that most of this food suffers from the five F's: "Formulated, fabricated, fortified, frivolous and fake."

The budget cuts suffered by most schools in the country have forced them to feed the children miniature TV dinners—meals packaged in plastic or tin foil containers which are pre-cooked or frozen and then reheated, often weeks later.

Once the food has come in contact with the mouth, it is likely to stick to a child's teeth. The food is soggy and bland, lacking in either odor or taste, and high in sugar, starch and synthetic ingredients. And things will only get worse as cutbacks increase.

(If you have any note, comment, or joke for this column, send them to Red-Bits, Challenge, PO Box 808, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201).

