

# **LIBERALS PROVIDE NO ALTERNATIVE**

In many ways, this week's election campaign in the United Steel Workers union (USWA) is a weather vane reflecting the different currents within the labor movement for the period ahead.

Capitalism's sharpening economic crisis has given rise to a new upsurge in the strike movement and resistance to the open collaborationist policies and chauvinism of the old gang of labor bureaucrats. Faced with this situation, the bosses have pulled out a "new" group of liberal, reformist and revisionist misleaders to try and pull the rug out from under the rank-and-file movement.

The liberal, reformist campaign of Sadlowski in the USWA offers no alternative to the steel workers. Sadlowski and his backers have no real fighting program for the union, nor do they represent the outgrowth of a genuine mass movement or organization. Rather, the Sadlowski campaign, like the efforts today of Arnold Miller in the UMW and Doug Fraser in the UAW, is part of the strategy of Jimmy Carter and the ruling class, combining liberal misleadership with increased attacks on the rights of workers.

Our consistent stand against both McBride and Sadlowski in the USWA election has not been aimed at building a boycott of all union activities nor of elections in general. In fact, we believe that at the proper time and using the correct tactics, election alliances with some opportunist trade union leaders are both necessary and possible. Our emphasis is not on the question of the five minutes or less that union members spend in the voting booth, but rather in dealing a blow at the wave of liberal trade unionism that is now being promoted.

Our struggle to build a new Marxist-Leninist party of the working class must be coupled with fierce opposition to the entire gang of labor aristocrats and bureaucrats that dominate the unions. It must be a fight against both the old line reactionary types like Abel and Meany as well as against the liberals and revisionists who are posing as a "revolutionary" alternative.

In this way, the most class-conscious fighters in the labor movement can be wrested free from the ideological hold of the reformists and won to the line of the new party, while the broad masses of workers can learn through their own experiences that liberalism is a dead-end street.