

**On USW
convention**

Criticisms of Call's steel coverage

Submitted by a correspondent:

Your recent article on the Steelworkers union convention (*The Call*, Oct. 2) entitled, "Steel convention report—workers get dirty deal," did a pretty good job of exposing the misleaders' sell-out of the rank and file. But that article also missed the boat on some very important issues.

The article made no mention of the fact that Brian Weber spoke at the convention and introduced a motion to strike down any affirmative action programs in steel. The bosses are using the Weber decision in steel like they used the Bakke decision in the universities—to take away

the few gains that minority and women workers have won in the fight against discrimination.

Even though the convention was overwhelmingly stacked with McBride supporters, several hundred Black as well as many white delegates booted Weber down.

The article also failed to analyze a new constitutional provision the McBride machine was able to ram through the convention. The provision states that no candidate for office "may solicit or accept financial support, or any other direct or indirect support of any kind from any non-member."

The resolution further provides that candidates running for office who receive \$5 or more from fellow union members must turn in the names, local numbers and signatures of the contributors to McBride.

While *The Call* correctly pointed out that McBride used the issue of "outside" financial support to discredit the phony Sadlowski-Balanoff opposition at the convention, you failed to bring up the implications of this resolution for the rank and file. Clearly, the union misleaders will try to use this new provision to limit and restrict rank-and-file support for candidates who

really oppose the class collaborationist USW leadership.

I'd like to raise another criticism of steel coverage—this time of an article written by women workers at Republic Steel entitled, "Support for Women at Steel Convention." (*The Call*, Oct. 30).

The article states that "there was genuine support among many of the delegates, especially from the rank and file, for women's issues." While it's true that many rank-and-file workers support women's issues, the convention itself had very few rank-and-file delegates. It was a stacked affair that refused to

take up the issues of concern to all steelworkers including the blatant discrimination against women workers.

The one delegate that stood up and made a fool out of himself with his ravings against women was very conveniently used by the union leaders to shift attention away from their more "respectable" betrayal of the rights of women in steel.

I am glad to see that you are writing much more about this strategic industry. By correcting these errors, *The Call's* steel coverage will be much improved.