Police in Action—the Memorial Day Massacre

Over the week end we were talking to a former coal miner incident by a news report, in the Socialist Party: from Harlan County, Ky., now the New Leader, May 6. which "The Socialist Party in New working in a gum shop in Ak- gleefully crowed to high heav- York City, through its highest ron. O. He has had much ex- en. perience in the union drives down there. One story he told illustrates in particular the feelings of the workers and terror.

So the operators called for and cle," the news report began. the governor sent in National Guardsmen.

Guard when it detrained.

equipped to defend themselves, took positions about 100 yards away from the railroad station.

Guard Moves on

strikers' ranks.

and deliberately. The silence advance fundamental political fixed through residential sec- totally ignore the problem, So was oppressive and the atmos- policies. phere tense. Finally the miner drawled out, "You figuring on tionalism" of the Bolsheviks on about at gun point. getting off the train here?"

to be shooting when you get off headed intellectuals. In prac- cials cancelled the meeting and the coming fiscal year. because we sure as hell are go- tice, the Old Guard can give sent a bitter protest to the gening to be," the veteran declar- cards and spades to a lot of eral, copies of which were giv- presented that its sponsors and walked away.

detrain. They went to a nearby political line is the fundamen-

Similar in many respects is determines everything.

and alleged strikers. The union | ried on. leaders denied that their men had participated in the battles for a very simple reason.

can tell me that they fired fifty shots (as the Guard claimed) without someone being hit," the union leaders said.

This is absolutely true. Using rifles since boyhood, the folks in Harlan County are noted for their accuracy. We are convinced that the shooting scrapes last week were put-up jobs by the coal operators and the National Guardsmen to seek to justify the strike-breaking terror of the Guardsmen.

Bloody Record

There has never been a more stirring chapter in labor history than the story of the Harlan miners' attempts to organize unions. Fourteen operators are now under indictment for charges ranging from conspiracy to murder, to sluggings of the conditions there.

of killings of union organizers the left wing of the Spanish So- unknown figures: and men unequalled anywhere in the country.

Despite all this terror, the strength. It is powerful there now-unbeatable if the union leaders stick to their guns. Last week the miners showed their contempt for the National Guard terror by trying to picket at the mines even though bayonets were thrust at their stomachs. And when a machine gun was mounted, unarmed

pickets tried to get around it. Only the arrival of additional forces kept the miners back. When one remembers that in Ohio strikes were called off in Norwood, etc., because of the mere threat of the National Guard, the splendid courage of

the Harlan miners stands out even more strongly. The Harlan strike is a great

embarrassment to the apologists of democratic capitalism. The Daily Worker played it down last week. Here, union men can see capitalism stark naked, a rule by force.

Fortunately, the boys in Harlan County come from a grand diversion." school where they learned matchless militancy, depenthem whip the operators.

In the Jabor Socialists Chastise Members Youth Group Who Boned W. Not content with Opposite Content with the Content with the

cratic Federation and the So- him. cialist Party, and using it as a The May 13 New Leader carforum for pro-war propaganda, ried this report, sent them by the Old Guard finished off the the City Central Committee of

Democracies," was the New proves and condemns the un-Leader's headline.

gernon Lee and Louis Waldman during the speech.' In one of the earlier coal at the first joint May Day dem-

American progressive forces to This didn't please the strikers one bit. They planned a liters one bit. They planned a liter of President Roosevelt,"—thus tle reception for the National the New Leader summarized its keynoter's speech. "Alger-No sooner did the train stop non Lee, city chairman of the at the county seat than hundreds of coal miners, well- support of the democracies," it continued.

Serious Politics

Being serious politicians, determined to have their pro-Roosevelt, pro-war line prevail The captain of the Guards- come what may, the Old Guard men stepped off the train and thus squeezed the last ounce out armed with light artillery pa- of New York City and elselooked around with great anxi- of the situation. Like the trolled the streets, arresting 44 where in the state, and provid- PACT NEARER ety. About this time, an old "amoral" Bolsheviks whom citizens whose "crime" con- ing decent, healthful living veteran of many strike strug- they constantly denounce, the sisted of walking on the public quarters for slum dwellers. gles sauntered up from the Old Guard understands that in highways. joint meetings as well as their The armed guard continued endum authorizing \$300,000 He looked the captain over, own meetings, their task is to sending squads with bayonets 000 for housing, they dared not

this score are rank hypocrisy. "Well, the boys told me to worth in befuddling the Norpeople in pushing a political en to the press. The National Guard did not line. We can learn from them:

the attitude of the miners in | Not being serious politicians, the current strike. Anyone fa- the Norman Thomases undermiliar with Harlan County will stand this as little as they unfind nothing strange in the derstand anything else. That's union statement on the shoot- why the Old Guard was able to ings that took place last week. dominate the "joint" May Day Readers will recall that vari- meeting, as they will dominate ous skirmishes have been re- the "united" party for which ported between the Guardsmen negotiations are now being car-

Norman Thomas' "Answer" The sole reaction of the Thomas Socialists to the mon-"Our boys could hit a mos- opolization of the "joint" meetquito at fifty yards and nobody ing was to publicly chastise the

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representative body formally. "Lee, Waldman Urge Aid to and officially disavows, disap-Socialist behavior of a few peo-"Full support of the democ- ple at the Hippodrome United gives a clue to an understand- racies in any struggle with the May Day Meeting who expressing of their militancy now nations aligned with the Rome- ed their disapproval of the reagainst the National Guard Berlin Axis was urged by Al- marks of speakers by booing

Two kinds of politics are here strikes in Kentucky, the miners onstration of the Social Demo- revealed: the serious politics of had done an extremely effect cratic Federation, the Socialist the S. D. F .- but thoroughly retive job of keeping scabs out. Party and the Workmen's Cir- actionary; and the un-serious, impotent, capitulatory politics "Waldman called on all of the Norman Thomases.

HARLAN COUNTY

(Continued from Page 1) Speeding combat trucks

tions, invading homes and they resorted to every kind of Their attacks on the "fac- shoving unprotected citizens political trick to prevent its be-

When General Carter set a stalled off all action until the "Why, yes," the captain re- They take up the cry of fac- censorship on speeches at a final week of the session, wher tionalism merely for what it is proposed mass union meeting they finally brought in a measlast Sunday and threatened ure making only \$50,000,000 tell you in that case to be sure man Thomas following and fat- wholesale arrests, union offi- available for housing during

Although under the protec- liberalizing amendments-50-

Three contracts have been attack the fundamental wear-

velt's bayonets. Two representatives of the not have solved them. But use power of colonial slaves. United States Department of of such a sum in slum clearerties have been flouted fla- a beginning.

New York Housing Bill Doesn't Answer Need The compromise housing bil | legislators have clearly show passed by the New York State that they have no intention of

Legislature last week, reveals taking the housing question

the fact that the legislators seriously.

care not one whit about clearing away the shameful slums ANGLO-RUSSIAN

ing decent, healthful living quarters for slum dwellers.

In view of last fall's referendum authorizing \$300,000 to housing, they dared not totality ignore the problem. So they resorted to every kind of political trick to prevent its being handled effectively. They stalled off all action until the final week of the session, where they finally brought in a measure making only \$50,000,000 available for housing during the coming fiscal year.

So shameful was the bill as presented that its sponsors were forced to accept certain liberalizing. amendments—50.

In view of last fall's referendum authorizing \$300,000 of the staff of single fall states and filth Avenue. James T. Farrell, captain of the Studs Lonigan outfit, accepted the challenge with a deflant snarl.

James T. Farrell, captain of the Studs Lonigan outfit, accepted the challenge with a deflant snarl.

Asked to comment on his club's defeat of last season, Cannon replied, "It was a mornal victory for the Marxist Maulers. We lost due to a well-ance front" was not a compound of "pure" democracies. (See editorial on page 4.) Next day Anne O'Hare McCormick, foreign affairs commentator for the Times, was also bold enough to write:

"As a test of ideologies, events in the past two months liberalizing. amendments—50."

people in pusning a political line. We can learn from them:
| line. We can learn from them:
| political line is the fundamental line when the fundamental line is the fundamental line when fundamental line when fundamental line determines everything.
| Not being serious politicians, the Norman Thomases understand anything else. That's why the Old Guard was able to what he Old Guard was able to dominate the "joint" May Day and whose lives are inconstant danger from the usue the "united" party for which in egotiations are now being car| Description of machine guns and bay-year amortization instead of 40-year amortization instead of

In other words, it is admitsigned with the union, but the ness of the bill-its failure to ted here that the war in prepdie-hard Harlan County Coal make available sufficient mon aration is not a war over "hu-Operators Association is still ey to permit inception of the man rights" or "civilization" desperately risking their sales badly - needed comprehensive or "democracy" or any of the outlets in the hope that the building program. Housing ex- rest of that meaningless bunk, miners can be forced back to perts are agreed that housing but a cold-blooded war over dig coal at the point of Roose- needs are so vast that use of dollars and goods, markets and clubs, have augmented their the entire \$300,000,000 would profits, machines and the labor

But this sudden rash of district, but although civil lib- projects would have constituted argument against war but to provide hack propagandists of grantly for the last turbulent By refusing to authorize this the war machine with new forweek, they announced that they sum and authorizing instead mulas for covering over the towere not aiming their inquiry the niggardly \$50,000,000, plus tal absence on either side of into possible violations of civil another \$100,000,000 allocated what the Times so coyly calls rights at "any one faction." but not now available, the "pure democracy."

Marxist Maulers, Studs Lonigan A.C. In Grudge Game

By BILL CLAM

Cannon, captain of the Marxist hand (we really mean this. sume! Maulers, announced that he had challenged the Loniganites be held Saturday evening, June 10, at Heckscher Foundation, 104th Street and Fifth Avenue. James T. Farrell, captain of

have proved that the barriers have learned that Farrell has &

Arthur Pincus .. Second base David Glusker Left field John MacDonald Catcher Albert Margolies ... Shortstop Schmelka Gainsborough.pitcher The Marxist Maulers, drawing on their out-of-state farm

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pitching batteries with a number of promising young hopefuls. Their names will not be Justice have been sent into the ance and erection of low-rental frankness is designed not as an culties are settled. Meanwhile, Marxist Maulers anthe nounced their line-up to in-

James P. Cannon . First base George Novack ... Shortstop James Burnham ... Left field Felix Morrow Third base Nat Levine Center field Marty Abern Right field Dwight Macdonald . 2nd base Sherman Stanley Catcher Max Shachtman ... Pitcher

In addition to the baseball match, there will be swimming in the Heckscher pool, an evening of dancing and a host of other diversions. Tickets are But Araquistain's explana- eighty-five cents-each and can tion is disingenuous. The one be secured by mail from the speech Caballero did make American Fund for Political

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too!) and we advise you to take prompt action. It would be a The drive for 250 renewal good idea to tell your ex-reader subscriptions by June 15 has about this when you pay your gotten under way nicely with visit for the subscription re-

Here's the sub list for this week which shows a consider-

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week's:															
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The only bundle order increase of the week came from And if he isn't home the first George Whiteside of Kansas who increased his order to 5 per issue.

We've had to cut off the

to a return baseball match to SOCIALIST APPEAL & NEW INTERNATIONAL Can be Obtained at the Following Newsstands

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Araquistain Confirms Krivitsky Testimony

Bloody Harlan has a record the outstanding theoretician of the fact that they were almost

cialist Party, associate of Ca-United Mine Workers gained dor to France until June, 1937. Loyalist Spain was for Stalin merely a bargaining point in coming to terms with Hitler, declared Araquistain, in articles written from exile in Paris and published here by the New York Times on May 19 and 21.

> "Joseph Stalin did not want help would have been more Largo Caballero. copious and efficient. Nor did he want us to lose it too soon, because, once the Spanish conflict was liquidated, Herr Hit- School of Medicine and be- Why did not Caballero and them with a regular bourgeoisler would have greater free- longed to the Socialist Party. the Left Socialists seek to officered army. When the Staldom of action to carry out his But, as he was neither politi- rally the masses against the inists turned Caballero out. Europe and even against the simply wanted to prolong our versity circle—they had to pre- Stalinist repressions. When Araquistain's revelations war sine die, to keep Premier pare international opinion and Caballero sought to make a se- came too late to help the Loy-Mussolini and Hitler busy and war Stalin only saw a strategic resentative men."

Stalin's Tools

dence on one's own strength. To carry out this anti-Loyal-ballero on May 15, 1937, after by the Stalinists, directly or dence which damns Stalin and having—as Krivitsky, then through the censorship which his agents as the destroyers of

week from Luis Araquistain, their pliancy and in spite of that of Caballero.

Juan Negrin, then Minister of and in bad condition. the Treasury, without any visible reason. The hidden motive was never sufficient," Araquis- demands. us to win the war because that was that in Moscow he had tain says, and advances as the would have exasperated Chan-been selected as successor to hypothesis which "confirms the the first big steps were taken cellor Hitler - etherwise his Spanish Premier Francisco suspicions that some of us against workers' control of the

Making Nobody Somebody of physiology at the Madrid point with Hitler. policy of aggression in Eastern cally nor scientifically known criminal Stalinist policy? Ara- therefore, he was already so outside of Spain-and in Spain quistain explains that this linked with their policies, that Soviet Union itself. Mr. Stalin only within a very limited uni- could not be done because of he could not extricate himself. manufacture quickly a states ries of speeches after his re-alist struggle against Franco. come to an understanding with Communists are masters in the Negrin government to continue Caballero and his associates

when the Stalinists ousted Ca- the whole press was controlled tion to the mountain of evidient tools and he found them. head of the Soviet Military In- they manned, as they did the the Spanish revolution.

Authoritative confirmation of | Araquistain points out, in the | telligence has since revealed | under-secretaryships of War, Walter Krivitsky's charge that right wing of the Socialist deliberately provoked bloody Navy and Air, the under-secre-Stalin sabotaged the Loyalist Party, especially Juan Negrin street warfare in Barcelona to tariat of Propaganda, etc. and Alvarez del Vayo. These justify the formation of a more union men, so bad have been fight against Franco came this two were chosen because of repressive government than

> Stalinist Blackmail the Paris Embassy I could no- who would not do his bidding. tuality he had preceded Negrin at the beginning of 1937 some continue sending us war mate- who had, as Araquistain now which let themselves be in- nate the men on whom the pompous title of "the Spanish

Spaniards had as early as factories and peasants' collec-1937," that Stalin was merely tives; under Caballero came "Dr. Negrin held the chair using Spain as a bargaining the first decrees dissolving the

Caballero's Complicity

Stalin used "Russian-help after his removal showed that Prisoners and Refugees at 100 "From my vantage point of blackmail" to remove those he had no program. For in acballero and Loyalist ambassa- tice with surprise that already "So that the Soviet Union would as the darling of the Stalinists liberal newspapers of London, rial, it was necessary to elimi- admits, provided him with the spired more or less consciously Communists placed their veto. Lenin." Caballero, in fact, had by Communists or Communist In fact, in the last months of done the bidding of the Stalinsympathizers, began to print the Largo Caballero Govern- ists until rank and file pressure pictures and eulogies of Dr. ment, supplies arrived scantily from his own ranks against the mounting reaction drove him "The Soviet war material to some resistance to Stalinist It was under Caballero that

workers' militias and replacing

force the latter, in the end, to man's reputation for him. The moval, he was forbidden by the Nor will they serve to absolve the U.S.S.R. In the Spanish art of artifically creating rep- after the first, and then was ar- from their responsibility for the rested and confined to his resi- Spanish defeat. But they do Negrin became premier dence in Valencia. In addition, provide an authoritative addi-