

(Statement given to newspapers the day of Plea of Guilty by
McNamara Brothers, in Los Angel

I entered this case with the greatest reluctance, and only after the most earnest persuasion. I did it unselfishly. I have for many years given my time and best ability and my life to the cause of labor and the poor.

I have been here six months and spent many troubled days and sleepless nights, trying to run down every clue, and make every possible investigation, and trying to do the best I could for my clients and the cause that I served. I had able associates who gave me their best efforts and their best service through it all.

From the first there was never the slightest chance to win. To those who say it would have been better to have gone to trial and suffer defeat ; I would call attention to the fact that there were thirty or forty hotel registers, three in Los Angeles, many in San Francisco, and others in different parts of the country. There were scores of witnesses to identify J. B. McNamara as being present practically on the very day, and one, at least, in the building. There was overwhelming evidence of all kinds, which no one could have surmounted if they would.

If the State had put on its case, we could not even put the defendant on the stand to deny the facts. We could not prove an alibi. We could not prove he was not ~~there~~. The failure to do so would have been as much of an admission as it was today. We were confronted with the situation of dragging our case, perhaps for years, with nothing but the gallows at the end, and no chance to raise any doubt in a thinking mind, and in the meantime, collecting money from thousands of people who could not know the facts. To go on under such circumstances would have been madness and only postponed an evil until it would have been a still greater evil, and the consequences graver than they are now. All of this was thoroughly understood by my associates, and no one hesitated about accepting it. We acted as we thought right and best, and will take the consequences of the act. I can conceive of no way in which we could justify ourselves and not save the lives of our clients, in disposing of this case at this time. Our first duty as lawyers and men was to the lives in our charge, and our duty to the cause called for the same action as for theirs.

From the beginning I have been watching and working to this end. We have accomplished it. I am reconciled to the result. For myself, personally, I have spent many years in this cause. If I had not believed in it, I would have abandoned it when I was young and ambitious. In some form, I shall continue in it to the end. I have fought this and all my fights without hatred or malice to anyone, recognizing that in this great drama, and all that is connected with the case, that all men of both sides are helpless as to themselves and are acting a part that is forced upon them by a bitter conflict which only right feeling between capital and labor can ever end.

If people misjudge my motive, I can only say for myself that I have acted unselfishly and from devotion alone, and I have always been ready and fairly able to take upon myself all the responsibilities for my actions, and I shall continue to do it as long as I have the strength.

I do not beg anybody's friendship or sympathy in this matter. I have the consciousness that I have done everything that I could do, and have acted in the way that is best for all in this world-wide conflict. If anything more is asked from me by either side, they will find me ready when the time comes.