

**They Are Democrats and Catholics:
Statement to the *Indianapolis News*
(December 4, 1911)**

Terre Haute, Ind., December 4. [1911].

The [McNamara] brothers are Democrats and Catholics, and that church is fighting the Socialist Party. We Socialists took the ground that they were to be regarded as innocent until proven guilty. We have nothing to apologize for; we never condoned dynamiting, but always condemned it. We simply tried to see that the brothers got a square deal, and especially because they had been kidnapped.

If the confessions had been held until after Tuesday the men would have been hanged. The mercy extended to them is the price paid for political effect in the election that day in Los Angeles.¹

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¹ Tuesday, December 5, 1911 was election day, with Socialist Job Harriman regarded as the frontrunner to win election as mayor of Los Angeles. Harriman had won 44.3% of votes cast in a three-cornered race but was forced into a runoff against his Democratic rival, having failed of a majority. Debs intimates that a deal to save the lives of the McNamaras in exchange for an expeditious guilty plea had been made to sabotage the Harriman campaign by discrediting the socialist movement. Harriman was ultimately trounced in the runoff vote by a margin of 62% to 38%.