
JAMES B. MCNAMARA

THE death of James B. McNamara in San Quentin penitentiary on March 8, after thirty years of imprisonment, brought sadness to the hearts of all real fighters in the class struggle. Here indeed was a true son of the American working class, one of the big figures of our times. McNamara's name stands high on the glorious roster of labor's heroes and martyrs, together with such unforgettable fighters as Parsons, Mooney, Little, Joe Hill and Vanzetti.

McNamara typified in the highest sense the bold fighting courage of the working class. In his years of labor activity before his arrest he bravely carried his life in his hand, with never a thought of his own personal safety or welfare. And thirty long years of especially harsh imprisonment, although it broke his body, had no effect upon his resolute fighting spirit, except to refine and toughen it. He was loved by his fellow prisoners. Tom Mooney, who served many years in prison with McNamara, pays glowing tribute to his upright and indomitable nature. Never once did he ask for a parole or a pardon. Throughout his life of danger and hardship McNamara held his head boldly

erect like the solid proletarian oak that he was.

McNamara was filled with a sublime confidence in the revolutionary role of the working class. His faith in the workers was so tremendous and unflinching that all those who had the honor to know him, either in person or through his inspiring correspondence, were literally overwhelmed by it. McNamara, the victim of a frame-up plea, was long misunderstood and neglected by the labor movement. He was shamefully abandoned by the official leaders of the trade unions for which he had sacrificed his life, and the Socialist Party bureaucrats turned their backs upon him.

But all this did not trouble the iron heart of McNamara. Throughout the long years of his imprisonment he closely watched and studied the class struggle and his understanding of the workers grew. He was an inveterate enemy of the reactionary trade union leaders. His early militant trade unionism ripened into revolutionary class consciousness. McNamara hailed with joy the birth and progress of the Soviet Union and he sympathetically applauded the fight of the revolutionary workers all over the world.

McNamara's bold fighting spirit and undying belief in the working class inevitably brought him into the ranks of the Communist fighters for socialism.

J. B. McNamara is dead, but his fighting proletarian spirit is immortal. His life, bold, unafraid and

devoted, will be an inspiration to the proletarian youth in the great and decisive class struggles now looming ahead. The working class of America will never forget this resolute and faithful champion of its cause.

—WILLIAM Z. FOSTER.