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EDITORIAL

FIVE MONTHS AGO TODAY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is five months ago to-day since John J. McNamara was spirited away from Indianapolis—extradited they called it—upon the charge of having blown up the “Times” building in Los Angeles.

He has not yet been tried.

What has become of the constitutional guarantee of a “speedy” trial?

Columns upon columns were filled by the prosecution and its detectives with the array of evidence against McNamara. To this day, not a shred of that evidence has been exposed to the test of cross-examination.

Is the prosecution afraid of its cardhouse?

If one half—if one tenth of all the evidence, said to have been submitted to the Governor of Indiana, and upon the strength of which he signed the extradition papers, were true, McNamara’s case should by this time “belong to history.” It does not yet.

Why?

Was the Governor of Indiana not faced with the “array of evidence” which it is alleged decided his action? If so, why the false allegation?

Was the Governor of Indiana actually confronted with the mass of evidence, alleged to have been submitted to him? If so, why has that evidence not yet appeared on trial?

If there is no evidence against McNamara, why keep him in durance vile?

If there is evidence, why not bring the culprit to trial?

Every day that has passed, since the extradition of John J. McNamara, points with increased positiveness to the conclusion that, breach of the peace though the blowing up of the Los Angeles “Times” building was, a vastly more serious breach of

the peace and insult to the dignity of the Nation was committed by McNamara's arrest—and continues to be committed by his continued incarceration.

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