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# Statement to the American Socialist Movement when Sentence was Affirmed [circa Jan. 17, 1918] by Alfred Wagenknecht

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We unflinchingly face prisonward. Far beyond the prison we see the Socialist Republic, peopled with carefree, happy men, women, and children. We unhesitatingly step prisonward because we know our incarceration but constitutes part of the rope with which capitalism is going to hang itself.

There's no fear of prison written on the face of sentenced Socialists. Don't I know? Haven't I seen them sentenced and walk from the judge with smiles upon their faces — smiles from set jaws that portend no good for the ruling class!

In a day, the “underdogs” of Russia became the rulers of the land. In a day the overburdened, overworked, bent Russian straightened up, cast the parasites from his back, took a deep breath, and said: “This is my Russia.”

Only a year in jail! We gladly make the sacrifice. It is about the least we can do as our part in the work of freeing the workers from their masters.

*A. Wagenknecht.*

***Edited by Tim Davenport.***

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