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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN L. LEWIS

PART 1 OF 13

FILE NUMBER: 44-845

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT John L. Lewis

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 1

SERIALS 1

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Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

July 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Attached is a memorandum dated July 20, 1943, from Assistant Attorney General Berge, which I have approved, recommending a full and complete investigation into charges that John L. Lewis, Ray Edmundson, and Walter J. James, officials of the United Mine Workers of America, and Carl H. Elshoff, owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois, conspired during the years 1937 to 1941, in violation of Section 51, Title 18, United States Code, to injure and oppress Elshoff's employees in the free exercise of the rights secured to them by the National Labor Relations Act.

Also attached is a memorandum from Mr. Berge dated July 24, 1943, which outlines the scope of the investigation and the precise inquiries desired.

Mr. Berge points out that the statute of limitations will probably have run against the alleged offense sometime in March 1944. This fact, and the character of the case, require that this investigation be given priority.

Francis Biddle
Attorney General

41-845-1

[redacted]

memo to Carmen 7/29/43

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July 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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I have appraised the data collected [redacted] relating to the payment [redacted] by John L. Lewis, Ray Edmundson, and Walter J. James, all officers of the United Mine Workers, to Carl H. Elshoff, owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois, from 1937 to 1941, during a bitter jurisdictional struggle between the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers. Fact of payment is undisputed. 1/ The circumstances surrounding these payments indicate probable violation of Section 51, Title 18, United States Code, in that they probably were made with an intent to induce Elshoff to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, members of the Progressive Union, in violation of the rights secured to them individually and collectively by the National Labor Relations Act.

Statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 4113

THE OFFENSE TO BE INVESTIGATED

Section 51, Title 18, United States Code, provides that it shall be unlawful for two or more persons to conspire:

> "To injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same."

Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act provides:

> "Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in concerted activities for the purpose of collectively bargaining, or other mutual aid or protection."

1/ [redacted]

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ENCLOSURE 44-845-1

Section 7 in explicit language states that employees shall have the rights therein enumerated. Legislative history of the Act makes it clear that these rights are secured only against the employer or those in connivance with him. These rights are "secured by the laws of the United States" within the meaning of Section 51.

No reported case applies Section 51 to the rights secured by this statute, but in two unreported cases, district courts have overruled demurrers to indictments, U.S. v. Mary Helen Coal Company, (E.D. Ky.) and U.S. v. Fitzgerald Cotton Mills (S.D. Ga), both involving use of henchmen hired by employers to thwart union activity.

However, application of Section 51 to conspiracies by individuals, as opposed to persons acting under state authority, is established beyond question. Nearest parallel to the present case is U. S. v. Waddell, 112 U.S. 76 (conspiracy by individuals to deny a citizen exercise of statutory rights under the Federal Homestead Act). Other applications of Section 51 to conspiracies by individuals are: Smith v. U. S., 157 Fed. 721, cert. den. 208 U.S. 618 (right to be free from involuntary servitude); Logan v. U. S., 144 U.S. 263 (right to be free from violence while in custody of United States Marshal); In Re Quarles, 158 U.S. 532, and Motes v. U. S., 178 U.S. 458 (right to inform of violation of federal laws); Foss v. U. S., 266 Fed. 881 (right to testify before a land office); U. S. v. Lancaster, 44 Fed. 885 (right to be protected in execution of federal decree).

ISSUE OF FACT

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The sole issue of fact is whether [redacted] payment [redacted] by the union officials to Elsheff was made with intent to induce Elsheff to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, members of a rival union.

CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATING GUILTY INTENT*

1. Coincidence of Payments with Bitter Struggle by United Mine Workers to Raid and Destroy the Progressive Union.

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* [redacted] and requiring further investigation, are marked by an asterisk.

The Progressive Union was formed in 1932 as a revolt against an effort by Lewis to force a reduced wage scale upon the miners in Illinois, which therefore had been the strong-hold of the United Mine Workers. There Lewis had builded his power as a labor leader. A referendum of the miners had rejected the reduced scale. During a second referendum, the ballot boxes were mysteriously stolen. Lewis, declaring an emergency, signed up with the operators. 25,000 miners revolted and set up the new organization, which grew rapidly and soon dominated the entire state. Lewis bitterly swore to win back the lost territory and break the rebel union.

From 1932 until 1941, including the period from 1937 to 1941 (when the payments were made) the United Mine Workers, by espionage, violence, and other methods of labor warfare, fought relentlessly to win back the miners. It was a bitter struggle between the two unions for supremacy, marked by lawless rioting and mass picketing. Many persons were killed and several counties were long under martial law. As a result of the bombings of railroads, bridges and mines, thirty-six members of the Progressive were convicted for violations of Federal laws.

2. The Strategic Importance of Mine "B" to Lewis

Mine "B" was the strong-hold of the Progressives. Moreover, it was located at Springfield, Lewis' former home and present legal residence. It was a symbol of victory or defeat. Lewis and his officials resolved that their campaign to break the Progressives should be directed principally against Mine "B".

3. Coincidence of Payments with Unfair Labor Practices by Elshoff.

In May, 1937, the Progressives discovered that 14 of their members were paid spies of the United Mine Workers. The spies were ejected from the union and the Progressives insisted that they be fired, citing their closed shop agreement. Elshoff refused, and the mine struck. It remained closed until November, 1939, 2½ years later. [redacted] During this period, and coincident with these payments, Elshoff is suspected of various unfair labor practices against the Progressives, among which are the following:

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T26, USC, §6103

(a) Keeping the mines shut down in order to assist the United Mine Workers. "Assistance to a union by a shut-down, like any other employer assistance, is forbidden." Labor Board v. Electric Cleaner Co., 315 U.S. 685, 693. Prior

to the strike, relationship between Elshoff and the Progressives had been amicable and workable. It is difficult to understand Elshoff's motive in shutting down for 2½ years, thereby incurring severe losses, if he actually intended to repay [redacted] advanced to him. As long as the mine was shut down, however, a ripe opportunity was afforded United to proselyte in the ranks of the Progressive Union whose members became more and more demoralized and discouraged.

(b) Recognizing United as the collective bargaining agent, though it was a minority. In August, 1937, when United had only a score or more members, Elshoff signed a closed shop contract with them. The Progressives objected and petitioned the Labor Board for an election, which, after hearings, was ordered for December 15, 1937. Two days before the election, Elshoff attempted to re-open the mine, notifying United, which did not have enough men to re-open the mine. On December 15, the Progressives won the election by a vote of 404 to 25, and was certified by the Board as the bargaining agent. Still Elshoff refused to sign a contract with them or re-open the mine. On June 17, 1939, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals entered an order cancelling Elshoff's agreement with the United Mine Workers, and enjoined him from refusing to negotiate with the Progressives. On November 6, 1939, the mine re-opened on an open shot basis "until such time as a contract could be made".

(c) Elshoff aided United and injured Progressive membership campaign.* The Progressives contend that Elshoff constantly encouraged United and discouraged Progressive while the mine was closed. These practices, it is alleged, continued after the mine re-opened. As a result, United gradually gained in strength until by mid-summer of 1940, they believed they had gained a majority. They petitioned the Board for an election, which was held in February, 1941, and resulted in a victory for United Mine by a vote of 259 to 108. On March 8, the Board certified United as the bargaining agent, and on March 14, Elshoff signed a closed shop contract with them, thus accomplishing in eight days with that labor organization what he had refused to do for three years for the Progressives.

4. Continuation of Payments After Mine Opened in November, 1939.

Lewis and Elshoff explained all of the payments as "loans" intended to prevent the mine from becoming bankrupt during the shut-down. The explanations of James and Edmundson are more frank. 2/

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2/ [redacted]

* Further investigation required.

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[redacted]

5. Payments Made in Excess of Amount Needed to Maintain Mine.*

[redacted]

It is significant, however, that Elshoff had no other source of income but the mine, and it must have been known to United officials that he was relying upon their payments not only to maintain the mine, but also to maintain him and his family on the luxurious and wastrel scale to which Elshoff was accustomed. That these officials were aware of this is indicated by the fact that Elshoff was a close personal friend and associate of Edmundsen and of James also. Elshoff is known as the "best dressed man in Springfield".

6. Falsification of Records.

All of the payments were made in currency. United's records from 1937 to May, 1939, are not available. James tells an unbelievable story of carrying them to Washington and delivering them to an unidentified Negro janitor at the United Mine Workers Building. He claims he has not been able to trace them from that point. [redacted]

James made his trip with the records shortly after the Progressives had publicly announced suspicions of a "subsidy". [redacted] district presidents would deliver the money personally to James or Edmundsen for payment to Elshoff.

7. [redacted]

* Further investigation required.

[redacted]

8. Suspension of Jack Glasgow, District Board Member, District 12, United Mine Workers.

In October, 1942, the St. Louis Post Dispatch broke the news that $300,000 had been loaned to Elsheff by the United Mine Workers. In a local union meeting, Glasgow criticized the payments. Glasgow was found guilty and suspended for a period of six months. It is understood that he has been ridden out of the Union.

9. Mine "A" Transaction.*

In the Fall of 1941, after United had secured the contract with Elsheff, they advanced him $80,000 in order to procure control of Mine "A", which is adjacent to and connected with Mine "B", and was then organized by the Progressives. The result of this transaction was another victory for United, who, with Elsheff's influence, were quickly able to gain this membership. It is not certain whether this transaction can be laid as a continuation of the prime conspiracy.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing circumstances indicating guilty intent must be viewed in the light of two fundamentals: (1) the fact that payments were made to an employer, for whatever purpose, during a bitter jurisdictional dispute, is in itself convincing evidence of an intent to prejudice the interests of the opposing union. Such payments are comparable to the "loans" made to Judge Manton by litigants in his court. Any shrewd, experienced labor leader knows that an employer who receives financial favor from one union cannot humanly be expected to act impartially as he must under the law between that union and its rival. (2) Throughout the history of the trade union movement, agreements between a labor union and an employer to the detriment of a rival union, however bitter the enmity, have been despised and deemed treasonable and traitorous to the cause of labor.[5] All of the foregoing circumstances considered in the light of the two fundamentals just stated, compel the conclusion that the facts available to us now justify the

5/ I am attaching hereto a copy of a letter written to Randolph Paul on July 7, 1943, by Lloyd K. Garrison, in response to a

* Additional investigation required.

strong belief that the payments were made with an intent which violates the statute. Even if the justifications advanced by Lewis and his officials have some basis in fact, it is difficult to believe that there was not an admixture of guilty intent. If so, they violated the statute.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that you authorize the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to institute a full and immediate investigation.

[redacted]

It is immaterial to the issue under Section 8 how the payments are characterized. The intent with which they were made is our inquiry, and the investigation was not primarily aimed at that. As a result, large areas of investigation remain undeveloped. The Bureau has had long experience and special training and has done fine work in the investigation of civil rights violations. The following areas of investigation, among others, remain undeveloped:

(a) Unfair labor practices;
(b) Elsheff's relations with United Mine Workers officials;
(c) Justification of the $60,000 payments after the mine opened;
(d) Elsheff's appropriation of the funds to his own use and the union officials' knowledge of this.

I now have in preparation a comprehensive memorandum outlining the areas in which investigation is desired and detailing the information to be sought. If you authorize investigation, I will have this memorandum in the hands of the Director within a few days.

5/ (Cont'd) letter Paul had written him seeking his comments upon the facts of this case, stated hypothetically the names of the parties being unrevealed. This letter indicates trade union antipathy to any agreement between employer and union to the detriment of another union.

It is also noteworthy that Edmundson and James, when questioned about the loans were extremely sensitive to this fundamental labor ethic. They both insisted that the "loans" were not made until they were "sure" that they had the majority of the members (although as a matter of fact, both of these men knew that this was not the case).

If investigation indicates desirability of grand jury investigation, jurisdiction would lie in either the Southern District of Illinois or the District of Columbia. The latter district, of course, is where the subject Lewis had his headquarters during the critical period. In this district, the payments were authorized by Lewis and here also many overt acts were committed, including several of the payments, falsification of the records, etc.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

The suspected conspiracy commenced some time in the Spring of 1937 and continued through March of 1941, when the last payment was made. If the Mine "A" transaction was a continuation of this conspiracy, the statute would be tolled as late as the Fall of 1941.

Respectfully,

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

WENDELL BERGE
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice
Washington
July 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

My memorandum to you dated July 20, 1943, which you have approved, recommended full and complete investigation into charges that John L. Lewis, Ray Edmundson, and Walter J. James, officials of the United Mine Workers of America, and Carl H. Elshoff, owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois, conspired during the years 1937 to 1941, in violation of Section 51, Title 18, United States Code, to injure and oppress Elshoff's employees in the free exercise of the rights secured to them by the National Labor Relations Act. The present memorandum outlines the scope of the investigation and the precise inquiries desired. It is designed for transmittal by you to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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Attached is a copy of my memorandum of July 20 and also a copy of [redacted] These two documents will suffice to give the Director a comprehensive background of fact. The legal aspects of the offense to be investigated are set forth on pages one and two of the memorandum of July 20.

T24, USC, 3.610

BASIC OBJECT OF THE INQUIRY

It is established that the three union officials named above paid, and that Elshoff, a mine operator, received sums [redacted], during a period when the United Mine Workers of America were engaged in a bitter, and finally successful, struggle to wrest control of Mine "B" from its rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

The basic object of the investigation will be to ascertain whether these payments were made and received with an intent to induce Elshoff to impose unfair labor practices on his employees, members of the Progressive Union.

RELATED INVESTIGATIONS HERETOFORE CONDUCTED

1. 1934-1937: Comprehensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into industrial strife in Illinois

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

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growing out of jurisdictional disputes between the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Union, involving violations of Anti-Trust laws, the Anti-Racketeering Act and the Postal laws.

2. July 26, 1939: [redacted] prompted by publicly announced suspicion on the part of the Progressive Union that the mine shut-down was being "subsidized" by the United Mine Workers. This investigation failed to discover the existence of the payments.

3. September, 1940 to December, 1940: Investigation by the National Labor Relations Board into a complaint by the Progressive Union that Elshoff and the United Mine Workers were colluding in unfair labor practices by Elshoff. This investigation also failed to discover existence of the payments.

4. [redacted] established the existence of the payments.

SOURCE OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE

1. All Federal Bureau of Investigation reports covering investigation referred to above.

2. [redacted]

3. The complete files of the National Labor Relations Board have been made available to this Department for inspection at the Board's Washington office. Arrangements have been made for photostating any portions of these files deemed pertinent.

4. [redacted]

SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION

Set out below are several areas of investigation not yet developed by the prior related investigations above noted.

Within each area specific inquiries are set out. This outline, however, is not intended to limit the scope of the investigation, which should be as broad as the basic issue of fact permits and requires.

AREAS OF INVESTIGATION

I. Investigation of the Struggle of the United Mine Workers to Obtain Control at Mine "B".

A. Strategic importance of Mine "B". Inquiry should be directed to ascertaining to what extent Lewis and other United Mine Workers officials had indicated by statements or otherwise that Mine "B" was to be won over at any cost.

B. To what extent did Elshoff and other officials of Mine "B" have knowledge of the activities of United to win over Mine "B"?

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C. [redacted] suggests the probability that while the strife between these two unions from 1932 to May, 1937, assumed violent proportions in the other parts of Illinois, there was until May, 1937, relative industrial peace at Mine "B", which was under firm Progressive control. Investigation should be directed to ascertaining whether this assumption is correct.

D. It is established that some time prior to May, 1937, certain individual members of the Progressive Union were on United's payroll. The following man were expelled by the Progressives for this activity:

Joe Albanese
Andrew Schrelevious
Dominic Pasquale
Pete Carter
Frank Austin
Tony Plotch
John (Cotton) Ananias
John Sirtout
George Jacaway
Emory Jacaway
Charles Bohannon
James Hale

The full circumstances regarding this alleged activity should be reported. Each of these individuals should be interviewed and, if possible, signed statements obtained.

E. It should be ascertained to what extent Elshoff, Falcetti or other Mine "B" officials, were aware of this activity.

F. A complete history of Elshoff's relations with labor unions from his beginning as a coal operator up until May, 1937, should be ascertained.

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G. [redacted] it is suggested that several times during April, 1937, after the original contract had expired, United spies actually brought the employees of Mine "B" to the verge of a strike by falsely telling them that the extension of contract signed by the Progressives did not contain a clause that the wage scale would be retroactive. The strikes were only averted when the Progressive officials brought the truth home to their members. Inquiry should be directed to ascertain the full circumstances surrounding this and other similar incidents.

II. Investigation of All Alleged Unfair Labor Practices by Elshoff.

There are set out below various specific allegations of unfair labor practices by Elshoff and other officials of Mine "B" during the period of the conspiracy.

Each of these incidents should be thoroughly investigated with special regard to coincidence of these incidents with the actual transfer of cash from UMW officials and Elshoff, with the view of establishing a relationship of cause and effect between them.

A. Falcetti's refusal to discharge five spies on morning of May 12, 1937, under closed shop rule.
   (1) Elshoff's knowledge of this.
   (2) Did Elshoff instruct Falcetti to take such action?
   (3) Supervision by Elshoff over Falcetti in general.
   (4) Business practice of Falcetti reporting to Elshoff activities of the mine.

B. Conversation between Daniel McGill and Elshoff relative to discharge of these men.
   (1) Good faith of Elshoff in stating he did not believe he could discharge them under terms of National Labor Relations Act.

(2) Conference between Elshoff and his attorney relative to his authority to discharge them.
(3) Subsequent refusal to discharge because of short cars coming up.
(a) Was this the only subsequent reason given for refusal?
(4) Did Elshoff know his refusal would cause a strike?
(a) Attitude at that time toward a strike.

C. Subsequent conference between McGill and Elshoff relative to discharging the men.
(1) Elshoff's attitude at that time towards a strike.
(2) Details surrounding Elshoff's removal of mules and equipment following strike.
(a) Elshoff's state of mind at that time especially regarding finances.

D. Evidence relating to Elshoff's acceptance of the first payment some time in July.

E. Establishment of Local 7469 on July 29, 1937.
(1) Elshoff's knowledge thereof and reaction thereto.
(2) Elshoff's knowledge of small membership of this new local.

F. Elshoff's attitude in signing contract with United Mine Workers on August 18, 1937.

G. Regularity in so far as custom and practice was concerned in Elshoff's writing Prewitt on August 30, 1937, that dues had not been checked off for the first half of April because of absence of contract.
(1) Importance to Progressives of check-off system.

H. Circumstances under which Elshoff did not become a member of Illinois Coal Operators Association as he had agreed to.

I. Factors influencing decision of Elshoff to reopen on September 27, 1937.
(1) Knowledge at that time of limited personnel of UMW.

J. Falcetti's refusal to hire Progressives when they appeared for work September 27, 1937.
(1) Elshoff's knowledge of this.
(2) Instructions by him to Falcetti.
(3) Reports by Falcetti of his actions.
(4) Elshoff's attitude to such refusal.

K. Subsequent closing down of mine and picketing.
(1) Elshoff's attitude.
(2) Knowledge that staff of UMW was inadequate to run mine.
(3) Purpose in procuring injunction against

picketing - (there are indications that he subsequently used this injunction to prevent organizing by Progressives but never used it against activities by the UMW.)

L. Attempt to reopen January 4, 1938.
   (1) His refusal to deal with Progressives, then together with his knowledge of election results and knowledge United did not have the personnel to operate mine, might indicate United representatives had given him assurance that they could get more members if he refused to deal with Progressives.

M. Evidence of Elshoff's refusal to employ Progressives unless they joined United.
   (1) Progressives allege this in complaints in 1938 to National Labor Relations Board.

N. Stipulation entered into by Elshoff, United and Progressives for a Board order to be enforced by Court Decree for Mine "B" to cease refusing to negotiate with Progressives.
   (1) This appears to be a contradictory attitude for Elshoff to have adopted and any circumstances which tend to explain it would be helpful.

O. Elshoff contesting court's jurisdiction after order was entered and denying violation of Board's order.
   (1) This appears inconsistent with Elshoff's having entered into the stipulation. How is this explained?

P. Reopening of Mine on November 6, 1939, on open shop basis.
   (1) What caused this in face of the Court Decree?
   (2) Knowledge of Elshoff at that time that membership of Progressives had fallen off.

Q. Partiality in employing United members when Mine opened on November 6, 1939, on open shop basis.
   (1) Specific instances of partiality.
   (2) Instructions to that effect by Elshoff.
   (3) Elshoff's knowledge of discrimination.

R. Explanation of Elshoff's attitude when he wrote to Edmundson December 28, 1940, refusing to recognize United until National Labor Relations Board so ordered him.
   (1) Was this to cause an election to be held, he being aware that United men had a majority?
   (2) Apparently in July, 1940, the United Mine Workers began to obtain a majority. Did Elshoff have knowledge of this?

(At the present time, the files of the NLRB are being analyzed by a member of my staff. An analysis of every lead in those files relating to unfair labor practices by Elshoff will be set out in a supplemental memo which will be furnished to the Bureau Monday or Tuesday. Arrangements are being made to obtain photostatic copies of any documents in these files deemed essential for your purpose.)

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III. Investigation of Personal Relationships between Elshoff and United Mine Workers officials.

[redacted] indicates the probability that Elshoff and Edmundson were close personal friends during the course of the alleged conspiracy and, also prior to that time. Elshoff and James are also believed to have been well acquainted. [redacted] Lewis [redacted] Elshoff, the scope and nature of the personal relationship between the two men is not indicated.

Inquiries should be directed to ascertain the exact nature of all of these personal relationships from the time of their beginning until the present time.

A. Efforts should be made to investigate every personal contact between Elshoff and these officials during the spring of 1937, prior to the closing of the mine.
B. During the period of alleged unfair labor practices from May, 1937, to March, 1941, efforts should be made to investigate any coincidents of these personal contacts with the imposition of unfair labor practices by Elshoff.
C. Same inquiry should be made with respect to Falcetti and other officials of Mine "B".
D. At various times during the course of the conspiracy formal communications would pass between Elshoff and Edmundson. Often "demands" would be made by one on the other. The close personal friendship of these two individuals suggests that these "demands" were not sincerely made. Special inquiry should be directed at these incidents and specifically at the "demand" by Edmundson on August 11, that Elshoff negotiate with the United Mine Workers.
E. A confidential informant has alleged that Edmundson and Elshoff, during the course of the alleged conspiracy, entertained together lavishly at Chicago hotels.

IV. Investigation of Explanations of Payments by the Subjects.

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[redacted]

A. Inquiry should be directed to ascertain from any source what statements or explanations of these payments have been made by the subjects.

B. On July 3, 1939, the Progressive Union published an article in a Springfield newspaper openly announcing a suspicion that Kishoff was being subsidized by the United Mine Workers during the shut-down [redacted]. What statements or explanations were made at this time by the several subjects?

C. In October, 1942, the St. Louis Post Dispatch, St. Louis, Missouri, broke the news story that the Internal Revenue Bureau was investigating possible income tax violations growing out of reported payments "in the amount of $300,000" from the United Mine Workers to Kishoff. Inquiries should be directed to ascertain what explanations, privately or publicly made, came from the several subjects at this time.

D. It is understood that when the news broke in the St. Louis Post Dispatch Edmundson and James felt impelled to explain the matter at meetings of the local union. At one of these meetings Jack Glasgow, then a District Board member of the United Mine Workers, openly criticized the payments. Glasgow was suspended by the Union and it is understood that he has since been evicted. [redacted]

Inquiries should be directed to ascertain the full circumstances surrounding these incidents. The exact explanations given by Edmundson and James or other union officials should be ascertained. Glasgow should be interviewed and every possible lead obtained from him. It is possible that the Union officials made statements to the press or to other persons at this time and these statements should be obtained.

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V. Investigation of Extent to Which Payments to Elshoff Were in Excess of Actual Maintenance Costs.

[redacted] is not adequate to establish definite proof of the extent to which payments received by Elshoff were in excess of the actual maintenance costs of the mine. It is desired that the investigation establish as accurately as possible the disparity between the two sums. It is necessary to know also the extent to which the United Mine Workers officials were aware that the payments were in excess of costs. In this connection the profits which Elshoff was receiving from his brokerage operation during the shut-down should be investigated and taken into account.

VI. Investigation of the Mine "A" Transaction.

It is known that in the fall of 1941, after Elshoff had signed the closed-shop contract with U.M.W. in March, 1941, U.M.W. advanced Elshoff $60,000 in order to enable him to get control of Mine "A". Mine "A", organized by the Progressives, was adjacent to Mine "B" and could be mined through a subterranean passage from Mine "B". It is believed that Elshoff's control of this mine, in cooperation with U.M.W., successfully broke the Progressive union there. [redacted] It is desired, however, that a full investigation be made of all of the circumstances in order to determine whether this transaction was a continuation of the conspiracy alleged to have existed between 1937 and 1941.

VII. Investigation of the "Panther Creek" Project.

[redacted] is a letter dated July 6, 1942, from Elshoff to Robert C. Solomon, President of the Panther Creek Mines, Springfield, Illinois. This mine is organized and controlled by the Progressive union. It will be noted that Elshoff indicates that the possibility that he may be able to buy control of this mine, and makes the significant statement, "I might say now, there is no objection to advancing the $400,000 as outlined." It is believed that Elshoff has no other source from which to obtain such a sum of money, unless from U.M.W. It is believed also that understandings have been reached between Elshoff and U.M.W. that this money will be forthcoming. This appears to be another step in the plan of the U.M.W. to use Elshoff as a pawn in attacking the Progressives throughout Illinois. It is desired, therefore, that the circumstances surrounding this matter be thoroughly investigated.

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VIII. Investigation of Explanation Given for Continuation of Payment after Mine Opened in November, 1939.

As noted above, all of the subjects have attempted to explain away the payments on the ground that they were "loans" designed merely to cover the maintenance cost of the mine during the shut-down and thus prevent its bankruptcy. [redacted] A full investigation is desired into these circumstances to ascertain whether there is any legitimate explanation for the payments after the mine closed.

IX. Investigation of Kishoff's Appropriation of Money Advanced to His Own Use and Other Subjects' Knowledge of This.

[redacted]

It is believed that Edmundson and James, and probably Lewis, were aware of Kishoff's appropriation of these sums to his own personal use, and it is possible that Edmundson, and maybe James, actually shared in the enjoyment of the expenditure. Investigation should be directed to ascertaining to what extent this was so.

X. Interviews with Individual Miners.

It is believed that it will be essential to have interviews with a great number of the individual miners who worked at Mine "B" during the course of the alleged conspiracy. Many of these persons, it is believed, will be unsympathetic with the investigation since they are now members of the United Mine Workers local. However, it will be extremely valuable to have signed statements from as many of them as possible, and especially from those individuals who have taken a leadership in the Union or who actually participated in any of the incidents involved in this case.

(13)

b3
T26, USC,
§6103

For purposes of pleading, should prosecution become necessary, all of the miners who worked at Mine "B" prior to May, 1937, and who worked at the mine after it was opened in November, 1939, will probably be named as "victims"; that is, it would be alleged that the subjects conspired to "injure and oppress" these persons in the free exercise and enjoyment of their rights to bargain collectively and choose their own union under the National Labor Relations Board. It is entirely possible that most of these individuals will actually not admit an awareness of a "deprivation of rights". It will be well if we can know specific individuals who hold the attitude today that they were victims of conspiracy against their rights as trade unionists.

XI. Investigation of Edmundson's Contention That the Election of December 15, 1937, was Fraudulent. [redacted]

One of the defenses advanced to justify payment of money to the employer during a jurisdictional dispute is that the United Mine Workers actually had a majority of the men. This contention is advanced in face of the overwhelming victory of the Progressives at the time of the National Labor Relations Board election on December 15, 1937. Edmundson contends that this election was a fraud. It is believed that the circumstances of this election should be investigated in order definitely to establish that there was no fundamental fraud involved.

XII. Miscellaneous Inquiries.

A. [redacted] is indicated that Mine "B" maintained a special fund from which loans in cash were made to the miners. A flat 10% interest was charged. This arrangement violated the company's contract with the union, which prohibited any such advances. Inquiries should be directed to ascertain whether this circumstance has any relation to the present inquiry.

B. Inquiry should be made to ascertain whether officials of the two employer organizations in Illinois have any knowledge regarding this matter. These two associations are the Coal Producers Association of Illinois, and the Illinois Coal Operators Association. Elshoff was at one time or another a member of both organizations, and it is possible that the whole Mine "B" transaction was linked with the activities of these associations.

b3
T26, USC, §6103

C. Elshoff leases Mine "B" on a minimum royalty basis from the Citizens Oil Mining Company of Peoria, Illinois. Throughout the period of the shut-down from May, 1937, to November, 1939, Elshoff claims to have been under the compulsion of contract to pay certain minimum royalties. [redacted] It is requested, therefore, that the officials of the lessor be interviewed, and every possible lead covered to ascertain what knowledge, if any, these people may have regarding the present issue. Their interpretation of Elshoff's responsibilities during the shut-down is pertinent.

D. [redacted] We have no information in our possession whatsoever that Mr. Murray is not correct in this contention. It is essential, however, that this fact be established.

E. It is desirable to know additional circumstances in connection with the injunction obtained by the Illinois local unions against Lewis in 1932. [redacted]

F. Interview with Leonard Bajork, former Regional Director, 13th Region, National Labor Relations Board will probably develop important leads. [redacted] Mr. Bajork resigned from the Board during the Mine "B" controversy and thereafter took a personal interest in the matter under circumstances which are not fully understood at the present time. It is believed that he lives in Chicago, and practices there as a "labor consultant."

G. It will be helpful to know whether Elshoff has filed any financial statements since the loans were made in which he failed to list this "obligation", also, whether the note has been listed by Elshoff, or the United Mine Workers, for tax purposes—if required by law.

NEED FOR EXPEDITION

As noted above, the period of alleged conspiracy stretches from the Spring of 1937 until March, 1941. Unless the conspiracy was continued by the Mine "A" transaction, or the Panther Creek Project, the statute of limitations will foreclose prosecution as of March, 1944. This fact, and the character of the offense charged, requires that this investigation be investigated by every means possible.

It is deemed essential that Frank Coleman of my staff, now in charge of this case, work in close cooperation with the Bureau's agents, and that he be advised of current developments as far as possible. Supplemental memoranda will be furnished the Bureau from time to time as additional inquiries occur to me.

It probably will be desirable that Mr. Coleman, at my direction, talk with certain individuals who have knowledge of this case. If this is done, the Bureau will be appropriately advised.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

4-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

86 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- [x] Deleted under exemption(s) b3 with no segregable material available for release to you.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- [ ] Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- [ ] Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.
- ____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.
- ____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):
- [x] For your information: Statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103.
- [x] The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: 44-845-1

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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FBI/DOJ

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b7c

July 26, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE [illegible] BY [illegible]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS,
RAY EDMUNDSON,
WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America;
CARL H. ELSHOFF, Owner of Mine B, Springfield, Illinois;
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Reference is made to the attached memoranda to you from the Department requesting a full and complete investigation into charges that John L. Lewis, Ray Edmundson and Walter J. James, officials of the United Mine Workers of America, and Carl H. Elshoff, owner of Mine B, Springfield, Illinois, conspired during the years 1937 to 1941 in violation of Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code, to injure and oppress Elshoff's employees in the free exercise of the rights secured to them by the National Labor Relations Act.

ALLEGED OFFENSE

It is alleged that the sum of $225,000 was paid from the years 1937 to 1941 by officials of the United Mine Workers of America to Carl H. Elshoff, owner of Mine B, Springfield, Illinois, with the intent to induce Elshoff to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees who were members of the rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

CLASS. & EXT. BY [illegible]
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4,2
DATE OF REVIEW 7/26/91

STATUTES INVOLVED

Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code, provides that it shall be unlawful for two or more persons to conspire:

RECORDED 144-845-1

"To injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same."

[redacted]

Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act provides:

"Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in concerted activities for the purpose of collectively bargaining, or other mutual aid or protection."

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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[redacted]

Section 7 in explicit language states that employees shall have the rights therein enumerated. Legislative history of the Act makes it clear that these rights are secured only against the employer or those in connivance with him. These rights are "secured by the laws of the United States" within the meaning of Section 51.

BACKGROUND FACTS

It is alleged that the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union was formed in 1932 as a revolt against an effort by John L. Lewis to force a reduced wage scale upon the miners in Illinois, which theretofore had been the stronghold of the United Mine Workers of America Union. A referendum of the miners had rejected the reduced scale. During a second referendum, the ballot boxes were mysteriously stolen and Lewis declared an emergency and signed an agreement with the mine operators. It was stated that 25,000 miners revolted against this agreement and set up a new organization called the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which grew rapidly and soon dominated the entire State. It is alleged that Lewis bitterly swore to win back the lost territory and break the rebel union. It was also stated that Mine B was the stronghold of the Progressive Mine Workers Union and was located in Springfield, Illinois, Lewis' former home and present legal residence.

According to the Department's memoranda, from 1932 to 1941, a bitter struggle for supremacy was carried on between the Progressive Mine Workers Union and the United Mine Workers of America, involving much violence. In May, 1937, it was stated that the Progressive Mine Workers discovered that 14 of its members were paid spies of the United Mine Workers. Upon Elshoff's refusal to fire these 14 individuals, a strike was called and the mine was closed. The mine remained closed until November, 1939, 2½ years later. It was alleged that during this period, the United Mine Workers paid Elshoff $150,000 in sums varying from $1,000 to $20,000. It was further stated that during this period and coincident with the payments of money, Elshoff was suspected of unfair labor practices against the Progressive Mine Workers. After the mine opened, the United Mine Workers continued the payments to Elshoff until the total of $225,000 had been paid. It was also stated that in August, 1937, Elshoff recognized and signed a collective bargaining agreement with the United Mine Workers, even though at that time they were in the minority and did not have enough members to operate the mines.

Allegations have been made that during the period that Mine B was out of operation, the United Mine Workers proselyted the members of the Progressive Mine Workers, which, coupled with the alleged unfair practices and deprivation of rights imposed by Elshoff, resulted in the United Mine Workers gaining a majority membership by mid-summer of 1940. The United Mine Workers petitioned the National Labor Relations Board for an election

which was held in February, 1941, and which resulted in a victory for the United Mine Workers by a vote of 259 to 108.

The Department has advised that [redacted] It was also stated that the National Labor Relations Board conducted an investigation from September, 1940, to December, 1940, but failed to discover the existence of any payments between the United Mine Workers and Carl H. Elshoff. [redacted]

b3 f26, USC, 5611

The Department did not advise as to what the National Labor Relations Board investigation developed as to the existence of unfair labor practices; however, it stated the National Labor Relations Board file was being reviewed and investigative leads developed from such a review would be forwarded to the Bureau immediately.

SCOPE OF DEPARTMENT'S REQUESTED INVESTIGATION

The Department in its memorandum dated July 24, 1943, sets forth ten pages of requested investigation in the captioned matter which cover all of the elements of the alleged violation in this matter. As an example, it is noted that the Department sets forth eighteen incidents which it states should be thoroughly investigated and which are alleged to be unfair labor practices indulged in by Carl H. Elshoff. It is noted that the existence of unfair labor practices in violation of the National Labor Relations Act is basic to proving any violation of Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code. Although the Department states John L. Lewis admits the existence of payments or "loans" by the United Mine Workers Union to Elshoff, it will first be necessary to show that there was a definite deprivation of rights guaranteed to the members of the Progressive Mine Workers Union during 1937 to 1941 prior to establishing that the payment was made with the intent to cause Elshoff to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees.

It is also noted that the Department requests that the actual cost of the operation of Mine B for the period during which it was idle be ascertained so that it may be determined if Elshoff was paid more than the actual cost of such operation.

The Department also requests that a large number of the members of the Progressive Mine Workers Union during the period 1937 to 1941 be interviewed to ascertain which of those individuals believed they were subjected to a deprivation of their rights.

X

The Department also requested that an investigation be conducted into the election that was held during 1937, which resulted in the ballot boxes being stolen, to ascertain if there was any fraud involved.

The Department has requested a large number of other inquiries be conducted to establish the elements of the offense alleged in this matter.

INTEREST OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN INSTANT INVESTIGATION

b1 [redacted]

b1 [redacted]

A review of the Daily Workers newspaper for July 17, 1943, discloses that an article such as contemplated above did appear on the front page entitled "Lewis-Owner Tie Violates U. S. Law."

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION OF SIMILAR NATURE

You will recall in the spring of 1942 Joe Curran, head of the National Maritime Union, complained that the American Federation of Labor Union in New York City was guilty of racketeering and violations of several Federal laws. It appeared at that time that the Communist Party was very much interested in having an investigation conducted of the American Federation of Labor Union. You will recall that the Department requested an investigation in this matter, and that at your suggestion the Department ordered a grand jury investigation, which was generally known as the New York Waterfront Matter and after extensive hearings the grand jury took no action in the case.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

It is noted from a review of the investigation set forth by the Department that the matter will necessarily involve a large number of interviews

to secure evidence establishing all of the elements of a violation of Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code, and not merely the question of intent behind the payments of money by John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers to Carl H. Elshoff.

It is noted that should a grand jury be directed to investigate the above entitled matter, all witnesses could be required to testify under oath, and it is conceivable that such a procedure might be preferable to having Agents interview witnesses in the field where they would not be under oath.

It is observed that the Department states it is reviewing the files of the National Labor Relations Board and will forward this material to the Bureau in the immediate future.

It is also noted that at 3:30 pm on July 26, 1943, Mr. Frank Coleman of the Civil Rights Section of the Department, called at the Bureau and discussed this case with Supervisor Frank L. Welch. Mr. Coleman stated he recently conferred with the Attorney General on this case and indicated his desire to have the Bureau handle the investigation. According to Mr. Coleman, the Attorney General remarked to him that the FBI was always hesitant to take over an investigation after it had been handled by another Federal agency. Coleman then remarked to Mr. Biddle that he definitely thought the Bureau should be asked to conduct the investigation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Inasmuch as witnesses before a grand jury testify under oath, you may desire to recommend to the Department that the investigation in this case be conducted by a Federal grand jury. In the event it is not desired to recommend the use of a Federal grand jury in this matter, it is recommended that the requested investigation by the Department be instituted immediately upon the receipt of further information from the Department as disclosed in the files of the National Labor Relations Board and the Internal Revenue Department.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

Ladd:
Suggest you orally talk to Carroll & make suggestions you indicate.
K.

CONFIDENTIAL

DML:CE
Call 10:25 am

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

July 26, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Ugo Carusi called at this time stating that a memorandum to the Director from the Attorney General, dated July 24, would be coming through passing along a memorandum from Mr. Berge asking the Director to make a complete investigation into certain conduct of a prominent labor man and an operating company, reportedly going in cahoots to completely unionize the company.

Mr. Carusi reported that the President of the United States has asked for expeditious and thorough treatment of this case.

I advised Mr. Carusi that such treatment would be rendered.

Respectfully

44-845-2

RECORDED

D. M. Ladd

15 AUG 12

61 AUG 12 1943

(INFORMATIVE MEMORANDUM - NOT TO BE SENT TO FILES)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3/11/81 BY

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

FLW:BK
Time of Interview:
3:30 P.M. to 4:25 P.M.

July 26, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/1/81 BY [illegible]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America; CARL H. ELSHOFF, Owner of Mine B. Springfield, Illinois; CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. Frank Coleman of the Civil Rights Section of the Department called at the Bureau at the above time concerning the captioned case and was interviewed by the writer. It appeared that Coleman's primary purpose in calling at the Bureau was to discuss the following three points in connection with this case:

(1) Allegations recently made by the press that the Attorney General was "sitting" on this case.

(2) To determine if the Bureau would photostat 125 exhibits submitted to the Department [redacted] b3

T26, USC, §6103

(3) To ascertain which persons would be interviewed at the outset of this investigation, and to point out that certain ones should be contacted as soon as possible.

According to Mr. Coleman, approximately two weeks ago the Chicago Daily News indicated that the Attorney General was furnished with all previous information developed concerning the activities of John L. Lewis, and that instead of taking any action, the Attorney General had been "sitting" on the case. Mr. Coleman stated that such an allegation was not true [redacted] b3 during June, 1943 and since that time he, Coleman, has been making a thorough review of the case for the purpose of determining what additional investigation is necessary to possibly develop a violation of the Civil Rights Statutes on the part of Lewis.

RECORDED & INDEXED [illegible] 845-2

According to Mr. Coleman, [redacted] also made available 125 exhibits. Mr. Coleman feels that these documents are of interest to the Bureau in conducting the investigation requested by the Department, and for that

[redacted]

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FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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reason he desires to make photostatic copies available to us. Mr. Coleman has ascertained that it would take approximately one week to have this material photostated in the Department, and he stated that in view of this, he would like to know if the Bureau would make photostatic copies of the exhibits for its use and then return the documents to him. In this connection I advised him that the backlog on our photostatic work was such that it would be impossible to photostat these documents within the near future and that therefore it appeared the better procedure would be for him to have copies prepared and make them available to the Bureau. He stated that this would be done.

Mr. Coleman made reference to that portion of the Department's memorandum which indicated that in May, 1937, the Progressive Mine Workers discovered that several of its members were paid spies of the United Mine Workers Union, and when the operator of the mine in question refused to discharge these individuals, a strike was called and the mine was closed. Mr. Coleman thought it would be advisable to interview these particular persons at the beginning of the investigation. He stated that there were several other persons who he believed should be contacted at the very beginning before the report was circulated that the FBI was conducting inquiries into this matter. I advised Mr. Coleman that in any investigation conducted by the Bureau, the circumstances in the case were carefully evaluated and that consideration was given to the order in which the various individuals involved were to be interviewed.

During the interview Mr. Coleman stated that even though a violation of the Civil Rights Statutes is established, he is in no position to state whether the President will authorize any prosecution against Lewis at some future date. He stated that he felt this was a very important case inasmuch as the real issue at hand appears to be whether one union can make payments of money in such a manner as to destroy a rival union. He also commented that from discussions he has had with labor men, he does not believe that the CIO will "push" this case against Lewis because of their fear that they will be accused of "knifing him."

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

RECORDED
44-845-4
19

b7c [redacted]
7/29/43

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR. UGO CARUSI

I have just been advised of the results of the conference held with you on July 29, 1943, by Mr. D. M. Ladd concerning the Department's request for investigation of the allegation that the sum of $225,000 was paid from the years 1937 to 1941 by officials of the United Mine Workers of America to Carl H. Klshoff, operator of Mine B, Springfield, Illinois, with the intent to induce Klshoff to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, who are members of a rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

I wish to affirm the discussion had by you and Mr. Ladd regarding the advisability of handling this matter through grand jury proceedings. In this regard, I am outlining my own observations as to why the use of a grand jury would be advisable.

1. It is noted that in grand jury proceedings all witnesses are required to testify under oath. It is believed that many individuals prominent in labor circles might be unwilling to give information concerning this matter voluntarily, without the compelling effects of a grand jury subpoena and the fact that they are testifying under oath.

b3
T26, USC,
§6103

2. The Department's memorandum dated July 24, 1943, indicates that the National Labor Relations Board and [redacted] have conducted investigations of the allegations that the officials of the United Mine Workers of America paid money to Carl H. Klshoff. It is believed that should the individuals involved in this matter be contacted through the medium of another investigative agency when one of more Federal investigative agencies have already acted in the matter, it might very well result in unfavorable publicity to the Department, this Bureau and the other agencies involved.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ JUL 29 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
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DEPT OF JUSTICE
JUL 29 4 01 PM '43

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mailed at 6:45

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§6103

3. As it is observed that [redacted] the National Labor Relations Board have already conducted investigations in this case, it is believed that one of the most compelling reasons for further investigation would be to secure evidence of intent on the part of the officials of the United Mine Workers to induce Kishoff to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees through the payment of money to Kishoff. It is suggested that sufficient background facts may already be available to present this matter to a grand jury in order that the requisite intent may be established by placing the witnesses under oath prior to being interviewed.

4. Another factor to be considered in handling this matter is the date of the occurrence of the transactions mentioned in the Department's memorandum, and the early running of the Statute of Limitations. The Department's memorandum indicates that the Statute of Limitations will probably foreclose any prosecution as of March, 1944. It is believed that the use of a grand jury will enable this matter to be handled in an expeditious manner.

5. [redacted]

6. A somewhat comparable situation to the matter at hand arose in the spring of 1942, in connection with the New York Water Front case. You will recall that Joe Curran, head of the National Maritime Union, complained that the American Federation of Labor in New York City was guilty of certain racketeering and violations of several Federal laws. In this instance a grand jury was called to investigate these allegations rather than have the case investigated by this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

DML:DS

July 29, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: John L. Lewis, Ray Edmundson,
Walter J. James, Officials of the
United Mine Workers of America;
Carl H. Walshoff, Owner of Mine B,
Springfield, Illinois;
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In accordance with your instructions I conferred with Mr. Carusi on the morning of July 29, 1943, with reference to the investigation previously requested by the Attorney General in connection with the above-entitled case. I suggested to Mr. Carusi that it was the Bureau's opinion that this matter was one which should be and could be properly handled more advantageously by a grand jury inquiry. I pointed out to Mr. Carusi that the violations alleged occurred around 1939 and therefore the personal recollection of some of the witnesses would be vague, [redacted]

b3 T26 USC 6103

Mr. Carusi inquired as to where such grand jury action would then be contemplated. I suggested that the same could probably best be held in Springfield, Illinois, inasmuch as the civil rights violation, if one existed, occurred in that district in depriving the progressive Miners of the rights conferred on them under Section 51, Title 18, United States Code.

RECORDED & INDEXED 144-8454-4
29 JUL 30

Mr. Carusi thought the suggestion had some merit and stated that he would discuss it with Attorney General Biddle.

I believe it would be well, in order that the Bureau might be on record, to send the attached memorandum to the Attorney General confirming this conference.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/4/81 BY

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

D. M. LADD

Attachment

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

FLW:BK

July 29, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS,
RAY EDMUNDSON,
WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America;
CARL H. ELSHOFF, Owner of Mine B, Springfield, Illinois;
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On the afternoon of July 27, 1943 Mr. Frank Coleman, Civil Rights Section of the Department, called, inquiring as to whether the Bureau could assist the Department in photostating [redacted] At this time I advised him that the question as to whether we could or could not be of assistance depended upon the backlog which we have on special work in the photostat section. He indicated he was anxious to have the photostating done by the Bureau in order to expedite the investigation of the captioned case. I stated that I would check to determine if we could be of assistance, but that I doubted very much that we could handle the work because of our usual heavy backlog.

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§6103

On July 29 I telephonically advised Mr. Coleman that it would be impossible for us to help him on this work because of the amount of special photostating work which we have. It was not felt that we should be of assistance in view of the fact that up to the present time it is uncertain whether the Bureau will conduct the investigation originally requested by the Attorney General.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/4/81 BY [illegible]

Respectfully,

F L Welch

F. L. Welch

RECORDED & INDEXED
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[redacted] b7c

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

58 AUG 31 1943

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

UGO CARUSI
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 30, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER

This is in response to your memorandum of July 29, concerning the requested investigation of the charge that sums were paid by the United Mine Workers of America to the operator of a mine in Springfield, Illinois, to induce the imposition of unfair labor practices upon members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

After Mr. Ladd spoke to me about this matter yesterday I took it up with the Attorney General, and pointed out the considerations which moved you to suggest that any further investigation should be before a grand jury. The Attorney General advised me that he had talked to the President about this, and the President insists that the FBI make the investigation. Accordingly, the Attorney General has asked me to confirm his prior instructions that the investigation be conducted by you rather than by a grand jury.

Ugo Carusi
Executive Assistant to
the Attorney General

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

[redacted]

Proceed promptly.

8/2/43
Mr. Springfield

RECORDED & INDEXED

[redacted]

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FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

52 AUG 13 1943

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B I
15 AUG 12 [redacted]

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

[redacted] b7c
Time: 1:30 p.m.

August 2, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

At this time Mr. Frank Coleman called from the Department relative [redacted] above investigation which is to be conducted relative to the allegations that John L. Lewis and others may have violated the civil rights of members of the Progressive Mine Workers Union in Springfield, Illinois, by payments of approximately [redacted] to Mr. Carl Elshoff, mine operator, during the period between 1937 and 1941. Mr. Coleman pointed out that three of the so-called spies in the Progressive Mine Workers Union later became President, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, respectively in the UMW local that was formed in 1941, when Lewis and the UMW won the election at Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois. The names of the individuals are as follows:

Charles Johnson became President
John (Cotton) Ananias became Financial Secretary
Tony Plotch became Treasurer

This information is being included in data being transmitted to Springfield in the matter for the initiation of this investigation.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

44-145-6

RECORDED & INDEXED

17 AUG 12 [redacted]

b7c

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

44-845-6
19 [redacted] b7c

August 2, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

PERSONAL ATTENTION

SAC, Springfield

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America; CARL H. ELSHOFF, Owner of Mine B, Springfield, Illinois; CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Dear Sir:

In confirmation of the information and instructions given you telephonically today by Special Agent [redacted] you are advised that the Department has requested a full and complete investigation by the Bureau into charges that John L. Lewis, Ray Edmundson and Walter J. James, officials of the United Mine Workers of America, and Carl H. Elshoff, Owner of Mine B, Springfield, Illinois, conspired during the years 1937 to 1941 in violation of Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code, to injure and oppress Elshoff's employees in the free exercise of the rights secured to them by the National Labor Relations Act. b7c

According to information furnished by the Department, it is alleged that the sum of [redacted] was paid from the years 1937 through 1941 by officials of the United Mine Workers of America to Carl H. Elshoff, operator of Mine B, with the intent to induce Elshoff to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, who were at that time members of the rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America. The Department has advised that if it can be proven that Elshoff and officials of the United Mine Workers of America conspired to deprive members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America of their rights as secured by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act, there could undoubtedly be established a violation of Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code.

There are attached copies of memoranda for the Attorney General from Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, dated July 20, 1943, and July 24, 1943, respectively. These memoranda set forth the background of the captioned matter and the investigation desired by the Department. [redacted] files of the National Labor Relations Board and [redacted] as referred to in the Memorandum for the Attorney General, dated July 24, 1943, are not available; however, they will be secured and transmitted to you in the very near future. b3 T26 USC 2618

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

AUG - 2 1943
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AUG 12 1943

[redacted] b7c

Photostatic copies of certain exhibits [redacted] are available, and photostatic copies are being transmitted herewith. [redacted] As soon as the subsequent exhibits to this report are received from the Department, they will be made immediately available to you.

You are instructed to institute an immediate investigation in this matter and assign at least four experienced, well-qualified Agents to this investigation. You will note that the Department desires that this matter be given expeditious attention and that the investigation be brought to an early completion in order that the matter may be considered for prosecutive and grand jury action sufficiently well in advance of the Statute of Limitations' expiration date, which the Department indicates will be March of 1944. The Agents assigned to this matter should thoroughly review the material submitted herewith prior to conducting the investigation requested by the Department.

The Department has suggested that the fourteen individuals who are alleged to have been spies for the United Mine Workers Union in the Progressive Mine Workers organization from 1937 to 1941 be interviewed at the outset of this investigation and signed statements secured as set forth under the heading "Areas of Investigation" in the Memorandum for the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943. The Department has advised that three of these fourteen individuals who were alleged to have been United Mine Workers spies, are now officials of the present United Mine Workers Union at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois. These individuals are Charles Bohannon, President, John (Cotton) Ananias, Financial Secretary, and Tony Plotch, Treasurer.

In this connection, you should note that several officials of the United Mine Workers Union upon interview, [redacted] have admitted that these fourteen individuals were paid expenses by the United Mine Workers Union at the time they belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

For your general information, it has been reported by a highly confidential source that the Communist Party has interested

itself in the captioned matter.

On July 17, 1943, an article appeared in the Daily Worker captioned "Lewis-Owner Tie Violates United States Law," in which it was stated that evidence of alleged collusion between John L. Lewis and certain Illinois mine operators had been transmitted to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

It is imperative that you keep the Bureau currently informed as to all developments in this case. I wish to impress upon you the importance of this investigation and desire that you give it your personal attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:CB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 6, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

John L. Lewis et al.

Re: Mine "B" Case - Alleged violations of Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code

[redacted] b7c

I have authorized Frank Coleman, who is handling the alleged civil rights violation by Carl H. Elshoff, and others, to go to St. Louis on August 9, 1943, [redacted] b3 T26 USC §6103 Mr. Coleman will proceed from St. Louis to Springfield during that same week to confer with United States Attorney Howard L. Doyle, and also with other persons, after conference with your Special Agent in Charge, in accordance with telephone conversation between Mr. Coleman and Mr. Buckley of your Bureau yesterday.

Upon his return, I will send you a memorandum covering the results of his several conferences.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

RECORDED 44-845-7

[redacted] b7c

58 AUG 12 1943

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:LLD

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 7, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

There is submitted herewith the fifth installment of photostatic copies of all the exhibits [redacted] a copy of which was attached to my memorandum to the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943, transmitted to you by the Attorney General's memorandum of the same date.

b3
T26
USC
§6103

The fifth installment includes Exhibits 70 to 92, inclusive.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

Enc. #668320

RECORDED

144-845-8

[redacted]

b7c

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILE

FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

61 AUG 12 1943

[redacted] b7c

Date: August 9, 1943

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 7, 1943, captioned as above.

For your further assistance in conducting investigation in this matter, there is transmitted herewith the fifth installment of photostatic copies received from the Department of the exhibits [redacted] a copy of which was transmitted to your office with Bureau letter dated August 4, 1943. The fifth installment includes exhibits 70 to 92 inclusive.

b3
T26
USC
§6103

Enclosure

RECORDED

W-845-9

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 10 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tolson
Clegg
Coffey
Gavin
Ladd
Nichols

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 9
AUG - 9 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

16 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY [redacted]

b7c

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:CB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 6, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" Case - Alleged violations of Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code

Further consideration of available evidence indicates that Oscar Falcetti, Superintendent of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois, should be added as a subject in this case, in addition to the four persons named as subjects in the Attorney General's memorandum to you of July 24, 1943.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

RECORDED 144-845-10

b7c [redacted]

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:CB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 6, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "P" Case - Alleged violations of Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code

It is requested that the criminal records of all subjects and prospective witnesses be currently ascertained and reported to the extent that this undertaking will not unduly tax your facilities.

Respectfully,

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

RECORDED - 44-845-11

[redacted]

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:LLD

LSB

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 4, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Clavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starks
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

[redacted]

b7c

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

There are submitted herewith the third and fourth installments of photostatic copies of all the exhibits which were [redacted] attached to my memorandum to the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943, transmitted to you by the Attorney General's memorandum of the same date.

b3
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§6103

The third installment includes Exhibits 124 and 125. The fourth installment includes Exhibits 32 to 58, inclusive.

On July 31, 1943, I sent you a memorandum in this connection submitting the first two installments. My description of these, I believe, was in error.

I had recited that the first installment included Exhibits 1 to 19, inclusive. It should have included Exhibits 1 to 29, inclusive. I recited that the second installment included Exhibits 93 to 121, inclusive. It should have included Exhibits 93 to 122, inclusive.

Please check on these to see whether these exhibits were actually transmitted to you, and advise.

Three installments remain to be sent you.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

RECORDED

[redacted]

b7c

Enclosure distrayed see memo dated 6/12/46 - file no 44-845-19 6-24-46 EMD

8/6/43 memo Berge [illegible]

FOR DEFENSE
BUY
UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

Enc. #668316

[redacted] b7c

FILED 44-845-12

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4/11/81 BY [illegible]

Date: August 7, 1943

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of the following additional exhibits [redacted] copies of which were furnished to you with letter dated August 4, 1943: b3 T26 USC §6103

Installment #3, including Exhibits 124 and 125, and a document marked #25.

Installment #4, including as follows: Exhibits 30 to 43.

Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16C, 21, 22, 23, 29, 31 and 32, apparently taken from National Labor Relations Board file C-854; Answer of Petition to the National Labor Relations Board, and Objections of Entry to Decree, #6952, for the October term, 1938; and Petition for Enforcement of the Order of the National Labor Relations Board, #6952, dated June 15, 1939, also from National Labor Relations Board file C-854.

Prog. Exhibits #1 and #7, apparently taken from National Labor Relations Board file 13-R-534.

Exhibits 50, 51 and 54A, apparently taken from National Labor Relations Board file 13-C-1345.

Decision and Direction of Election, case #R-2262, and Certification of Representative.

With reference to the exhibits transmitted to you by Bureau letter dated August 3, 1943, it is noted that Exhibits 1 to 29, inclusive, were transmitted, rather than Exhibits 1 to 19, as well as Exhibits 93 to 122, inclusive, rather than Exhibits 93 to 121, inclusive.

As subsequent exhibits to the above mentioned report are received from the Criminal Division of the Department, they will immediately be made available to you.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 16 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AUG 16 1943

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:LLD

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 31, 1943

Received from Dept. by messenger 7/31/43 [redacted] 67C

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

[redacted]

There are submitted herewith the first two installments of photostatic copies of all the exhibits [redacted] a copy of which was attached to my memorandum to the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943, transmitted to you by the Attorney General's memorandum of the same date.

The first installment includes [redacted] Exhibits 1 to 19 inclusive.

The second installment includes Exhibits 93 to 121 inclusive.

As other installments are returned by our Photostatic Division, they will be promptly transmitted to you.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

144-845-13

RECORDED

41 AUG 3 1943

Enc. #668310

[redacted]

FOR DEFENSE
BUY
UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

41 1646

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

August 4, 1943

[redacted]
4:20 PM

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY SP4 [illegible]

b1c

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: John L. Lewis et al
Civil Rights & Domestic
Violence

At this time Mr. Frank Coleman, Civil Rights Section, Criminal Division, called from the Department relative to this investigation and talked to Supervisor [redacted] You will recall that Coleman has apparently been assigned to supervise the matter in the Department. He stated that he was transmitting additional photostatic material by memorandum which should reach the Bureau today.

[redacted] took this opportunity to ask Mr. Coleman for [redacted] of the NLRB which have not as yet been made available and which the Department indicated it would review for the benefit of the Bureau and transmit any investigative leads it picked out. Mr. Coleman stated that he had been in contact with an attorney named [redacted] who is in the office of the Assistant General Counsel, NLRB. He stated that the files are being forwarded from the Regional Office to the NLRB at Chicago and the complete files of the NLRB, both regional and headquarters, can be made available, he is sure, at the Rochambeau Building where there will also be a room available for reviewing the files. He is attempting to make the necessary arrangements this afternoon and will telephonically advise.

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§6103

[redacted]

COPIES DES[redacted]

R411 JAN 11 1962

In addition, Coleman stated he is leaving for St. Louis within the next two days and plans to travel on to Springfield, Illinois, and he believes that while there he would like to talk to one or two officials of the Progressive Mine Workers Union in order to enlist their cooperation. He requested the reaction of the Bureau as to what procedure he should follow if one or more offered their complete cooperation. He also wanted to know if there would be anything irregular about the matter if he dropped in and discussed the matter with SAC Hallford. I told him I was sure Mr. Hallford would be glad to talk the case over with him but it was tactfully pointed out to Mr. Coleman that the decision as to the investigative procedure would, in the final analysis, rest with the Bureau and he understands this. In addition, in re-

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

AUG 20 1943

RECORDED

141-8455-14

[redacted]

sponse to his inquiry, I pointed out if he located an official or officials of the Progressive Mine Workers Union who indicate complete cooperation that he could give the name of this official to Mr. Hallford and we would take the necessary steps to interview him. I discouraged the suggestion of Mr. Coleman that he sit in on any interviews to be conducted in the matter since he indicated a desire to sit in on interviews.

On the whole, Mr. Coleman's conversation indicated a desire to be cooperative and it is believed that because of the nature of the case and his interest therein, he perhaps is indicating a desire to be overly cooperative. He states that above all, he does not want to interfere with the Bureau's method of conducting the investigation.

It is recommended that a letter be forwarded to SAC Hallford apprising him of the impending visit of Mr. Coleman and suggesting that he might discuss the matter generally with Coleman, but that the entire investigative technique will rest with the Bureau, et cetera.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

OK — and hereafter advise Coleman if he goes out and makes investigation he is assuming responsibility for case, that we have been ordered to conduct it and can not be responsible unless we plan and handle all interviews ourselves — if he has any suggestions he should submit them to Bureau by memo and we will give immediate consideration.

J.E.H.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/6/81 BY

b7c [redacted]

8/6/43

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to your memorandum dated August 4, 1943, wherein you transmitted photostatic copies of certain exhibits to this Bureau.

You advised that you were transmitting the third installment of exhibits, [redacted]

You also advised in your reference memorandum that you were transmitting the fourth installment of the exhibits to the investigative report mentioned above, which included Exhibits 32 to 58, inclusive. An examination of the exhibits indicates that Exhibits 30 to 43, inclusive, were enclosed. There were also enclosed photostatic copies of the following exhibits which were apparently taken from National Labor Relations Board file C-854:

Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16C, 21, 22, 23, 29, 31 and 32;

Copy of an Answer of Petition to the National Labor Relations Board and Objections of Entry to Decree, Number 6952, for the October term, 1938;

Copy of a Petition for Enforcement of the Order of the National Labor Relations Board, Number 6952, dated June 15, 1939.

There were also transmitted photostatic copies of the following exhibits which were apparently taken from National Labor Relations Board file 13-B-534: Prog. Exhibits number 1 and 7.

There were transmitted with your reference memorandum the following exhibits which were apparently taken from National Labor Relations Board file 13-C-1345: Exhibits 50, 51 and 54A.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Ace
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 1 1943
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED & INDEXED
44-8445-15
AUG 10 1943
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b7c [redacted]

There were also transmitted photostatic copies of a Decision and Direction of Election, case number R-2262, and of a Certification of Representative.

With regard to your inquiry as to the exhibits transmitted to this Bureau with your memorandum dated July 31, 1943, please be advised that a review of this material indicates Exhibits 1 to 29, inclusive, were transmitted with the exception of Exhibits 11, 12 and 15, in the installment designated at number 1.

b3

[redacted]

T26 USC §6103

As to installment 4, which was transmitted with your memorandum dated July 31, 1943, it is noted that Exhibits 93 to 122, inclusive, were transmitted.

Mr. Tolson_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm_
Mr. Clegg_____
Mr. Coffey_____
Mr. Glavin_____
Mr. Ladd_____
Mr. Nichols_____
Mr. Rosen_____
Mr. Tracy_____
Mr. Acers_____
Mr. Carson_____
Mr. Harbo_____
Mr. Hendon_____
Mr. Mumford_____
Mr. Starke_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm_
Mr. Nease_____
Miss Gandy_____

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:HO'D:klj

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 14, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Miss

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

Reference is made to your memorandum of August 10, 1943, in which you requested that I inform you when the remainder of the photostatic copies of exhibits obtained [redacted] obtained from the National Labor Relations Board would be transmitted to your Bureau.

b3
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§6103

This will advise you that all of the documents obtained from the National Labor Relations Board were delivered to your office together with an accompanying memorandum on August 12, 1943. I am sending you today a photostatic copy o[redacted] which will represent the sixth installment of the photostatic copies delivered to you. I expect to have the seventh and final installment representing exhibits 59-69 ready to send to you by Monday, August 16, 1943.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

[redacted]

b7c

RECORDED 44-845-16

AUG 18 1943

[redacted]

b7c

60 SEP 18 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
August 11, 1943

JKM:MIP
Call: 3:10 p.m.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SAC Hallford of Springfield called at this time to advise he had just learned that the St. Louis Post Dispatch of Sunday, August 8, 1943, carried an article bearing a Springfield date line saying it had been learned from a reliable source [redacted] that investigation was being made by the FBI on the basis that fourteen members of the Progressive Mine Workers were on the secret payroll of the United Mine Workers. Mr. Hallford advised that so far as he knows there has been no publicity other than in that one paper, but he received an inquiry from AP who advised him that their inquiry came out of St. Louis. He was advised by the AP men that service did not intend to run anything in the local papers because it was too controversial.

Mr. Hallford pointed out that so far his Office has not conducted a single interview, but is thoroughly familiarizing itself with the background in this case and that, therefore, it appears that the source of this release could be none other than somebody in the Department of Justice. Mr. Hallford is sending in a clipping by letter AMSD.

I questioned Mr. Hallford as to why no investigative action had been instituted in this matter as yet and he explained that he did not feel it advisable until the Agents were thoroughly familiar with all the background data in the case, and with the National Labor Relations Act. He stated it would probably be the end of this week or the first of next before any effort was made to institute actual investigation. I advised Mr. Hallford that this was an unusually special and expedite matter and that he should, therefore, make every effort to institute actual investigation at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully,

J. K. Mumford

144-845-17
F B I
32 AUG 16 1943

RECORDED

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

AUG 21 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY

[redacted]

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:JBT

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 16, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

[redacted]

b7c

Re: Mine B Coal Company; Violation
Section 51, Title 18, United States Code.

There is submitted herewith the seventh and last installment of photostatic copies of all the exhibits numbered 59 to 69, inclusive. [redacted] a copy of which was attached to my memorandum to the Attorney General, dated July 24, 1943, transmitted to you by the Attorney General's memorandum of the same date.

b3
T26
USC
§6103

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

Enclosure No. 668328

Enclosure destroyed, see memo dated 6/12/46, file no 44-845-1
6-24-46 E.W.

7/17/43
Mt Springfield

[redacted] b7c

INDEXED

44-845-18

F E I
39 AUG 19 1943

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b7c

174

30 SEP 20 1943

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:HO'D:klj

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 14, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starks
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

There is submitted herewith the 6th installment of photostatic copies of all the Exhibits [redacted] a copy of which was attached to my memorandum to the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943, transmitted to you by the Attorney General's memorandum of the same date.

The 6th installment is composed of Exhibit 123.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

Enclosure destroyed 6-24-46

Enclosure #668327

RECORDED

144-845 19

[redacted]

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[redacted] b7c

RECORDED 44-845-19

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY SP4 Jan/Bp

Date: August 17, 1943

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 14, 1943, in the above entitled matter.

For your further assistance in conducting the investigation in this case, there are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of Exhibits 123 and 59 to 69, inclusive. [redacted] a copy of which was forwarded to you with Bureau letter dated August 4, 1943. b3

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SPECIAL DELIVERY

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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AUG 17 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Mumford
Clarke
Tamm
Case
Candy

60 SEP 20 1943

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[redacted]

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. CARTWRIGHT

FROM : MISS THOMPSON

SUBJECT: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Bureau File # 44-845-12,18,19

DATE: JUNE 12, 1946

[redacted]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahr
Miss Gandy

The attached bulky enclosure has been reviewed in the Filing Unit and its destruction is hereby suggested.

The reason on which the above recommendation is based is checked as follows:

_____Duplicate copies
_____Outdated
__x__Not indexed
_____Closed status
_____Non serialized
_____Not translated
_____Material available elsewhere
Bureau Library
Other serial or serials in file
Publications

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Since the investigation in the above case was discontinued, it appears that the material would be of no further value to the Bureau.

RECOMMENDATION

As this material is occupying valuable space in the Records Section, it is requested that this file be reviewed by Security Division for an expression as to its disposition.

It is recommended that the material be destroyed here at the Seat of Government.

Destroyed 6-24-46 EGW O.K.

EM:jep

44-845-12, 18, 19.

54 JUN 24 1946

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b3 with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

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☒ For your information: Statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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FBI/DOJ

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:HO'D:klj

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 17, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

I have received your memorandum of August 7, 1943, in which you acknowledged receipt of the third and fourth installments of photostatic copies of Exhibits [redacted] You stated that the fourth installment which purported to include Exhibits 30 to 58 included Exhibits 30 to 43 together with other documents. b3 T26 USC §6103

May I advise you that Exhibit 44 is a photostatic copy of the Decision and Order dated September 19, 1938, issued by the National Labor Relations Board to the Mine "B" Coal Company.

Exhibit 45 is the document identified in your memorandum as a "Copy of an answer of Petition to the National Labor Relations Board and Objections of Entry to Decree, Number 6952, for the October Term, 1938."

Exhibit 46 is the document identified in your memorandum as a "Copy of a Petition for Enforcement of the Order of the National Labor Relations Board, Number 6952, dated June 15, 1939."

Exhibit 47 is the documents identified in your memorandum as taken from the National Labor Relations Board file C-854 and numbered as Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16G, 21, 22, 23, 29, 31 and 32. These represent 16 affidavits and should include an affidavit of [redacted]. b7c b7c (does [redacted])

Exhibit 48 is an Analysis of the Records of Local No. 54, Progressive Mines of America, disclosing the membership of that Local from November, 1939, to June, 1941.

RECORDED 144-8452

Exhibit 49 is a Petition for Investigation and Certification of Representatives Pursuant to Section 9(c) of the National Labor Relations Act dated July 30, 1940, filed by the United Mine Workers of America, with the National Labor Relations Board.

AUG 20 [redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

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Exhibits 50 and 51 are the documents identified in your memorandum as Exhibits apparently taken from the National Labor Relations Board file 13-C-1345 and marked Exhibits 50 and 51.

Exhibit 52 is a photostatic copy of a copy of a letter dated December 28, 1940, from Mr. Elshoff to Mr. Edmundson.

Exhibit 53 is a photostat of Notice of Hearing dated January 13, 1941, issued by the National Labor Relations Board.

Exhibit 54 is a photostat of statement of Regional Director concerning Claims of Authorization for the purpose of Representation dated January 14, 1941, submitted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Exhibit 54A is the document identified in your memorandum as one of the exhibits apparently taken from the National Labor Relations Board file 13-C-1345 and marked Exhibit 54A.

Exhibits 55 and 56 are the documents identified in your memorandum as exhibits apparently taken from the National Labor Relations Board file 13-R-534 and marked Prog. Exhibits Number 1 and 7 respectively.

Exhibits 57 and 58 are the documents identified in your memorandum as "photostatic copies of a Decision and Direction of Election, case number R-2262" (Exhibit 57) "and of a Certification of Representative." (Exhibit 58).

You referred to Exhibits 1 to 29 which were transmitted to your Bureau on July 31, 1943, and stated that Exhibits 11, 12 and 15 were not included but that copies of other material not marked as exhibits were included. You identify this other material as follows:

(1) [redacted]

(2) [redacted]

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§6103

(3) [redacted]

63
T26, USC,
§6103

Exhibit 15 is a photostat of Agreement dated March 31, 1937 signed by Dan McGill for the Progressive Miners of America but not signed by a representative of the Mine "B" Coal Company.

If you are unable to locate the missing exhibits from their description which I have set out herein, I will immediately furnish copies of them to you upon being so advised.

63

[redacted]

given to O'Donnell
Criminal Division
8/17/43 - [redacted]
67C

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

RECORDED

44-846-20

[redacted] b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 2/11/81 BY sp4 [illegible]

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Date: August 20, 1943

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 17, 1943, in the above entitled matter.

There are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of all pages of Exhibit 18, [redacted] a copy of which was forwarded to you with Bureau letter dated August 4, 1943, as "Photostat of a Portion of Designation of Representative for Collective Bargaining under the National Labor Relations Act, dated May 26, 1937."

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The Criminal Division has advised that Exhibit 13, which has been forwarded to your office, consists of only one page, numbered 8, [redacted] as "Photostat of Agreement dated January 18, 1936, between the Progressive Miners of America and the Mine 'B' Coal Company."

Bureau letter dated August 7, 1943, transmitted a number of photostats which were not numbered. These exhibits should be numbered as follows:

Exhibit 44 is a photostatic copy of the Decision and Order dated September 19, 1938, issued by the National Labor Relations Board to the Mine B Coal Company.

Exhibit 45 is the document identified as "Copy of an answer of Petition to the National Labor Relations Board and Objections of Entry to Decree, #6952, for the October Term, 1938."

Exhibit 46 is the document identified as a "Copy of a Petition for Enforcement of the Order of the National Labor Relations Board, #6952, dated June 15, 1939."

Exhibit 47 consists of the documents identified in reference letter of August 7, 1943, as Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16G, 21, 22, 23, 29, 31 and 32. These represent 16 affidavits and include the affidavit of [redacted] b7c

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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AUG 21 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[redacted]

Exhibit 48 is a one-page "Analysis of the Records of Local [illegible], Progressive Mines of America," disclosing the membership of that Local from June, 1939, to June, 1941.

Exhibit 49 is a "Petition for Investigation and Certification of Representatives Pursuant to Section 9(c) of the National Labor Relations Act," dated July 30, 1940, filed by the United Mine Workers of America with the National Labor Relations Board.

Exhibits 50 and 51 are the documents identified in reference Bureau letter of August 7, 1943, as exhibits taken from National Labor Relations Board file 13-C-1345 and marked Exhibits 50 and 51.

Exhibit 52 is a photostatic copy of a copy of a letter dated December 28, 1940, from Carl H. Elshoff, President of Mine B, to subject Edmundson.

Exhibit 53 is a photostatic copy of a "Notice of Hearing," dated January 13, 1941, issued by the National Labor Relations Board.

Exhibit 54 is a photostat of a statement of the Regional Director concerning claims of authorization for the purpose of Representation, dated January 14, 1941, submitted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Exhibit 54A is so marked on the photostat.

Exhibits 55 and 56 are the documents referred to in reference Bureau letter of August 7, 1943, identified as "Prog." Exhibits 1 and 7, apparently taken from National Labor Relations Board file 13-R-534.

Exhibits 57 and 58 are the documents identified in reference Bureau letter of August 7, 1943, as "Decision and Direction of Election, Case #R-2262" and "Certification of Representative."

Further reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 2, 1943, which transmitted photostatic copies of Exhibits 1 to 29, inclusive, [redacted] It is noted that Exhibits 7, 11, 12 and 15 were not so marked. These exhibits are identified as follows:

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§6103

[redacted]

b3 T26, USC, §6103

[redacted]

Exhibit 15 is a photostat of an agreement dated March 31, 1937, signed by Dan McGill for the Progressive Miners of America but not signed by a representative of the Mine B Coal Company.

It is believed that with the receipt of the enclosed material, you will be in a position to initiate the actual interviews in this case. It is again pointed out that this investigation must be expedited in order that it may be completed by September 25, 1943, in accordance with prior Bureau instructions.

Enclosure

4-750 (2-7-79)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b3 with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☒ For your information: Statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
44-845-21

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FBI/DOJ

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY SP4 [illegible]

[redacted] b7c

44-845
Date: August 27, 1943

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of three memoranda dated August 26, 1943, from the Criminal Division of the Department, and captioned #1, #2 and #3, respectively, "Mine B — Violations of Section 51, Title 18." Photostatic copies of the enclosures referred to in the respective memoranda mentioned above, are also enclosed. It is noted that these memoranda contain certain investigative suggestions as set forth by the Criminal Division.

Copies of these memoranda and enclosures are forwarded for your information and possible assistance in conducting the investigation in the above entitled matter. The suggestions of the Criminal Division should be fully developed unless a specific reason exists making it inadvisable to follow the suggestions of the Criminal Division.

Enclosure

SPECIAL DELIVERY

44-845-62
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 28 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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AUG 27 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

3 SEP 1 1943

[redacted]
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ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:HO'D:klj

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" Case — Alleged
Violations of Section 51,
Title 18, U.S. Code

[redacted]

In my memorandum to you under the date of August 11, 1943, I listed on page 2 thereof four groups of unfair labor practices requiring investigation. In connection with Group B, "Unfair labor practices between May 12, 1937 and January 4, 1938 ..." it is suggested that John Doherty be interviewed.

A memorandum (a photostatic copy of which accompanied my memorandum of August 11, 1943, as Exhibit D-33) written on October 8, 1937, by Leonard Bajork, a regional director of the National Labor Relations Board, stated that Mr. Doherty was a member of the Steel Workers Organization Committee who had suggested to Bajork that Ray Edmundson of the United Mine Workers of America was perhaps willing to reiterate his previous offer to operate Mine "B" provided the 12 suspended Progressive Mine Workers were permitted to return to the Mine.

It would be helpful if it could be ascertained what relationship existed between Doherty and Edmundson so that the former was aware of Edmundson's attitude at the time. It is not suggested that the interview with Doherty should be limited to this particular transaction, but any other information which could be obtained from him with respect to any of the four categories of unfair labor practices set out in my former memorandum would be very helpful.

b7c

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

8/23/43
Lett Springfield

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

44-845-23

Date: August 23, 1943

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 21, 1943, in the above entitled matter.

For your information the Criminal Division of the Department has requested certain investigation as to the relationship between subject Edmundson and one John Doherty. You will note that in the Memorandum for the Director received from the Criminal Division of the Department dated August 11, 1943, which was transmitted to your office by Bureau letter dated August 14, 1943, the Criminal Division on page 2 lists four groups of unfair labor practices requiring investigation. It is observed that in connection with Group B, "Unfair labor practices between May 12, 1937 and January 4, 1938...", it is suggested that John Doherty be interviewed.

The Criminal Division has now forwarded the following with regard to this matter:

"A memorandum (a photostatic copy of which accompanied my memorandum of August 11, 1943, as Exhibit D-33) written on October 8, 1937, by Leonard Bajork, a regional director of the National Labor Relations Board, stated that Mr. Doherty was a member of the Steel Workers Organization Committee who had suggested to Bajork that Ray Edmundson of the United Mine Workers of America was perhaps willing to reiterate his previous offer to operate Mine 'B' provided the 12 suspended Progressive Mine Workers were permitted to return to the Mine.

"It would be helpful if it could be ascertained what relationship existed between Doherty and Edmundson so that the former was aware of Edmundson's attitude at the time. It is not suggested that the interview with Doherty should be limited to this particular transaction, but any other information which could be obtained from him with respect to any of the four categories of unfair labor practices set out in my former memorandum would be very helpful."

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 30, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

[redacted]

It is obvious from the facts that we now know that during the period 1937 to 1941, Elshoff and the Mine "B" Coal Company expended large sums of money for legal fees and expenses in the various proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board and in the Circuit Court of Appeals, in the effort by Elshoff to avoid his obligations under the National Labor Relations Act. There also must have been substantial sums expended for legal fees and expenses in connection with Elshoff's injunction proceedings in the Federal Court in November, 1937.

It is believed, of course, that all of these expenses were financed out of the sums which were advanced to Elshoff by Lewis and Edmundson, and that the latter two subjects must have realized that the money was being expended for this purpose. In some cases, we may be able to show that particular payments were made with the specific view of financing this litigation.

[redacted]

This picture would be extremely valuable in case of trial. We would have a case where one union was financing an employer in his effort to litigate away the rights of another union.

It is requested, therefore, that an effort be made to ascertain the total expenses which Elshoff incurred during this period, and if possible, to connect up specific payments from U.M.W. with these legal expenditures.

RECORDED 44-245-24

In this connection, it is noted that the firm of Winston, Strawn and Shaw, Chicago, Illinois, is shown as counsel for the Mine "B" Coal Company on some of the pleadings

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[redacted]

filed with the Labor Board during the year 1938. This firm of lawyers is one of the most successful in the nation, and ordinarily demands a high fee for its services. It is not believed that Elshoff or the Mine "B" was in a position to retain this firm, and the conjecture is that this firm was retained by the U.M.W. on Elshoff's behalf. Evidence that this is a fact would be very valuable. It is requested that investigation be made of this lead.

Respectfully,

Tom C. Clark,

TOM C. CLARK,
Assistant Attorney General.

[redacted] b7c

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44-845 - 24

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/11/81 BY SP4 [illegible]

Date: August 31, 1943

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith copies of a memorandum dated August 30, 1943, received from the Criminal Division of the Department and captioned "Mine 'B' - Violations of Section 51, Title 18."

The investigative suggestions set forth in the attached memorandum from the Criminal Division should be fully developed unless a specific reason exists making it inadvisable to do so.

Enclosure

SPECIAL DELIVERY

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

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144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 30, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 6

Re: Mine "B"--Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

[redacted]

b7c

The victim under Section 51, Title 18, United States Code, must be a citizen of the United States. As a technical matter, therefore, it will be necessary at the trial to prove that one or more of the victims alleged in the indictment are citizens of this country.

It is suggested, therefore, that in each future interview with miners who may possibly be alleged as victims, citizenship, if it exists, be established. Citizenship, of course, will be established if the miner was born in this country or, if he was born in a foreign country, if he has been naturalized here.

I do not think it is necessary that miners already interviewed be re-interviewed on this point.

Respectfully,

Tom C. Clark

TOM C. CLARK,
Assistant Attorney General.

8/31/43
cc Springfield

[redacted]

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44-845-25

27 SEP 1 1943

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SEP 18 1943

ADDRESS REPLY TO
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AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

TCC:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 30, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 5

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

[redacted]

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[redacted]

It is also probable that when Edmundson approached Ryan in 1937 with an offer to subsidize a shut-down at Mine "A", he contemplated using money in the special account. The important point is to try to establish that the account was set up with the express purpose of using it to subsidize the operators of the Progressive mines. It should, therefore, be ascertained, if possible, the exact date when the account was set up and every transaction in connection with the account prior to the shut down of Mine "B" on May 12, 1937.

Evidence secured in connection with this request will be allocated in the trial brief under Point One, II, A.

Respectfully, RECORDED 144-845-26

Tom C. Clark

TOM C. CLARK,
Assistant Attorney General.

[redacted] b7c

9/31/43
cc Springfield
170 k

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

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144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 30, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

No. 4

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

[redacted]
b7c

It is requested that you investigate every instance, to which we have a lead, in which Elshoff was confronted by anyone with the accusation that during the shut-down he was being subsidized by U.M.W. His remarks or conduct at the time of such accusation would be admissible as admissions.

[redacted]

b3
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John L. Lewis

John Kane, who was General Counsel for the Progressives at the time, constantly stated to Board officials that he suspected that U.M.W. was making the advances to Elshoff. He should be asked whether he or any other Progressive official ever confronted Elshoff or the U.M.W. officials with this accusation and what responses he received.

Any evidence collected under this request will be allocated in the trial brief under Point Two, IV, C.

Respectfully,

Tom C. Clark
TOM C. CLARK,
Assistant Attorney General.

8/31/43
cc Springfield
[redacted] b7c

44-845-27

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b3 b7C with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

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☒ For your information: b3 Statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
44-845-28

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FBI/DOJ

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

TCC:FC:ILB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 30, 1943

[redacted]

b7c

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
No. 1
Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

b3
T26, USC, §6103

[redacted]

It is requested that [redacted] be interviewed and an effort made to ascertain how they acquired this knowledge. b7c

Respectfully,

Tom C. Clark
TOM C. CLARK,
Assistant Attorney General.

8/31/43
cc [redacted]
b7c

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144-[illegible]-29

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

44-845 - 29

Date: August 31, 1943

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith for your information and possible assistance in the investigation of the captioned case, copies of memoranda numbered 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, dated August 30, 1943, and captioned "Mine 'B' - Violations of Section 51, Title 18," which were received from the Criminal Division of the Department.

The investigative suggestions set forth by the Criminal Division should be developed at the present time currently with the other investigation in this case where it appears logical and bears on evidence that will be necessary for the presentment of this case to the grand jury. The investigative suggestions should also be followed where they can be conducted at the same time interviews and investigations are being conducted concerning other matters in this case. With regard to any of the investigative suggestions of the Department which you believe should be held in abeyance, you should advise the Bureau by letter in order that the Department may be informed accordingly.

With regard to memorandum #3, dated August 30, 1943, it is noted that an investigation was conducted in the case entitled [redacted] It appears that your office has copies of all reports with the exception of the following, copies of which are attached hereto:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated October 30, 1939, at Washington, D. C.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated December 5, 1939, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated December 8, 1939, at Oklahoma City.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated December 19, 1939, at Kansas City, Missouri. b7c

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 8, 1940, at Oklahoma City.

[redacted]

b7c

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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AUG 31 1943
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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[redacted] b7c

b7c

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 16, 1940, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 16, 1940, at Kansas City, Missouri.

For your information copies of all reports in the case entitled [redacted]" were transmitted to the Criminal Division of the Department, which concluded that there was insufficient evidence to warrant prosecution of subject [redacted]. With regard to the attached memorandum #3, it is not believed that an extensive inquiry should be conducted with regard to the facts set forth in the memorandum unless it appears that [redacted] was connected with the Nine 8 controversy or payments made by subject Lewis to subject Elshoff. At an appropriate time inquiry should be conducted to determine if [redacted] was connected with the captioned matter.

Enclosure

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
August 17, 1945

Director, FBI

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, etal;
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau is advised that Mr. FRANK COLEMAN of the Department [redacted] contacted me at Springfield, Illinois, on August 11, 1945. He had very little additional information to offer in connection with instant investigation, but those points which he did emphasize will be discussed later in this communication.

b7c

In connection with this investigation Mr. COLEMAN pointed out that probably some friction exists between the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General because of this investigation. According to Mr. COLEMAN, [redacted] and forwarded their report to the Secretary of the Treasury, and instead of the report being referred to the General Counsel for the Treasury Department, the report was sent direct to the President by the Secretary of the Treasury. Later it was determined that the matter should be referred to the Department for an opinion and the facts were taken up with the President by the Attorney General and the President desired that instant investigation be made. Mr. COLEMAN is of the opinion that some effort might be made to build up and publicize a possible feud between Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau and Attorney General Biddle similar to the Jones-Wallace affair.

b3
T26,
USC,
§6103

Mr. COLEMAN indicated that the facts in this case might be presented to a Federal Grand Jury in either Washington, D. C. or Springfield, Illinois, about October 1, 1945, but he did not make any specific request that this investigation be completed by that date.

The following persons were interviewed by Mr. COLEMAN while in the vicinity of Springfield: W. M. RYAN, 801 South Douglas, Springfield; JOHN SCHNEIDER, member of the board of P.M.W; JOHN W. HINDMARSH, regional organizer for the C.I.O., who works out of the C.I.O. Office in Chicago, Illinois, and FULLERTON FULTON, also of the C.I.O. in Chicago, Illinois. He mentioned

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[redacted] b7c

L. J. PEFFERLE, an attorney with offices located in the Reisch Building, Springfield, Illinois, who is alleged to be familiar with the Solomon Mines transaction. He suggested Mr. PEFFERLE be contacted during the course of this investigation. However, Mr. COLEMAN has not interviewed Mr. PEFFERLE.

In the presence of Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] the matter of re-investigation of certain information [redacted] was discussed, particularly with regard to documentary evidence pertaining to the payment of moneys to subject ELSHOFF. Mr. COLEMAN informed that he would assume full responsibility for developing the names of competent witnesses to introduce the documentary evidence developed by that organization and would also assume responsibility for the location of the original documents. In this connection it is believed advisable for the Bureau to communicate with the Department in order that a written confirmation may be received from the Department to this effect.

In connection with the preparation of reports in this case Mr. COLEMAN informed it would not be necessary to set out in detail the various documentary evidence submitted to the Bureau in the form of photostatic copies. He said it would be entirely satisfactory merely to refer to each exhibit by number for convenience in locating these documents in connection with data set forth in the investigative reports. He also specifically requested that no copies of the report in this connection be furnished at this time to the local United States Attorney.

With reference to the scope of the investigation, Mr. COLEMAN indicated it would be advisable to interview all of the 475 miners who were at work at Mine B on May 12, 1937, which was the date the mine was closed by a strike. He pointed out that if a majority of these miners would be willing to testify that they were liberated from what they considered the tyranny of the P.M.W. officials, such testimony would tend to show JOHN L. LEWIS as a champion of civil rights rather than a violator.

In connection with the 475 miners mentioned in the above paragraph, Mr. COLEMAN requested that signed statements be obtained from each person interviewed, even though the information furnished might be of a negative nature.

Mr. COLEMAN specifically stated that the various memoranda submitted to the Bureau in this matter merely contain suggestions as to the information he desires developed. He said he desired to leave to the Bureau's discretion any additional investigation which might be pertinent to the case. It is believed that the Bureau may desire to closely follow this matter with Mr. COLEMAN as reports are submitted in order that specific suggestions and requests may be made by the Department as to investigation desired.

b7c As [redacted] at the Bureau was telephonically advised, Mr. JOHN L. LEWIS made his appearance in Springfield about the time Mr. COLEMAN arrived in this city. Attention is again called to the fact that publicity has already been released as to the scope of the investigation suggested in the original departmental memorandum submitted to the Bureau. Those newspaper clippings have already been forwarded to the Bureau.

The documentary evidence submitted to the Bureau by the Department has been carefully reviewed by Agents assigned to this case and the following exhibits are believed necessary prior to any actual inquiry in this case:

Exhibit #15 (contract between P.M.W. and Mine B dated 1-18-36).

Exhibit #18 (the first and last page of this exhibit are presently in the files of this office but the intervening pages containing names of persons appearing on the petition are not present and it is believed advisable to have all of these names for assistance in conducting the investigation). [redacted] b7c

Exhibits #59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64 and 65 [redacted]

b3 T26, USC, §6103

b7c [redacted] of the Bureau has already been telephonically contacted and requested to obtain these exhibits and forward them to this office immediately. He has also been informed that no actual investigation or inquiry will be made of any persons in connection with this investigation until all of these exhibits are received.

In connection with the suggestion of the Department that the fourteen alleged U.M.W. spies employed in the P.M.W. be interviewed, after reviewing all the documentary evidence in this matter and other facts submitted by the Department, it is not believed advisable at this time to interview these alleged spies in the initial stage of this investigation. It is contemplated at the present time that a large number of the members of the P.M.W., as of May 12, 1937, will be interviewed and other background investigation conducted prior to the interviews with the alleged spies employed by P.M.W.

The Agents assigned to this case realize the importance of the investigation and to conduct intelligent interviews it is absolutely essential that all documentary evidence be in the hands of these Agents prior to making any investigation.

b7c When I telephonically communicated with [redacted] I pointed out that additional personnel would be necessary to handle this investigation by September 25, 1943, the Bureau deadline for completion of the case. I pointed out that at least twelve additional experienced agents would be necessary when the actual investigation was started, after receipt of all documentary evidence. It is believed that at least this number of agents will be required and possibly additional personnel. [redacted] b7c

The Bureau will be kept closely advised as to the need for additional personnel, as well as any important developments.

Very truly yours,

FH:lmj

FRED HALLFORD,
Special Agent in Charge.

b7c

[redacted]

44-845
8/28/43
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Date:

44-845-30

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

To: Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to our previous correspondence in the above entitled case, your file reference 144-10.

The Springfield Office of this Bureau has advised that Mr. Frank Coleman of the Criminal Division of the Department recently stopped at the Springfield Office and discussed the above captioned matter. In connection with the discussion of the investigation [redacted] the Springfield Office has advised that Mr. Coleman indicated the Department would develop the names of competent witnesses to introduce the documentary evidence [redacted] with regard to the payments of money by John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers Union to Carl M. Elshoff. Mr. Coleman also indicated that the Department would assume responsibility for the location of the original documents in this regard.

b3
T26, USC, §6103

Your advice would be appreciated as to whether the arrangements made by Mr. Coleman with the Springfield Office of this Bureau as set forth above are in accordance with your desires.

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E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Gesse
Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 11
AUG 30 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
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b7c

[redacted]

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b7c [redacted]

9/6/43

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There is transmitted herewith for your information a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 4, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois, in the above entitled matter. b7c

As subsequent reports are received in this case they will be made available to you immediately.

Enclosure

RECORDED 44-845-31

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 7 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Handed personally to Mr. Frank Coleman of the Dept. [redacted] b7c

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starks
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 11
SEP 6 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEP 10 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

September 4, 1943

[redacted] b7c

Time: 5:20 to 5:25 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

b7c At the above indicated time, [redacted] in my office phoned SAC Hallford, Springfield, and requested advice in response to the question whether the initial report would be available to the Bureau by the first of the week, inasmuch as the Attorney General will be leaving on Tuesday next, namely, September 7, for a two weeks vacation.

Mr. Hallford advised that the initial report had been prepared and mailed at approximately 5:10 p.m. today by the Springfield office to the Bureau, first class special delivery. He stated that the report is composed of 500 pages and weighs about 30 pounds running into about 3 volumes. In addition, he advised that the report incorporates approximately 154 statements that have been taken from miners who have been interviewed and the report should reach the Bureau by Monday. Appropriate stops have been placed so that the report will be routed to me immediately upon its receipt in the Bureau, and at that time copies will be sent to the Department immediately and the material will be summarized in a memorandum for the Director, as requested by you.

As a matter of additional information, Mr. Hallford stated that accompanying the report will be a letter pointing out certain requests received from the Department and analyzing these requests in the light of referring them back to the Department for advice, in view of what has transpired to date in the investigation. He also stated that one angle covered in the letter is the suggestion that the matter of interview with the subjects be held in abeyance until such time as the Department requests the same.

RECORDED 44-845-3J

In addition, Mr. Hallford stated that the Springfield office, starting today, is interviewing the 14 so-called "spies" who allegedly were members of the Progressive Mine Workers Union during the period of the strife between the two unions and who allegedly were paid by the United Mine Workers Union to furnish information to the UMWU as to what went on in the Progressive Mine Workers Union during the period of strife between the two Unions. [redacted] b7c

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

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In addition, Mr. Hallford stated that two of the persons interviewed have requested copies of the statements that they made. He said that the requests were tactfully refused and the matter was not pressed in any way by the persons interviewed. It was pointed out to Mr. Hallford that if these requests became numerous and aggressive he should immediately notify the Bureau so that the matter could be forwarded to the Department for the Department's information and for whatever action the Department desires to take.

To date, according to Mr. Hallford, investigation is progressing very satisfactorily and it appears from present indications that the Springfield office will be able to complete the investigation by the deadline which has been furnished to it, namely, approximately September 25, 1943. SAC Hallford briefly commented that the statements taken to date appeared to be favorable to the Government's case as outlined by theDepartment in its brief of what it desires to establish in order to prove a violation.

ACTION:

As stated above, stops have been placed with the MAIL ROOM and from present indications it would appear that the report will reach the Bureau by Monday morning some time, at which time the summary for the Director will be prepared and copies of the report immediately forwarded to the Department.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

C-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

[redacted] b7c

September 7, 1943

Time: 12:15 to 12:30 p.m.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/11/81 BY SP4 [illegible]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

b7c At the above indicated time SAC Hallford called from Springfield and talked to [redacted] in my office. He referred to his previous call to Mr. Mumford pointing out that certain individuals had requested copies of the written statements which had been submitted by them in this case and also referred to the indication that Ray Edmundson met with five of the individuals who were so-called "spies" for the UMW in the Progressive Mine Workers Union during the trouble between 1937 and 1941 at Springfield, Illinois. Apparently the meeting was held because of the fact that the Bureau Field Division at Springfield had interviewed two of the remaining twelve spies, namely Austin and Hale. The subject matter of the meeting, it was indicated through information received at the Springfield office, was to discuss the possibility of getting copies of statements which the Springfield office had taken.

Mr. Hallford advised that this morning an individual named Walter T. Day called at the Springfield office and identified himself as a partner of Attorney A. M. (Art) Fitzgerald of Springfield, Illinois, and stated that Fitzgerald was representing three individuals, namely, Austin, Hale and Bumgarner, and therefore demanded copies of the statements furnished by these men to the Springfield office. Mr. Hallford tactfully refused to furnish the statements, inasmuch as there was no foundation for the request and it was not known whether, in fact, the statements were desired by the individuals who had made them or whether Day's request was unauthorized to begin with.

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94-845-33

16 SEP 10 1943

9/7/43 [illegible]

Mr. Hallford stated that, in view of the distinct possibility that Edmundson may be engaged in a program of checking for the benefit of all subjects in this case to ascertain who gave statements and then subsequently make requests in each case through the office of Attorney Fitzgerald for copies of the same, he feels that the matter should be brought to the attention of the Department for a specific instruction as to what the Department [redacted] are in the matter.

b7c [redacted]

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

SAC Hallford pointed out that some of the statements given by the men indicate that rough treatment previously was used on them because of statements that they had given and which they thought had been given for the use of the Government but which subsequently came into the possession of the United Mine Workers and resulted in physical punishment and other action being taken against them.

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Mr. Hallford desires, therefore, that the Department be contacted and the following questions be asked:

1. Should copies of statements taken from witnesses in this case be turned over to anybody?

2. Should copies of statements taken from witnesses in this case be turned over to the witnesses themselves in the event any one of them or all of them request a copy of the statement made by himself?

3. In the event a witness stipulates that he will not give a statement of any kind unless a copy of the statement is made available to him, should he be told that it is not possible to furnish him with a copy of a statement taken by Agents of this Bureau?

It is pointed out that the above questions are raised without any reference to subjects in this case.

SAC, Hallford suggested that the Bureau might also wish to call attention of the Department for its consideration the possibility of the use of subpoenas for all individuals whom the Department desires interviewed, including those already interviewed, so that the UMW would not know who had already been interviewed from an analysis of the subpoenas in the event the subpoenas were issued only for those who have not yet been interviewed.

While talking to Mr. Hallford, it was indicated to him that he should furnish additional copies of the reports to the Bureau, inasmuch as the Department has indicated a desire to receive more than one copy and this is being done.

SAC Hallford also advised that in the event the activity of Edmundson, as pointed out above, continues and expands there is a very distinct possibility of intimidation of witnesses and there has been a faint suspicion of the same, which he is having the Agents working on the case check on, in order to run it out in the event there is such.

In connection with the possibility of intimidation, SAC Hallford pointed out that if subpoenas were actually used by the Department for the remaining interviews, of course, the Department would be in a better position to do something about the intimidators.

Mr. Hallford stated that he desires to be advised today, if possible, telephonically as to the results of the Department's desires in the matter, inasmuch as it will be necessary for the Agents working on the case to know how to answer any requests for copies of statements in order that there will be no delay in the completion of the case.

b7c

ACTION: With your approval, Agent [redacted] will contact Mr. Frank Coleman in the Department telephonically regarding this matter, advising him that a memorandum of confirmation is being forwarded to the Department and requesting expeditious action on the reply.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

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DATE 2/11/81 BY Sp4 [illegible]

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[redacted] 9/7/43 44-845-33

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

b7c

Reference is made to the telephonic conversation between Mr. F. C. Coleman of your office and Mr. [redacted] of this Bureau on September 7, 1943, regarding the request for copies of the signed statements given by three of the individuals interviewed by the Springfield Office in connection with the captioned matter.

The Springfield Office of this Bureau has advised that James Hale and Frank Austin, two of the twelve individuals alleged to have been on the United Mine Workers pay roll while members of the Progressive Mine Workers Union prior to May, 1937, requested that they be given copies of the signed statements they executed subsequent to their recent interviews by Agents of this Bureau at Springfield, Illinois. The request of these individuals was not complied with by the Springfield Office.

The Springfield Office has now advised that on the morning of September 7, 1943, a Mr. Walter T. Day called at the Springfield Office and identified himself as a partner of attorney A. M. Fitzgerald of Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Day advised that Mr. Fitzgerald was representing three individuals, namely, James Hale, Frank Austin and a Mr. Bumgarner. It will be noted that a Mr. Bumgarner was formerly an organizer for the United Mine Workers of America at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois, and was interviewed as a prospective witness in the above captioned case. Mr. Day demanded that copies of the statements given by the above named three men be furnished to him. The request of Mr. Day was not complied with by the Springfield Office.

The Springfield Office advised that apparently a meeting was held between subject Ray Edmundson and five of the twelve individuals referred to above as having been on the pay rolls of both Unions in 1937, after Mr. Hale and Mr. Austin had been interviewed. The Springfield Office has further stated that the possibility exists that subject Edmundson may attempt to ascertain the names of all prospective witnesses interviewed by the Springfield Office in this case and thereafter may attempt to obtain permission from these prospective witnesses to request copies of statements which they have executed.

In view of the above facts, it will be appreciated if you would advise this Bureau whether copies of statements taken from prospective

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Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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b7c [redacted]

witnesses in the above entitled matter should be given to the witnesses in the event they, themselves, make such a request. Your advice would also be appreciated as to whether copies of statements taken from prospective witnesses in this case should be turned over to any individual other than the prospective witness who gave the signed statement. In the event the prospective witness stipulates that he will not give a statement of any kind unless a copy of the statement is made available to him, your advice is desired as to whether the witness should be informed that it will not be possible to furnish him with a copy of a statement that he may make. Your advice would also be appreciated as to the procedure that should be followed by Agents of this Bureau in the event a prospective witness in this case refuses to give a statement unless in the presence of his attorney.

b7c [redacted] In this regard, it is noted in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 4, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois, a copy of which was transmitted to the Department on September 6, 1943, that many of the miners interviewed indicated that they did not desire the information given by them used except before a secret grand jury or in court inasmuch as they feared possible physical violence and other reprisals should the fact that they had given information possibly derogatory to the United Mine Workers Union of America become known.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 21 1943

TELEMETER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY Sp4 Jm/bp

Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Teletype Room

[redacted]

WASH FROM CHICAGO 6 21 3-50 PM

DIRECTOR, SAC SPRINGFIELD

JAPE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS OF MR. ROBERT HENDON, THE FOLLOWING THREE AGENTS ARE PROCEEDING ELEVEN FIFTY NINE P. M. AUGUST TWENTY SECOND INSTANT TO SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT FOR PERIOD OF THIRTY TO FORTY FIVE DAYS. SAS [redacted] [redacted] WILL REPORT TO SPRINGFIELD OFFICE MONDAY [redacted] MORNING NEXT.

DRAYTON

RECORDED 44-845-34

F 8 1

15 SEP 15 1943

[redacted]

60 SEP 18 1943

ACKERLS

Springfield advised

CALLED CH. CLK OFFICE

John L. Lewis

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

LBN:LMN

September 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

I have made a vigorous protest to Walcolmson over the stories which have appeared in the papers on the investigation of John L. Lewis in Springfield. Walcolmson stated he is powerless to do anything about this, that he knows for a fact that Morgenthau and Irey are responsible for the statements. [redacted]

Walcolmson told me strictly off the record that Morgenthau at one of his press conferences was asked, after he had finished his on-the-record conference and when speaking off-the-record, by one of the reporters present whether the Treasury Department was investigating John L. Lewis. Morgenthau stated off the record that the Treasury Department had turned the matter over to the Department of Justice and gave the facts in the case, which have been published in both [redacted] and in the New York Daily News.

b7c

Walcolmson told me in confidence that he got this information from [redacted] who attended Morgenthau's press conference. He stated that Biddle got so mad that he wrote a letter to Morgenthau which he wanted to release to the press, condemning Morgenthau for his talking out of school. The letter was written on the same day that the President issued his statement that should any Government official see fit to criticize another Government official, he should submit his resignation. Accordingly, Biddle did not send the letter but instead called Morgenthau on the phone and made vigorous protest. Morgenthau denied making the statement and Biddle told him he knew he had made the statement.

I told Walcolmson that it was clear that the premature publicity was not helping our investigation, that if anything went wrong with our investigation we could merely state it was because of the premature publicity and that we were not responsible.

Respectfully,

L. B. Nichols

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44-845-35
SEP 15 1943

[redacted]

FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY

b7c

SEP 22 1943

CC-287a

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson
Mr. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

LBN:GDC

August 31, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR *MR. TOLSON*

For record purposes Berkley of the AP called me on August 30th to inquire whether the FBI had any comment on the story appearing in the August 30th issue of the newspaper to the effect that the FBI was investigating a $350,000 loan which John L. Lewis made to a coal miner in Illinois which was connected in some way directly or indirectly with his trips out there and for which he is now being investigated by OPA.

I told him that we had no comment to make.

b7c [redacted]

Respectfully,

RECORDED
INDEXED

44-845-36
F B I
15 SEP 15 1943

[redacted]

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

60 SEP 18 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/11/81 BY SP4 [illegible]

Springfield, Illinois
September 10, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL;
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Dear Sir:

b7c

Reference is made to the recent conversation had with [redacted] at the Bureau, who requested that nine copies of all reports in this matter be furnished the Bureau in the future, as the Department had requested four copies of all reports.

I pointed out to [redacted] at the time of his call that when the report of Special Agent [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, dated September 4, 1943, was being prepared, two additional copies other than the ones outlined in the report had been prepared by this office and were about to be destroyed, as this office had all necessary copies. [redacted] requested that these two copies of Agent [redacted] report be transmitted to the Bureau.

Pursuant to [redacted] request, two copies of the above-referred to report are being transmitted to the Bureau under separate cover via bill of lading number J-244549.

Very truly yours,

Fred Halliford

FRED HALLFORD,
SAC.

FH:lmj
44-18

RECORDED

44-845-37

SEP 15 1943

[redacted]

b7c

2 cc to Clark 9/12/43 [redacted]

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R411 JAN 11 1962

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

176

SEP 18 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
September 10, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY

Director, FBI

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Dear Sir:

b7c

The following information is being submitted pursuant to instructions of [redacted] of the Bureau.

The following information obtained in investigation of this case indicates that persons interviewed have been advised to guard their statements to Bureau Agents on the following occasions.

On the morning of September 4, 1943, ANTHONY J. PLOTCH, JOHN MANIAS, JR., and JOSEPH ALBANESE, went to the office of the United Mine Workers and had a conversation with RAY EDMUNDSON, who called Attorney ARTHUR FITZGERALD, who then came to the office and advised these men not to make any statements to agents of the Bureau unless he was present.

Sometime during Labor Day, September 6, 1943, [redacted] was approached on the street in Springfield and given a typewritten note by a person whose name he did not know, but whom he knew to be employed at Mine B. This person told [redacted] that if he was approached by Bureau Agents, to tell them nothing and tell them to see Attorney FITZGERALD. This note contained FITZGERALD's name and address.

b7c

On the morning of September 7, 1943, a meeting was held at the shaft at Mine B, and a lawyer, whose identity is not now known, reportedly made a stump speech and advised men not to talk to the FBI representatives when they called. A different interpretation of this statement was that the Attorney advised that they did not need to talk to the FBI Agents if they didn't want to. CHARLES BOHANNON and LEE OMER "CUDGE" BAUMGARNER were at the shaft and evidently arranged this impromptu meeting.

RECORDED & INDEXED 44-945-38

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In the afternoon of September 7, 1943, at the end of the day shift, BAUMGARNER and BOHANNON were at the shaft of Mine A and

SEP 18 1943

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

advised former Mine B employees not to talk to Bureau Agents and to give them the name of Attorney ARTHUR FITZGERALD if they were asked why.

On September 7, 1943, Mr. WALTER A. DAY, Attorney-at-law, called at the Springfield Office, accompanied by FRANK AUSTIN, JAMES HALE and one BAUMGARTNER, who had previously been interviewed by Agents of this office in connection with this case. I conferred with Mr. DAY in the presence of Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] and Mr. DAY requested that he be furnished with copies of the statements executed by AUSTIN, HALE and BAUMGARTNER to Special Agents of this Bureau.

I specifically asked Mr. DAY who he was representing and he said he could not answer this question and I asked him if he was representing Messrs. AUSTIN, HALE and BAUMGARTNER, and he said he was not but that he was representing and assisting Mr. ARTHUR FITZGERALD, Attorney-at-law in Springfield who was counseling UMW miners who were sent to his, FITZGERALD's office. Mr. DAY stated that he knew of a number of persons who had executed statements to Agents of this Bureau and that eventually he would know the identity of most of the miners who had executed a statement to this Bureau and probably a request would be directed to this office to receive copies of all the signed statements executed by miners to Agents of this Bureau. I suggested to Mr. DAY that if Mr. FITZGERALD desired copies of all these statements that Mr. FITZGERALD should set forth such a request in a letter to this office but at the present time no assurance could be given him, Mr. DAY or Mr. FITZGERALD, that copies of such statements could be furnished.

Nothing else was discussed with Mr. DAY at the time he called at this office and Messrs. AUSTIN, HALE and BAUMGARTNER were not interviewed or present when this conversation transpired between Mr. DAY and myself.

I advised Attorney DAY today, September 10, 1943, that it would be necessary for him to communicate with the Attorney General in reference to obtaining copies of statements executed by his clients. Mr. DAY was satisfied with this statement.

The following persons, upon being contacted by Agents, refused to give any information concerning matters involved in this case, saying that they had been advised to do so by Attorney FITZGERALD:

CHARLES BOHANNON, 131 Fitzgerald.
JOSEPH ALBANESE, 912 E. Carpenter.
ANDREW SIRELEVICUS, 1731 E. Carpenter.
DOMINIC PASQUALE, 926 N. Daniel.
ANTHONY J. PLOTCH, 113 S. Paul.
JOHN COTTON ANANIAS, JR., 1200½ N. 14th.
TONY ZARA, 609 W. Carpenter.
MEARL BAUMGARNER, 1224 E. Capitol.

WILLIAM ANSKY, 1528 Pennsylvania Avenue, Springfield, refused to give any information until he had conversed with his Attorney BURKE, Attorney for the United Mine Workers.

ANDREW J. RYAN, 1846 Wirt, Springfield, refused to advise who had counseled him against giving any statements.

The following persons requested copies of their signed statements at the time they were first interviewed but gave statements even though their request had been refused:

FRANK AUSTIN, 3020 Woodward.
GEORGE SIRTOUT, 3520 E. Enos.
RAY A. SMITH, 1904 E. Cook.

The following persons advised that they had been counseled to give no statements but gave statements to Agents nevertheless:

b7c [redacted]

No persons other than AUSTIN, HALE and BAUMGARNER, who executed statements previously have requested copies be furnished to them after the completion of the interview.

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD
Special Agent in Charge

[redacted] b7c

44-18

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 24 1943

TELETYPE

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Lee
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Teletype Room

FBI MILWAUKEE 8-24-43 5-15 PM CWT

DIRECTOR

PUNY. SA [redacted] WILL DEPART AT FIVE TEN AM, AUGUST TWENTYFIFTH, FOR SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS TO REPORT TO SPECIAL [redacted] AGENT IN CHARGE F. HALLFORD, [redacted] FOR SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT PURSUANT [redacted] TO INSTRUCTIONS OF MR. ROBERT HENDON. WILL ARRIVE AT SPRINGFIELD ELEVEN FORTYFIVE AM, AUGUST TWENTYFIFTH.

OCONNOR

END ACK PLS

6-16 PM OK FBI WASH DC ADK

RECORDED

44-845-39
F B I
15 SEP 15 1943

[redacted]

CALL CH. CLK. OFFICE

b7C

176

60 SEP 18 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

C

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

August 19, 1943

1

[redacted]

Call: 3:00 PM
Dictated: 4:45 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to my memorandum dated August 17, 1943, in the above entitled matter, advising that Mr. Frank Coleman of the Department stated that certain exhibits [redacted] which had been forwarded to this Bureau and which were not complete, would be forwarded by special messenger on August 18, 1943.

b3

b3
b7C
b3

Inasmuch as [redacted] is needed by the Springfield Office in conducting interviews with a number of the miners in this case, I had SA [redacted] contact Mr. Coleman at the above time with reference to this exhibit. Mr. Coleman advised that he had sent [redacted] to the Bureau by special messenger on the morning of Aug. 19, 1943. Mr. Coleman checked with his clerk, however, and discovered that the memorandum and exhibit had been sent through the regular mail and therefore it would probably not arrive at the Bureau before this evening.

b3
Statute
in
T26,
USC,
§6103

During the course of the conversation, SA [redacted] made an incidental reference to his previous conversation on August 17, 1943, with Mr. Coleman, wherein the latter stated that the Attorney General might suggest to the Office of Price Administration that it withhold any contemplated prosecution of Lewis for violation of the pleasure driving ban in view of the fact that the Department was contemplating a more serious prosecution of Lewis. In this regard Mr. Coleman stated that the Attorney General had indicated to him that he would attempt to have the OPA prosecution stopped. Mr. Coleman then advised that in the event the Attorney General did not take any action on this matter within the next day or so, he, himself, with the permission of the Attorney General, would attempt to have the OPA informed of the Department's contemplated prosecution in this case. In this regard, it was pointed out to Mr. Coleman that the Bureau, of course, contemplated no action relative to the possible OPA prosecution as it was a matter within the province of the Department. Mr. Coleman indicated that he agreed and stated that he would follow the matter through.

b3

ACTION:

RECORDED 44-845-40

Immediately upon the receipt of [redacted] from the Department, it will be forwarded to the Springfield Office.

SEP 15 1943

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

b7C

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/11/81 BY

60 SEP

Received 8/20/43 P.M. [illegible]

[redacted]

CC-287

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

RCH:DSS

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

August 20, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Pursuant to my discussion with Mr. Ladd today I telephoned the SACs and ASACs of the following offices and instructed that they have the number of men shown report on special assignment to SAC Hallford at Springfield, Illinois, not later than the dates indicated. They were instructed to select topnotch men who could handle interviews of the type necessary in this case and who could also properly represent the Bureau on the witness stand at a later date, if necessary.

Chicago	3	August 23
Cincinnati	1	August 23
Cleveland	2	August 23
Detroit	2	August 25
Indianapolis	1	August 23
Milwaukee	1	August 25
St. Louis	1	August 23
St. Paul	1	August 25

I told SAC Drayton and ASAC Damron if all of these men could not get there Monday they should get there not later than the 25th. All of the SACs were advised that the special would be for at least 45 days' duration.

Respectfully,

R. C. Hendon

RECORDED

44-845-41
F B I
15 SEP 15 1943
[redacted]

Phoned Sac Hallford 6:10 PM - 8/21/43 - Buckley -

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY Sp4 [illegible]

60 SEP 18 1943

4-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

6 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b7C b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____ _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

_____

_____

☐ For your information: _____

_____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
44-845-42

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
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XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943

AMSD
URGENT

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY SP4 [illegible]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS; RAY EDMUNDSON; WALTER J. JAMES; CARL H. ELSHOFF; OSCAR FALCETTI. CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. (Bureau file #44-845)

Dear Sir:

b7c

The Norfolk Field Division is being requested to interview [redacted] who is presently residing in care of [redacted] Norfolk, Virginia.

For the information of the Norfolk Office, prior to 1932, all coal mines in the state of Illinois had closed shop contracts with the United Mine Workers, a labor organization of which subject LEWIS is presently International President, and of which subjects EDMUNDSON and JAMES are President and Treasurer, respectively, of District 12, which comprises the state of Illinois. In 1932 the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed in Illinois, as a rival labor organization for coal miners. The P.M.W. of A. was formed as a result of a dispute between Illinois Coal miners and JOHN L. LEWIS over a proposed wage reduction being sponsored by LEWIS. In 1932 almost all mines in Illinois signed closed shop agreements with P.M.W. of A. By 1937, however, following serious rioting and domestic disturbances, a large number of the revolting local unions had rejoined the U.M.W.

The two mines, located near Springfield, Illinois, involved in this case are Mine B, operated by subject ELSHOFF, with subject FALCETTI as Mine Superintendent, and a neighboring mine, known as Mine A, then operated by WILLIAM RYAN.

INDEXED 44-845-43

In 1937 both of these mines had closed shop agreements with the P.M.W. of A. Approximately twelve men employed in Mine B at that time were allegedly paid spies of the U.M.W. and were causing dissension among the men at Mine B over the contract and otherwise. On May 12, 1937 a strike was called by the P.M.A. at Mine B, either as a result of wage dissatisfaction, or because Mine B refused to discharge five of these men who had been expelled from the P.M.A. because of activities in behalf of the U.M.W. Mine B did not reopen until November 6, 1939, when it reopened as an open shop. Following that the U.M.W.

[redacted]

b7c

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R411 JAN 11 1962
30 SEP 18 1945

Op. 7

entered into a vigorous organization campaign, in which subjects ELSHOFF and FALCETTI allegedly assisted by favoring the U.M.W. members, and hindering the P.M.A. employees in every way. In February, 1941 following some violence an N.L.R.B. election was held and the U.M.W. was selected as bargaining Agent.

b3
T26, USC
§6103

[redacted].

Mine A adjoins Mine B and is connected underground with Mine B in several places. In the summer of 1941, WILLIAM RYAN sold his interest in Mine A to subject ELSHOFF for the sum of $60,000 which was furnished by the U.M.W. at LEWIS' direction. At that time, Mine A was closed by seasonal closure. When the mine closed at the end of the former contract period, Mine A had been operated on a closed shop contract with the P.M.A. About 10 days following the announcement of the purchase of Mine A by ELSHOFF, the miners at Mine A joined the United Mine Workers, and Mine A was reopened. This occurred in the first two weeks of September, 1941.

The circumstances involved in the miners at Mine A changing unions at this time are not fully known, and involve one of the circumstances in this case possibly indicating a conspiracy among subjects to violate the civil rights of the miners. After the announcement of subject ELSHOFF's operation of Mine A was made, rumors spread quickly that Mine A was to be closed, and that the coal was to be taken from Mine A through Mine B, a condition which was known to be possible by the miners in Mine A. This was spread by impression among the P.M.A. miners that ELSHOFF favored the U.M.W. and would not operate with P.M.A. men. A rumor started that Mine A could be reopened if it would be operated by U.M.W. personnel. Two meetings were held of the P.M.A. local at the P.M.A. hall. At the first meeting a committee was appointed to contact ELSHOFF, which was unable to reach him. At the second meeting, the members all seemed to feel that they must change in order to work. A new committee was appointed which evidently reported to EDMUNDSON and arranged for a meeting held at Redman's Hall, occasionally used by the U.M.W. EDMUNDSON reportedly spoke to the local at that meeting. Another meeting was held at the Elk's Club soon thereafter when the men voted to change to the U.M.W. EDMUNDSON also addressed that meeting. [redacted] at both of these meetings, and may also have talked to EDMUNDSON with the committee.

b7c

Following the last meeting EDMUNDSON called ELSHOFF and negotiations were made that night for signing of a contract for Mine A

with the U.M.W. [redacted] may have been present at those negotiations. [redacted] should be interviewed in an effort to obtain information regarding any assurances EDMUNDSON made that the mine would open if the union were U.M.W., his statements concerning the extent of his relationship with ELSHOFF, and whatever statements ELSHOFF or FALCETTI may have made concerning their plans for operation of Mine A and their relationship with the U.M.W. He should be questioned as to the existence and location of any record made of those meetings.

A signed statement should be obtained from [redacted] containing any information either positive or negative that he may have concerning this matter.

A report in this matter should be submitted no later than September 15, 1943. Nine copies of this report should be submitted to the Bureau and five copies to this office.

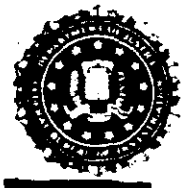
Very truly yours,

FRED HALIFORD
SAC

[redacted]
44-18
cc to Norfolk

b7c

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

b7c [redacted]
Time: 3:20 p.m.

August 27, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

b7c At this time Mr. Frank Coleman of the Department, Civil Rights Section, called and talked to [redacted] of my office, at which time he stated that he had recently received information that an individual named [redacted] described as an official in the United Mine Workers of America, had offered a bribe to one [redacted] an official of the National Labor Relations Board in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which bribe may have been in connection with the subject matter of the instant investigation at Springfield, Illinois, that is, the differences between the Progressive Mine Workers Union of America and the United Mine Workers of America.

Mr. Coleman suggested that it might be a good idea to check the Bureau files and pointed out that he was having the Departmental files checked to ascertain if they contain any corroborating information relative to this allegation.

b7c Of particular interest is the statement made by Mr. Coleman to [redacted] that he has been advised that the Chicago Daily News today, August 27, carried an article referring to the fact that the FBI is presently investigating John L. Lewis and the circumstances surrounding his activities at Springfield, Illinois, which activities are the subject matter of instant investigation, and he further indicated that the article contained a fairly accurate statement concerning the Department's plan to hold a grand jury either very late in September or early in October.

T 26, USC, § 6103

b3 [redacted]

b7c [redacted] indicated to Mr. Coleman that this was definitely a very undesirable situation and that he could understand the fact that the Bureau protested the same and felt that the Attorney General's office should be in a position to registe a complaint with either the Secretary of the Treasury or [redacted] and should request that such a practice of issuing information about an investigation in which they are not concerned is not only undesirable but entirely unethical.

RECORDED 44-844-47

ACTION: 1. A check of the files is being made relative to the information regarding the alleged bribe being paid by [redacted] to [redacted] an NLRB official.

INDEXED

SEP 15 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 2/11/81 BY SP4 [illegible]

[redacted]

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b3 T26, USC, §6103

2. It is suggested that you may wish to take up the angle as to the [redacted], with Mr. Nichols in order that he might in turn take the matter up with the Departmental officials through Mr. Malcolmson.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

[redacted]

44-845

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

August 31, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to my memorandum to you dated August 27, 1943, captioned as above, wherein you were advised that the Chicago Daily News carried an article dated August 27, 1943, referring to the fact that the FBI is presently investigating John L. Lewis and the circumstances surrounding the captioned case.

You will recall that the information regarding the article in the Chicago Daily News was furnished by Mr. Frank Coleman of the Department, who stated that the article was fairly accurate in its statement concerning the Department's plans to hold a grand jury either late in September or early in October, 1943. [redacted]

b3
T26
USC,
[illegible]

Mr. Coleman has also indicated that there is some feeling between the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General with regard to the prosecution of this case.

With regard to the attached article captioned "Grand Jury to Probe $350,000 Lewis 'Loan' to Mine," which appeared on August 30, 1943, in the newspaper P.M., it appears that someone has given a rather exact statement outlining the theory of investigation in the captioned case. In view of the fact that publicity is, of course, very undesirable from an investigative standpoint at this time, it is believed that the Bureau should be on record protesting such publicity with the Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that this memorandum be referred to Mr. Nichols in order that he might take the matter up with Department officials through Mr. Malcolmson and possibly secure more definite advice as to the author of the publicity in this matter and thereafter register an appropriate protest.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

44-845-45

[redacted]

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-17779-3-2

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

Grand Jury to Probe $350,000 Lewis 'Loan' to Mine

File

[redacted] b7c

FBI Is Working on Case; That Explains His 'Pleasure' Trip to Illinois

By Gordon H. Cole
PM's Bureau

3

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, is innocent of any charge that he used gasoline for pleasure driving on his recent trip to Springfield, Ill.—even though he spent 36 hours visiting his 84-year-old mother, Mrs. Anna Lewis.

Any public report on the OPA investigation of the trip will exonerate Lewis of all charges and show that the mine union chief's drive from Alexandria, Va., to the Illinois coal fields was no pleasure jaunt.

Covered It Up

Lewis drove to Illinois on business—business that he chose to cover up by his remark to a reporter at Decatur, Ill., that he was just driving up to Springfield to see his mother. Lewis' C book for gasoline permits him to use his Buick for union business.

The fact is that Lewis went to Springfield because agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were there checking into the financial transactions between Lewis' union and the Mine B Co., a coal operator that engaged in a long and costly lockout of members of a rival AFL union at a time when Lewis was trying to oust the rival union from the Illinois coal fields.

Listed as Loan

The case is scheduled to be presented to a grand jury at Springfield within the next few weeks, it was learned here.

The facts in the case, first reported by PM last Fall, indicate that Lewis' union handed the Mine B Co. some $350,000 at about the time of the lockout that enabled UMW organizers to raid the rival union's membership.

The transaction is listed on the union books as a loan. Since the FBI investigation was begun, Carl Elshoff, president of the Mine B Co., is reported to have paid $1000 on the debt.

There also are charges that Lewis kept some 14 members of the rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America, AFL, on its payroll during the time of the fight for exclusive bargaining rights.

The FBI is investigating the possibility that the union leaders conspired illegally to deprive employes of the Mine B Co. of their civil rights under the National Labor Relations Act. That law guarantees workers the right to join the union of their own choice.

A written law put on the books in 1870, principally to break the Ku Klux Klan, makes such conspiracy illegal.

It was this same law that was used to aid the UMW in 1938—the year of the Mine B lockout—during the prosecution of coal operators in Harlan County, Ky. The Justice Dept. lost that case because the jury was unable to agree.

Conviction under this law carries criminal penalties.

Evidence of the financial transaction between the UMW and the Mine B Co. was first discovered by agents of the U. S. Treasury Department during an investigation of Lewis' and the UMW books in a tax matter.

The facts were referred to the White House and thence to the Justice Dept. for prosecution. Justice officials, fearing charges that they were attempting to persecute Lewis for political reasons, delayed action in the case so long that there have been charges that they are neglecting their duty in the matter

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

9/3/43 [illegible] [redacted] b7c

This is a clipping from page 3 of P M

for Aug. 30, 1943

Clipped at the Seat of Government

44-845-45

ENCL

[redacted] b7c
9/6/43

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There is transmitted herewith for your information a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 1, 1943, at Miami, Florida, in the above entitled matter. b7c

As subsequent reports are received in this case they will be made available to you immediately.

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY SP4 [illegible]

RECORDED

44-845-46

15 SEP 15 1943

RECEIVED READING ROOM
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Hanford
Clarke
Winn
Case
Kady

SEP 18 1943

[redacted] b7c

[redacted] b7c

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
September 4, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY sp4 [illegible]

Director, FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
(Bureau File No. 44-845)

[redacted]

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the Bureau's copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Springfield, Illinois, September 4, 1943. It is noted that each copy of this report consists of three volumes.

For the Bureau's information, it is stated that an examination of the accounting phases of this investigation is under way, and will be made the subject of a separate report in the near future. In this connection it is noted that the accountant's work at present consists of examining the photostats which have been forwarded from the Bureau.

DEFERRED RECORDING

It is further noted that in the event the Department should deem it advisable to have testimony along the lines of such conclusions as the accountant may be able to make, it will be necessary either for the accountant to examine all of the original source material in order to be able to testify, [redacted] in the event it should be deemed advisable for a Bureau accountant to prepare himself to testify, it appears that the Bureau accountant would have to spend several months locating and examining the original source data.

b3
T26, USC, §6103

It is noted that Memorandum No. 1 dated August 30, 1943, signed by Tom C. Clark, Assistant Attorney General, mentioned that two individuals named [redacted] and [redacted] informed Jack Glasgow that District No. 12 was paying Elshoff during the shutdown of Mine "B". This memorandum contains a request that [redacted] be interviewed.

Glasgow has advised that [redacted] did not inform him that District No. 12 was paying Elshoff. He said [redacted] merely advised him that the International United Mine Workers of America had loaned District No. 12 $400,000.00, and [redacted] inquired of Glasgow as to whether he thought there

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[redacted]

was any possibility that part of this money had been paid to Elshoff. Accordingly, it does not appear that it would be essential to interview [redacted] Glasgow has advised that [redacted] presently holds a position of importance in U.M.W., and accordingly, it is felt an interview with him should be deferred until specific authority is received to interview the subjects of this investigation.

It is noted that Memorandum No. 3 dated August 30, 1943, signed by Tom C. Clark, Assistant Attorney General, requests investigation concerning the activities of [redacted] who apparently were involved in a matter concerning the Alston Coal Company, Pittsburg, Kansas. It is noted that the Department stated it is possible that the Alston Coal Company controversy may be linked into the case as part of the larger conspiracy to destroy the Progressive organization.

Inasmuch as the Alston matter is apparently entirely separate from the incidents under investigation in Illinois, it does not appear that it would be worthwhile to go into that matter at all unless the Department is prepared to request a complete investigation of the matter along lines similar to those involved in the instant investigation. Accordingly, no investigation of that matter is being undertaken by this office. However, in the event investigation of the instant matter reveals that [redacted] played some part therein, an investigation of his part in the instant matter will be made in due course.

Reference is made to Memorandum No. 1 dated August 19, 1943, signed by Wendell Berge, Assistant Attorney General, in which it is requested that the principal Progressive Mine operators be interviewed to determine whether U.M.W. officials have made proposals to them of interest to this investigation. It is possible that inquiries along this line will result in information indicating that mines which have been operated under Progressive contracts have switched to U.M.W. contracts under conditions which would indicate a possibility of collusion between U.M.W. officials and mine operators.

The details of such incidents as may arise will be furnished to the Bureau immediately by letter. However, it is pointed out that the completed investigation of such incidents of that nature that may arise would probably require additional time inasmuch as it could be presumed that the facts surrounding each transaction of this nature would be at least as complicated as the facts surrounding the instant inquiry.

It is noted that a good many of the investigative suggestions which have been submitted by the Department seem to imply that the Department

b7c

desires that the various subjects be interviewed by Bureau Agents. However, it is my opinion that before such interviews are undertaken, a specific request in writing from the Department should be obtained. Along this line it is noted that the Department has requested investigation concerning [redacted] It is believed that this lead should be held in abeyance until it is determined whether Agents of this office are to interview John L. Lewis.

b7c
b7D

It is observed that the Department has requested that it be ascertained whether Phillip Murray, President of CIO, had any connection with the payments of U.M.W. funds to Elshoff. [redacted] It is suggested that the Bureau ascertain from the Department whether it is desired that Murray be reinterviewed on this point. This office will, of course, make appropriate inquiries during the investigation to ascertain from persons interviewed whether there was any indication that Murray knew of, or participated in, these transactions.

b3
T26,
USC,
§6103

It is further noted that in Memorandum No. 5 dated August 27, 1943, signed by Wendell Berge, Assistant Attorney General, there is an implied request that John O'Leary, an official of U.M.W., be interviewed. It is believed that this interview should likewise be held in abeyance until it is determined whether Agents of this office are to interview Lewis.

With reference to the instant investigation I feel that the work is progressing satisfactorily, and that it will be possible to complete all of the essential investigation requested by the Department to date by September 25, 1943.

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD
Special Agent in Charge

b7c [redacted]
44-18

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
August 28, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

SPECIAL DELIVERY

[redacted]

Director, FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 21, 1943 in captioned matter and particularly to paragraph 3 of that letter wherein it is stated that the criminal division has advised of an injunction proceedings in State Court in 1932 instituted by the Progressive Mine Workers of America against JOHN L. LEWIS. The Bureau requested two copies of the proceedings in connection with that matter.

In connection with that request there is submitted herewith five copies of a memorandum prepared by Special Agent [redacted] which is self-explanatory. No further action is contemplated in connection with this particular matter unless the Bureau instructs to the contrary.

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD
SAC

b7c

Encl.
[redacted]
44-18

9/1/43
ack

44-845-48
15 SEP 15 1943

[redacted]

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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~~411 JAN 11 1962~~

60 SEP 18 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY

Springfield, Illinois
August 28, 1943

AUG 28 1943

MEMORANDUM

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ~~et al~~
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to paragraph 3 of Bureau letter dated August 21, 1943 wherein it is set out that the Criminal Division has advised that in 1932 injunction proceedings were instituted in the State Court in Springfield, Illinois against LEWIS which resulted in an injunction forbidding LEWIS from interfering with Progressive Mine Workers' activity in Illinois. The Criminal Division requested a copy of these proceedings be secured and forwarded to the Department.

A careful search of the records of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois, failed to reveal any injunction proceedings wherein the Progressive Mine Workers of America and JOHN L. LEWIS were parties to the action.

A similar search of the records of the Federal District Court, Southern District, Southern Division of Illinois, was negative.

The records, however, of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois, under docket #52104 reflect that a bill of complaint was filed October 11, 1929 by HARRY FISHWICK, et al, against JOHN L. LEWIS, et al. This was an action in chancery requesting immediate temporary injunction and permanent injunction by the officers of the then District 12, U.M.W. of A. against JOHN L. LEWIS and other officers of the International U.M.W. and individuals whom LEWIS had appointed to assume the various offices of District 12 in place of the elected officers, HARRY FISHWICK being one of the elected officers. In this case JOSEPH A. LONDRIGAN and FLOYD E. THOMPSON were the principal attorneys representing FISHWICK. The principal attorneys representing JOHN L. LEWIS were HENRY WARRUM, CHARLES E. TEIRICH, M. PULVERMAN and GILLESPIE, BURKE, and GILLESPIE.

The docket alone in this case consumed several pages and it is believed at this time too voluminous to quote. Numerous pleadings were filed including several amended bills of complaint, several answers and amended answers, several cross bills, amended answers to cross bills and amended cross bills. From time to time numerous complainants and defendants were added and subtracted from the suit. The suit was very active during the remainder of 1929 and 1930. On April 17, 1930 the Court ordered a citation for contempt against JOHN L. LEWIS and several others. Later in July the citation against most of the others for contempt was dismissed. The pleadings in this case are very voluminous and would fill at least one file drawer.

ENCLOSURE

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A check of the records of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Appeals, Supreme Court Building, Springfield, Illinois, revealed that as a result of the proceedings in Circuit Court of Sangamon County in connection with instant case, two appeals were taken. The first appeal by JOHN L. LEWIS contends that the temporary injunction imposed by the Circuit Court should be dismissed. The Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the Lower Court's decision and did not dismiss the temporary injunction.

The second case involves the contention of LEWIS that the permanent injunction should not have been issued and was erroneously issued by the lower Court in view of the fact that the complainant had not maintained the status quo in that that body had called an international convention and elected new international officers when previously LEWIS had secured a majority of signatures of members in favor of indefinitely postponing the international convention.

The printed record in the first case in the Appellate Court consisted of an abstract; statement brief in argument; and reply brief of the appellant, JOHN L. LEWIS. Also an additional abstract and brief of the appellee, HARRY FISHWICK. The printed record of the second case in Appellate Court consists of an abstract of record and statement brief in argument for the appellant, JOHN L. LEWIS; also reply brief of appellees and additional abstract for the appellees. All these printed documents are voluminous.

The result of both appeals was, lower court was upheld in both instances retaining in effect the temporary injunction and approving the permanent injunction. The two opinions of the Circuit Court of Appeal contain a brief concise summary of the facts and the law and are reported in the following citations:

"258, Illinois Appellate Court Reports, 402
260, Illinois Appellate Court Reports, 230"

In view of the voluminous nature of the case record and pleadings in this case, copies of the proceedings are at this time not being secured. It appears that they would have little value except as background information in connection with instant case, in view of the fact that the case involves a dispute within the U.M.W. of A. union and is not between members of the U.M.W. and the Progressive Mine Workers. Therefore no further action is contemplated in connection with this matter at this time unless the Bureau instructs to the contrary.

Submitted by -

[redacted]
Special Agent

44-18 [redacted] b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

[redacted]
9/7/43

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to your memorandum of recent date wherein you referred to injunction proceedings that were instituted in the State Court at Springfield, Illinois, forbidding John L. Lewis from interfering with the Progressive Mine Workers' activities in Illinois. You requested that the Department be furnished with copies of these proceedings.

The Springfield Office of this Bureau was requested to secure the copies of injunction proceedings in this matter pursuant to your request. With regard to this matter, the Springfield Office has now advised as follows:

"A careful search of the records of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois, failed to reveal any injunction proceedings wherein the Progressive Mine Workers of America and John L. Lewis were parties to the action.

"A similar search of the records of the Federal District Court, Southern District, Southern Division of Illinois, was negative.

"The records, however, of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois, under docket #52104, reflect that a bill of complaint was filed October 11, 1929 by Harry Fishwick, et al, against John L. Lewis, et al. This was an action in chancery requesting immediate temporary injunction and permanent injunction by the officers of the then District 12, U.M.W. of A. against John L. Lewis and other officers of the International U.M.W. and individuals whom Lewis had appointed to assume the various offices of District 12 in place of the elected officers, Harry Fishwick being one of the elected officers. In this case Joseph A. Londrigan and Floyd E. Thompson were the principal attorneys representing Fishwick. The principal attorneys representing John L. Lewis were Henry Warrum, Charles E. Feirich, M. Pulverman and Gillespie, Burke and Gillespie.

"The docket alone in this case consumed several pages and it is believed at this time too voluminous to quote. Numerous pleadings were filed including several amended bills of complaint, several

44-845-49

15 SEP 15 1943

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
[redacted]

Limited Mine Workers of America - District 12

Tolson
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Glavin
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Rosen
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Carson
Burke
Hendon
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[redacted]

answers and amended answers, several cross bills, amended answers to cross bills and amended cross bills. From time to time numerous complainants and defendants were added and subtracted from the suit. The suit was very active during the remainder of 1929 and 1930. On April 17, 1930 the Court ordered a citation for contempt against John L. Lewis and several others. Later in July the citation against most of the others for contempt was dismissed. The pleadings in this case are very voluminous and would fill at least one file drawer.

"A check of the records of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Appeals, Supreme Court Building, Springfield, Illinois, revealed that as a result of the proceedings in Circuit Court of Sangamon County in connection with instant case, two appeals were taken. The first appeal by John L. Lewis contends that the temporary injunction imposed by the Circuit Court should be dismissed. The Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the Lower Court's decision and did not dismiss the temporary injunction.

"The second case involves the contention of Lewis that the permanent injunction should not have been issued and was erroneously issued by the lower Court in view of the fact that the complainant had not maintained the status quo in that that body had called an international convention and elected new international officers when previously Lewis had secured a majority of signatures of members in favor of indefinitely postponing the international convention.

"The printed record in the first case in the Appellate Court consisted of an abstract; statement brief in argument; and reply brief of the appellant, John L. Lewis. Also an additional abstract and brief of the appellee, Harry Fishwick. The printed record of the second case in Appellate Court consists of an abstract of record and statement brief in argument for the appellant, John L. Lewis; also reply brief of appellees and additional abstract for the appellees. All these printed documents are voluminous.

"The result of both appeals was that lower court was upheld in both instances retaining in effect the temporary injunction and approving the permanent injunction. The two opinions of the Circuit Court of Appeals contain a brief concise summary of the facts and the law and are reported in the following citations:

'258, Illinois Appellate Court Reports, 402
260, Illinois Appellate Court Reports, 230.'

The Springfield Office has further advised that the case record and pleadings in this case would be of a voluminous nature and would appear

to have little value except as background information in connection with the captioned case, in view of the fact that the case involves a dispute within the United Mine Workers of America Union and not between members of the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers Union.

In view of the above facts, copies of the injunction proceedings, as referred to above, will not be secured in the absence of a specific request from you.

It is noted that in your memorandum #1, dated August 30, 1943, you mentioned that two individuals named [redacted] informed Jack Glasgow that District #12 was paying Elshoff during the shutdown of Mine B, and requested that [redacted] be interviewed. The Springfield Office has advised that Glasgow stated that [redacted] did not inform him that District #12 was paying Elshoff. Glasgow stated that [redacted] merely advised him that the International United Mine Workers of America had loaned District #12 $400,000, and [redacted] inquired of Glasgow as to whether he thought there was any possibility that part of this money had been paid to Elshoff. Accordingly, it does not appear that it would be essential to interview [redacted] Glasgow has advised that [redacted] presently holds a position of importance in the United Mine Workers, and, accordingly, it is felt that an interview with him might well be deferred until the subjects in this investigation are interviewed.

With reference to your memorandum #3, dated August 30, 1943, concerning the activities of [redacted] who were involved in a matter concerning the Alston Coal Company, Pittsburg, Kansas, no investigation will be conducted as the Springfield Office has advised that it appears that the Alston matter apparently is entirely separate from the incidents under investigation in Illinois. However, in the event the instant matter reveals that [redacted] played some part therein, an investigation of his part in the instant matter will be made.

With regard to your memorandum #1, dated August 19, 1943, wherein you request that the principal Progressive Mine operators be interviewed to determine whether the United Mine Workers officials have made proposals to them of interest to this investigation, such interviews will be made; however, it is possible that inquiries along this line will result in information indicating that mines which have been operated under Progressive contracts have switched to United Mine Workers contracts under conditions which would indicate a possibility of collusion between United Mine Workers officials and mine operators. In the event such a situation arises, the matter will be referred to you to ascertain if you desire an immediate investigation into that particular matter inasmuch as it is anticipated that such an inquiry might be as involved and complicated as the facts surrounding the instant case.

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E. A. Tamm
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Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

b7c

It is noted that you have requested that Philip Murray, President of the CIO, be interviewed to ascertain if he had any connections with the payments of United Mine Workers funds to Kishoff, in view of the fact that [redacted] Your advice would be appreciated as to whether you desire that Murray be reinterviewed on this point at this time. The Springfield Office will, of course, make appropriate inquiries during the course of this investigation to ascertain from persons interviewed whether they had any indication that Murray knew of or participated in these transactions.

b3
Title 26, USC, §6103

Reference is made to your memorandum #5, dated August 27, 1943, wherein you request that John O'Leary, an official of the United Mine Workers, be interviewed. Unless advised to the contrary by you, this interview will be held in abeyance until it is determined when and if subject Lewis and the other subjects in this case are to be interviewed. Upon conclusion of the other investigation in this matter, your advice will be requested at that time as to the desirability of interviewing John L. Lewis and the principal subjects in this case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease

General Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

FLW:BK
Call: 3:00 P.M.
Transcribed: 3:20 P.M.

August 26, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al;
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

At this time I received a call from Mr. Frank Coleman of the Civil Rights Section of the Department at which time he said he had received some information from apparently reliable people which he [redacted] related as follows.

One item is that a man named [redacted] (first name unknown), who was once an official of the National Labor Relations Board and who was discharged because he was supposed to have accepted a bribe out at St. Louis, is now on Lewis' staff, and further that he is a "fixer" in cases of this kind. He said the Department is supposed to have a file on him and that the FBI looked into it, but he thinks they dropped the charges. He said he has asked the Labor Board to look it up, but they haven't done anything about it yet. I inquired if his sources couldn't determine [redacted] first name, and he said he will see that they do. He said that since this is such a common name, it would be difficult to identify him through a check of their files, and I explained that the same would be true in connection with the Bureau's files.

[redacted]

Mr. Coleman stated his source also advised that [redacted] (phonetic), two gunmen who Lewis has in Southern Illinois, are the men who do the even rougher stuff than [redacted] does; that is, they actually carry the guns and intimidate the witnesses.

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44-845-50

Mr. Coleman said he has in mind sending the Bureau a memorandum suggesting that these men be watched, especially if they move into that area during the Bureau's investigation; that probably [redacted] should be put under some degree of surveillance for fear that they will actually go in the area to intimidate persons. He said he supposed the Agents had been active in the field in this connection for about four days, and the possibility no doubt is that they realize today how serious this thing is, and there

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is always a possibility, especially with the background of terrorism in that country, that they will come in to intimidate the people the Agents are talking to. I inquired if he knew the whereabouts of these individuals, and he said he doesn't know except that they are supposed to be in Southern Illinois. They are well known out there as Lewis' gunmen. He said that for years there have been accusations of Lewis' gunning and causing the Herrin Massacre and the killing of about thirty scabs out there, and all kind of tactics although they have never pinned them on him so they have no right to assume he is that type of an individual, but they do know that Ray Edmondson, the right-hand man out there, was a rather notorious gunman in his own right and was actually implicated in a murder or two and himself was severely wounded in a fray. He at one time before 1932 was a bitter enemy of Lewis, and Lewis often called him a gunman, but then took him over and they are fast friends now.

Mr. Coleman said the same source indicates that a man named O'Leary, Vice President of the Pittsburgh district and who they know from present evidence was a go-between for some of these payments, was probably used by Lewis to make sure that Edmondson did not appropriate this money to his own use, [redacted]

b7c

He said he intends to embody the above in a memorandum to the Bureau for whatever action we feel desirable. I told him briefly that he should submit the memorandum and that consideration would be given to his request.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

If memo rec'd we will only send to Springfield for its information

FLW

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

August 24, 1943

[redacted]
Call: 11:00 AM
Dictated: 4:30 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to the attached memorandum to you dated August 23, 1943, advising that SAC Hallford of Springfield telephoned and requested that certain additional material be obtained from the Department in order that it might be utilized in the investigation of the captioned matter. It is noted that SAC Hallford requested four things:

1. List of the miners who voted in the first election held by the National Labor Relations Board for designation of a Union representative at Mine B on December 15, 1937, and an itemized list of how each voter cast his ballot.

2. Itemized list of the name of each voter and how he cast his ballot in the second election held February 21, 1941, by the NLRB at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois, to designate a Union bargaining agent.

3. The originals or photostatic copies of the original signatures of the application for membership cards which were submitted by the United Mine Workers Union and the Progressive Mine Workers Union prior to the second election which was held February 21, 1941, at Mine B. It is noted that both Unions submitted membership signatures requesting that an election be held to designate a bargaining agent at that time.

4. All petitions that might have been filed by either Union with the NLRB prior to the designation of a bargaining representative on February 21, 1941, at which time the United Mine Workers were certified by the NLRB.

RECORDED & INDEXED

At the above time, I had SA [redacted] contact Mr. Frank Coleman of the Criminal Division of the Department and request that the above material be furnished to the Bureau, if it were available. Mr. Coleman advised that he was certain that he would be able to obtain all of the material requested from the National Labor Relations Board and that it would be forwarded to the Bureau in the immediate future.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/11/81 BY SP4 [illegible]

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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[redacted]

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A review of the exhibits forwarded to the Bureau by the Department would indicate that all of the petitions filed by either Union, as referred to in #4 above, have been secured and furnished to the Springfield Office; however, Mr. Coleman advised a check would be made in this regard and any petitions not secured to date from the files of the NLRB would be obtained immediately.

With regard to #3 above, Mr. Coleman stated that either Union has a right to hold an election to certify a bargaining agent. A specific number of Union members are not required, but it is rather a matter of reasonableness to be decided by the NLRB, which has discretion to hold an election at any time it feels one Union has sufficient members to justify an election to decide if that Union should be the sole bargaining representative of the employees.

Mr. Coleman also stated that in his opinion, it would not alter the validity of the election if it were proven that some of the signatures appearing on the application for membership cards submitted with the Union's petition for election were forgeries; however, he stated that any evidence of forgeries on the part of the United Mine Workers would make good testimony in court.

Mr. Coleman was advised that the Bureau would submit a memorandum immediatelly, formally requesting the above listed material.

ACTION:

A memorandum for the Criminal Division is being prepared, formally requesting the material requested by SAC Hallford, as referred to above.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

Done 8/24/43 [redacted]

Sent thru 8/24/43 [redacted]

b7c

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

[redacted]
Call: 11:40 a.m.
to 11:46 a.m.

August 19, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

At the above time Supervisor [redacted] of my office contacted SAC Hallford, Springfield Office, and requested advice as to the present status of the case and the date of the initiation of the investigation. In this connection he stated that the investigation had already started, in that inquiries and checks were being made to ascertain the present location of the miners to be interviewed, and in addition other steps such as a review of the newspaper morgue available in Springfield has gotten underway in order to satisfy the Department's request for information as to the sentiments of the people and their reaction to the strike conditions during the period under review. Mr. Hallford states that no publicity will result from checking the newspaper morgue since the newspaper is not interested in publicizing the case. Agent [redacted] requested advice from SAC Hallford as to his present estimate of the additional outside help he will need. He stated that as pointed out to [redacted] previously, he will have four Agents available and qualified in the Springfield Office, and in addition he believes that he will need at least twelve outside Agents who are experienced and qualified in order to hope to complete the investigation thoroughly, and also in order to complete it by the end of September so that it will be ready for presentation to the Grand Jury in accordance with the wishes of the Attorney General.

SAC Hallford advised that present indications are that the actual interviews will begin on Monday, August 23, and at the latest he would like to have the additional outside Agents available in the Springfield Office by Wednesday, August 25th.

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RECORDED 44-845-52

R411 JAN 11 1962

It was pointed out to SAC Hallford that every effort should be bent toward expediting the investigation in the case in order that it will be completed by the end of September. Specifically, September 25, has been indicated as the deadline for completing the investigation so that the Department will have some time to prepare the matter for the Grand Jury in October. He understands that and says that the matter is being pushed by him in order to comply with the Bureau instructions.

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

67C Memo
17 to Mr. Tolson
8/20/43

SEP 18 1943

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONT[redacted]
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIE[redacted]
DATE 3/11/81 BY [illegible]

ACTION:

In view of the expedite nature of this case and the delicacy of the investigation, and particularly the fact that hundreds of persons will have to be contacted and possibly interviewed, it is not believed that the request of SAC Hallford for twelve additional Agents in order to make this a Special and completed on time is unreasonable. However, I did not advise SAC Hallford anything other than the request would be referred for consideration and he would be appropriately advised.

Respectfully,

FLW

F. L. Welch

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Mi[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
August 23, 1943

[redacted] b7c

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Time of call:
6:15 PM

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

At the above time SAC Hallford, Springfield, phoned and advised that he would like to have additional material obtained from the Department in order that it might be utilized by the Agents investigating this matter.

b3 T26, USC §6103

[redacted]

INDEXED 44-845-53

SAC Hallford also indicated that during the course of the controversy regarding which union should be held as the bargaining agent for the employees in NLRB, various petitions were filed by either side. SAC Hallford feels that the Springfield Office should have for its assistance in the investigation, if possible, a copy of every petition so filed.

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

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R411 JAN 14 1944

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DATE 2/11/81 BY SP[illegible]

b7c [redacted]

60 SEP 18 1943

In connection with the latter request, the Springfield Office, it is believed, has most of the petitions filed. However, this matter is being doublechecked in order to be sure.

SAC Hallford advised that six of the twelve Agents assigned to him on this case as a Special, have already arrived at the Springfield Office and he also advised that the first interview in this case was conducted on Saturday, August 21, 1943. He stated that the case will be pushed vigorously from this point on in order to meet the deadline.

ACTION

b7c

[redacted] to whom this case is assigned, is checking on the requests of SAC Hallford and expediting transmittal of the material which will be needed pursuant thereto.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

CC-287a

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

LBN:GDC

August 26, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

For record purposes, Karl Bauman of the AP advised me that the Chicago Daily News was carrying a story which had a Washington date-line on it, to the effect that the FBI was investigating the alleged dirty financial dealings on the part of John L. Lewis with certain mine operators in Springfield. I told Bauman that we had no comment to make [redacted]

Respectfully,

L. B. Nichols

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DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

RECORDED & INDEXED 110

44-845-54
F B I
15 SEP 15 1943

[redacted]

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

[illegible] SEP 18 1943

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP - 8 1943

TELETYPE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/11/81 BY [illegible]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Candy
Telephone Room

FBI SPRINGFIELD 9-8-43 2-58 PM CWT

DIRECTOR AND

SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD

WAFT. URGENT. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. [redacted] SUBJECT CARL H. ELSHOFF ALLEGEDLY IN WASHINGTON, DC, SOMETIME BETWEEN JUNE ELEVEN AND JULY SIX, NINETEEN FORTYTWO TO DISCUSS WITH LEWIS PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE PANTHER CREEK MINE PROPERTIES. [redacted] ALSO ASCERTAIN IF SUBJECT RAY EDMUNDSON MAY HAVE BEEN [redacted] SUBMIT REPORT NINE COPIES TO BUREAU FOUR THIS [redacted] OFFFICE BY SEPTEMBER [redacted] FIFTEEN NEXT.

HALLFORD

END

ACK PLS

4-02 PM OK FBI WASH DC MFT

OK FBI WA ED

RECORDED & INDEXED
110

44-845-55
15 SEP 15 1943

60 SEP 18 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-237

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

[redacted]
9:45 a.m.

September 9, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

At this time in response to [redacted] earlier call, Mr. Frank Coleman in the Department called and talked with [redacted] regarding the above captioned case.

He was specifically asked whether a decision had been reached by the Department relative to the request of Mr. Hallford for advice as to the reply which should be given to miners and others interviewed during the course of the Lewis investigation.

Mr. Coleman stated that the Department's attitude is that under no circumstances should copies of statements be given to lawyers. In addition, he stated that it is the over all opinion of the Department that it would be an undesirable practice to furnish copies of statements to individuals during the progress of the case. He stated that, however, where in an individual case it would appear that because of vital information being in the possession of the person being interviewed it might be desirable to furnish a copy of the statement, the Department would have no objection. Mr. Coleman stated he would leave a decision as to that up to SAC Hallford as being an "on the spot" decision.

Mr. Coleman stated that he was leaving today, September 9, 1943, for Springfield, Illinois, where he planned to spend approximately a week looking toward preparation of the matter for possible grand jury proceedings. He stated that he would get in touch with SAC Hallford while there.

[redacted] specifically asked Mr. Coleman if the Department had any objection to the Bureau Agents referring requests for copies of statements to the Department, that is, in the following manner. In the event a person being interviewed requests a copy of any statement to be given or which has been given, the Agent would advise the individual that his request would be referred to the office of the Attorney General or to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice for a decision relative to his or her request. Mr. Coleman agreed with the use of this procedure.

RECORDED 44-845-56

ACTION: SAC, Hallford is being apprised of the Department's decision in this matter.

15 SEP 15 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 2/11/81 BY

Respectfully,

[redacted]

F. L. Welch

60 SEP 1

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

b7c [redacted]
5:15 P.M.

August 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VIOLENCE

At this time S.A.C. Hallford called from Springfield regarding this case. He stated that the Agents assigned to the case [redacted] have pretty thoroughly reviewed the material furnished so far and at this time he wishes to have the Department furnish expeditiously the following exhibits [redacted] Exhibits #59, #60, #61, #64, #65 and #66. He says these are needed right away in order to enable the Agents to start the investigation.

b3 Tel, USC §6103 b7c

b7c [redacted] assured him that the Department would be contacted immediately and advised of the necessity of forwarding these exhibits to the Bureau immediately. [redacted] is having [redacted] prepare a memo for the Department, special, requesting these exhibits, an[redacted]ill call Mr. Frank Coleman in the Department tomorrow, Tuesday morning, advising him of the request and the fact that a formal memorandum is coming through requesting the same.

Mr. Coleman, according to S.A.C. Hallford, left Springfield, Illinois, Friday night, August 13, for Washington. Before leaving, Mr. Coleman stated that certain evidence [redacted] need not be re-checked by the Bureau. S.A.C. Hallford is incorporating this request in a letter to the Bureau at which time a memo will be prepared for the Department requesting confirmation of Mr. Coleman's oral advice along this line. [redacted] advised S.A.C. Hallford that the final batch of the exhibits has not yet been received from the Department but, as soon as it is received, photostatic copies will be furnished to the Springfield Office by special delivery. Preliminary inquiries are now being made to ascertain the location of the individuals to be interviewed and the investigation should be initiated by Wednesday, August 18, according to present indications, i.e. the actual interview should begin by then.

b3 Ibid b7c

RECORDED 44-845-57

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R411 JAN 11 1962

In addition, S.A.C. Hallford stated that he had discussed with Mr. Coleman generally the Department's suggestion that the fourteen so-called "spies" of the U.M.W. which were within the ranks of the Progressive Mine Workers Union be interviewed at the outset and SAC Hallford states that Mr. Coleman understands that this request of the Department is being given due consideration by the Bureau but that it probably would not be advisable.

FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED [redacted]
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]
DATE 2/11/81 BY [illegible]

b7c

[redacted] pointed out to S.A.C. Hallford that this particular angle is being left more or less to his, S.A.C. Hallford's discretion. His present reaction is that it would not be advisable to interview these fourteen miners at the outset of the investigation.

Every effort is being made by S.A.C. Hallford to push the investigation as rapidly as possible in order to make the deadline.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

August 17, 1943

[redacted] b7c

Call: 10:00 AM
Dictated: 10:30 AM

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beah[redacted]
Miss Gan[redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to my memorandum to you dated August 16, 1943, wherein you were advised that SAC Hallford called from Springfield, requesting that Exhibits 59, 60, 61, 64, 65 and 66 [redacted] be forwarded expeditiously as they were necessary to the investigation in this case. Inasmuch as the above Exhibits had not been received as yet from the Criminal Division of the Department, I had S[redacted] contact Mr. Frank Coleman of the Criminal Division with regard to the above mentioned Exhibits. Mr. Coleman advised that he had just sent Exhibits 59 to 69, inclusive, to the Bureau by special messenger. A few minutes after calling Mr. Coleman, the above mentioned Exhibits arrived in my office by special messenger and they are now being photostated and will be sent to the Springfield Office today.

b3 T26, USC, §6103 b7c

Mr. Coleman advised Agent [redacted] that photostatic copies of some of the remaining material taken from the files of the National Labor Relations Board would be forwarded to the Bureau in two or three days.

b7c

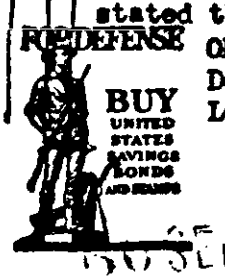
He stated that this material had been thoroughly reviewed by Mr. O'Donnell of the Criminal Division at the National Labor Relations Board and that the main exhibits had already been forwarded to the Bureau.

Mr. Coleman stated that he had just returned from Springfield, Illinois, where he had talked to SAC Hallford. He advised that SAC Hallford had mentioned that two or three of the exhibits furnished the Bureau by the Department were not complete and Mr. Coleman stated that Mr. O'Donnell of his office was at present reviewing all of the exhibits and that any exhibits [redacted] not previously forwarded would be sent to the Bureau immediately.

b3

RECORDED 144-845-58

Mr. Coleman mentioned, incidentally, that he was a little disturbed over the fact that the Office of Price Administration was at present trying to prosecute Lewis for violation of the pleasure driving ban. He stated that it was possible that the Attorney General might suggest to the OPA that it withhold its prosecution in view of the fact that the Department was contemplating a much more serious prosecution of Lewis.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]
DATE 2/17/81 BY [illegible] b7c

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B411 JAN 11 1962

ACTION TAKEN

Exhibits 59 to 69, inclusive, which were received from the Department, as indicated above, are being transmitted to the Springfield Office.

Sent 9/17/47 [redacted] b7c

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

gkm

EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

JKM:PC

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

September 6, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SAC Hallford of the Springfield Office called with reference to the above captioned matter to advise of further developments.

Hallford advised that they had appointments with the 14 alleged spies of the UMW who joined the membership of the Progressive Mine Workers Union for the purpose of spying on this Union for the UMW, but only three [redacted] of them showed up for the appointments. He advised that one came in toda[redacted] and stated that a number of these men were down at the UMW headquarters o[redacted] Saturday morning talking to Ray Edmondson who got in touch with their attorney, Arthur Fitzgerald. The attorney told them not to talk to anybody unless in his presence.

b7c

Hallford stated they have secured signed statements from the three who showed up, but they did not tell anything of value. He stated that he does not believe any of them will tell anything but inquired if he should go out and contact each one of them to see if they are going to come in to be interviewed and also find out why theydid not show up for their appointments. I told him it would be all right for him to go ahead with this. He stated if this does not work, and they do not get anything out of them, he would like to suggest that the Department be contacted to find out if they would be willing to hold off on them and put them under oath before a grand jury.

I told him to go ahead and work on this theory unless he is called back and advised to the contrary.

Respectfully,

J. E. Mumford

44-845-59

SEP 15 1943

RECORDED & INDEXED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/81

[redacted]

b7c

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

60 SEP 18 1943

ADDRESS REPLY TO "THE ATTORNEY GENERAL" AND REFER TO INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 26, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 1

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of Section 51, Title 18.

I am attaching one copy of a document entitled "Outline of the Trial Brief" believing it may be of some value to your Field Office in Springfield.

In an effort to organize and estimate the significance of the investigative material which we now have, and which will be flowing in from your investigation, I have decided to set up a trial brief.

It should be carefully noted that the "Outline of the Trial Brief" constitutes no more than a series of tentative allegations, so organized as to present the case as a related whole. Some of these allegations are now established, others remain to be established. In some instances the investigation will require a weakening of certain allegations; in other instances it will permit a strengthening of them.

It will be our purpose to set up a trial brief based on this outline. A loose-leaf notebook will be used and a page inserted with each separate point in the outline typed at the top of the page. Beneath the point will be typed (a) an analysis of the proof now available, (b) requests for investigation directed to your Bureau, and (c) proof of the point resulting from your investigation.

RECORDED & INDEXED

44-845-60

I hope by September 1 to have a rough copy of this trial brief available for transmission to you. It may prove of considerable help to your Field Office in visualizing the significance and relevancy of investigative requests from the legal standpoint. The trial brief at this stage will show only items (a) and (b) referred to above.

[redacted]

b7c

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R411 JAN 11 1962

b7c

It is probable that in future memoranda requesting investigation the numerology of the outline will be used to suggest the significance and relevancy of items referred to.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

Enclosure
No. 240981

Illinois miners would accept a reduction of $1.00 in the daily wage scale which Lewis and the operators were proposing. In the first referendum, the miners had rejected the proposal.

2. In 19 , Lewis had abolished local autonomy in Illinois and set up a provisional government with a district president appointed and completely controlled by him. This was a second cause of discontent.

B. Lewis bitterly resolved to break the Progressive organization and bring all Illinois miners under his control.

C. From 1932 to 1937, Lewis, by espionage, violence, and other methods of labor warfare, fought relentlessly to win back the Progressive miners. It was a bitter struggle for supremacy between the two unions, marked by lawless rioting and mass picketing. Many persons were killed and several counties were long under martial law.

II. IN THE SPRING OF 1937, LEWIS AND RICHARDSON INDUCED ELSHOFF TO JOIN WITH THEM IN A SCHEME WHEREBY PROGRESSIVE LOCALS, BEGINNING WITH THE LOCAL AT MINE B, WOULD BE BROKEN BY PROCESS OF SUCCESSIVELY BUYING CONTROL OF PROGRESSIVE MINES WITH ELSHOFF AS AS "FRONT".

A. Early in the spring of 1937, Lewis resolves to supplement violent persuasion with bribery of the operators at Progressive mines.

B. Progressive mines "A" and "B" at Springfield, Illinois were the strongholds of the Progressive organization. Moreover, these mines were a symbol of victory or defeat for Springfield was Lewis' former residence and center of power. He and Edmundson agreed that the first attack should be made on these mines.

C. In February, 1937, Edmundson approached William Ryan, operator of Mine "A", and proposed that he shut down his mine to enable U.M.W. to win over the miners, offering to subsidize Ryan's operating costs and profits. Ryan flatly rejected the proposal.

D. In April, 1937, Lewis and Edmundson met secretly with Elsheff in Springfield and plotted to incite a strike at Elsheff's Mine "B", with the understanding that Elsheff would continue a shut-down until U.M.W. could capture control, it being agreed that Elsheff's operating expenses and profits would be subsidized out of the U.M.W. Treasury. It was understood that this was to be but the first in the series of attacks on Progressive locals in which Elsheff would participate.

POINT TWO

THE PLAN TO DESTROY THE PROGRESSIVE LOCAL AT MINE "B" WAS PUT IN EXECUTION IN APRIL, 1937, AND CONTINUED UNTIL SUCCESS WAS FINALLY ACHIEVED WHEN U.M.W. SIGNED A CLOSED-SHOP CONTRACT WITH ELSHOFF IN MARCH, 1941.

I. IN APRIL AND MAY, 1937, LEWIS AND EDMUNDSON, WITH ELSHOFF'S KNOWLEDGE AND CONNIVANCE, PLOTTED TO PRECIPITATE A STRIKE AND SHUT DOWN OF MINE "B" WHICH WAS SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED ON MAY, 12.

A. Lewis and Edmundson bribed a small group of Progressive members to agitate a strike.

B. These spies, by the circulation of false rumors and other methods, during April and early May, sought to precipitate a strike.

C. The Progressives, early in May, 1937, discovered these activities and expelled the spies after trial.

D. Progressives demanded that Elshoff fire these spies pursuant to the closed-shop contract but Elshoff refused.

E. As a result of Elshoff's refusal to abide by his contract, the Progressives, on May 12, 1937, went on strike, and Elshoff shut down his mine indefinitely pursuant to the plot.

II. FROM THE SHUT-DOWN UNTIL HE SIGNED A CLOSED-SHOP CONTRACT WITH U.M.W. ON MARCH 6, 1941, ELSHOFF CONTINUOUSLY SUBJECTED HIS EMPLOYEES TO UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES, PURSUANT TO THE PLOT.

A. From May 12, 1937, to January 4, 1938, Elshoff imposed unfair labor practices designed to effect a U.M.W. coup d'etat.

B. From January 4, 1938, to November 6, 1939, Elshoff imposed unfair labor practices designed to starve his employees into submission.

C. From November 6, 1939, to March, 1941, Elshoff imposed unfair labor practices designed to guarantee the U.M.W. victory in the membership campaign.

III. FROM THE SHUT DOWN OF THE MINE IN MAY, 1937, UNTIL THE PROGRESSIVES WERE FINALLY BROKEN IN MARCH, 1941, LEWIS AND EDMUNDSON, ACCORDING TO THE PLOT, CONTINUOUSLY PAID ELSHOFF BRIBE MONEY IN A SUM AGGREGATING [redacted] THUS GUARANTEEING HIM AGAINST LOSS AND ASSURING HIM A HANDSOME PERSONAL PROFIT.

b3 T26 USC, §6103

A. The dates and methods of the several payments were as follows:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

etc.

B. Lewis supplemented this bribery by conniving with the Peabody Coal Corporation to pay Elshoff exorbitant commissions on brokerage coal.

1. It was part of the scheme that Elshoff would assist in the subsidation of the shut-down by engaging in brokerage operations to make a profit and to retain his good will with his retail customers. For the first few months of the shut-down, Elshoff purchased brokerage coal from the Panther Creek Mines.

2. When attempts at a coup d'etat failed and it became apparent that a long seige was inevitable, Lewis connived with the Peabody Coal Corporation, who were under obligations of fear and favor to Lewis, to pay Kleheff exorbitant commissions on brokerage coal.

2. Throughout the period of the payments, the financial condition of the corporation and Elsheff personally was notoriously bad and this fact was known to Lewis and Edmundson.

3. Lewis and Edmundson knew that the prospective earnings of the corporation and Elsheff would never suffice to repay.

4. The payments were made to Elsheff and not the corporation.

5. No security was taken from either the corporation or Elsheff.

6. No efforts were made to obtain repayment from Elsheff.

7. [redacted]

8. On March 16, 1941, defendants took from Elsheff a promissory note bearing only 3% interest and that not until the maturity of the note on March 16, 1946.

9. This note was taken only after defendants knew that there had been suspicions of bribery.

IV. THE PAYMENTS WERE MADE WITH THE INTENT TO INDUCE ELSHOFF TO IMPOSE THE UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES.

A. Payment of money by a union official to an employer during a jurisdictional struggle violates per se a fundamental principal of trade union ethics.

B. Payment of money by a union official to an employer during a shut-down or a strike, because it tends to lengthen the period in which the men are kept from their jobs, also violates a fundamental principal of trade union ethics. The fact that the payments were made, in the face of this tradition, is strong evidence indicating guilty intent.

C. [redacted]

D. The payments were compensation, not loans. Only on this hypothesis can the motives of the parties be reconciled. The defendants cloaked the transactions in the guise of loans to avoid the devastating effect of this circumstance.

1. Elshoff, unless the payments were compensation, had no motive for precipitating and continuing the shut-down, which involved huge losses.

a. From 1932 until the events of the spring of 1937, the labor relations between the Progressives and Elshoff had been amicable and constructive.

b. The operations in Mine "F" had been profitable to Kimberly and there were no legitimate business reasons for him to maintain the shut-down.

2. [redacted] was not a large price to pay for the dividends which Louis and Edmundson hoped to recover.

b3
T26, USC,
§6103

[redacted]

F. The payments made to Elshoff were substantially in excess of maintenance requirements plus Elshoff's accustomed salary and profit. The excess was used by Elshoff for personal purposes. This fact was known to both Lewis and Edmundsen.

1. Both Lewis and Edmundsen were close acquaintances of Elshoff. They knew him as an extravagant, profligate, and dissipated individual.

2. During the period of the payments, Elshoff was living on a high scale and this fact was well known to Lewis and Edmundsen.

3. The actual maintenance requirements of the mines were as follows:

4. Elshoff actually used $ for these purposes. He appropriated $ for his own personal use.

G. The specific payments coincided with strategic unfair labor practices by Elshoff.

H. As a matter of common sense defendants knew that financial favors of Lewis and Edmundsen to Elshoff

during the jurisdictional struggle necessarily poisoned Elsheff's mind in favor of U.M.W.

1. Lewis was kept apprised of all events and knew, as he authorized each payment, that unfair labor practices were being imposed.

I. Elsheff and Edmundson openly pretended to be antagonistic in order to conceal guilty intent.

J. In October, 1942, the St. Louis Post Dispatch published the report that a loan of $300,000 had been made by Lewis to Elsheff during the controversy. Edmundson made false explanations to U.M.W. members, stifled all criticism, and suspended Jack Glasgow, a district board member, for daring to criticize.

POINT THREE

AFTER THE PROGRESSIVE UNION HAD BEEN DESTROYED AT MINE "B", DEFENDANTS SET ABOUT TO EXECUTE THE PLAN AGAINST THE PROGRESSIVE UNION AT MINE "A" AND SUCCESSFULLY DESTROYED IT IN OCTOBER, 1941.

I. ELSHOFF, FROM APRIL, 1941, UNTIL OCTOBER, 1941, PERSISTENTLY SOUGHT TO HAVE WILLIAM RYAN, OPERATOR OF MINE "A", SELL OUT TO HIM. THE LEASEHOLD WAS PURCHASED FOR $60,000 ON AUGUST , 1941.

II. THE $60,000 WAS ADVANCED BY B.M.W. AT THE DIRECTION OF LEWIS.

III. WITH ELSHOFF AS OPERATOR, THE PROGRESSIVE LOCAL WAS DESTROYED BY THREATS TO OPERATE MINE "A" THROUGH MINE "B".

POINT FOUR

LATE IN 1941, THE DEFENDANTS BEGAN TO PUT THE PLAN INTO EXECUTION AT OTHER PROGRESSIVE MINES.

I. ELSHOFF NEGOTIATED PURCHASE OF THE PANTHER CREEK MINES.

A. Louis and Edmundson agreed to advance $400,000 from the U.M.W. treasury for this purpose.

B. These negotiations were halted because of the government's investigation.

II. ELSHOFF, in 1942 AND THE SPRING OF 1943, LAUNCHED NEGOTIATIONS FOR OTHER PROGRESSIVE MINES.

POINT FIVE

PROBABLE DEFENSES AND REBUTTALS:

I. DEFENDANTS CONTEND THAT THIS "LOAN" WAS CONSISTENT WITH LEGITIMATE AND RECOGNIZED TRADE UNION POLICY.

A. The policy is illustrated by the history of U.M.W. loans to Josephine Roche and the formation of the Low Merkin Corporation.

B. The policy is illustrated by the backing activities of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America over the past two decades.

C. The policy is illustrated by the offer of assistance made by the Radio and Electrical Workers (C.I.O) to the Emerson Radio Corporation of St. Louis in 19 .

D. It has always been the policy of U.M.W. to use its funds as loans for a legitimate union policy.

II. THE CONTENTION IS FALACIOUS. EITHER PAYMENTS OR LOANS BY A UNION UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS CASE HAVE BEEN UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED BY TRADE UNIONS AS TRAITOROUS TO THE CAUSE OF LABOR.

A. The Josephine Roche-Low Merkin financial transactions are not in point.

B. The policies of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers are not in point.

C. The St. Louis incident is not in point.

D. It has been the policy of U.M.W. to conceal as "loans" advances and compensations made to political parties, other unions, and individuals. The Mine "F" "loans" merely follow this pattern of deceit.

III. DEFENDANTS CONTEND THAT IN THE MINE "F" INCIDENT THEY WERE NOT DEALING WITH A LEGITIMATE RIVAL UNION; THAT THE PROGRESSIVES WERE CONVICTS, DYNAMITERS, RADICALS, IRRESPONSIBLES, COMMUNISTS, AND AGITATORS.

IV. DEFENDANTS' CONTENTIONS ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY THE FACTS.

A. Labor relations at Mine "F" had been amicable up until the time U.M.W. spies agitated in the spring of 1937.

B. The U.M.W. had been guilty of practices in Illinois equally reprehensible as those indulged in by some Progressive leaders. U.M.W. had set the pattern of violence.

V. DEFENDANTS CONTEND THAT SUBSIDIZATION OF MINE "F" WAS NECESSARY AND LEGITIMATE IN ORDER TO PRESERVE INDUSTRIAL ORDER AND MAINTAIN COMMUNITY GOOD WILL.

VI. DEFENDANTS' CONTENTION IS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE FACTS NOR BY THEIR OWN RECORD.

A. Defendants' contention is belied by their own record of strikes, violence, and industrial disturbance.

B. Industrial peace would have been furthered by permitting reopening of the mine and compliance with the orders of the National Labor Relations Board.

C. Lewis had never before manifested such keen solicitude for mine operators in financial or labor difficulty. In the spring of 1937, other operators were in difficult circumstances, but Lewis chose to be an operator's saviour in only the case which involved the stronghold of his other rival organization.

D. Lewis' contentions violate his own often expressed principles.

OUTLINE OF THE TRIAL BRIEF

POINT ONE

IN THE SPRING OF 1937, LEWIS AND EDMUNDSON, Ray DETERMINED TO BREAK THE BACK OF THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IN ILLINOIS, INDUCED ELSHOFF, Carl H. A COAL OPERATOR, TO JOIN WITH THEM IN A SCHEME TO BREAK THE PROGRESSIVE LOCALS ONE BY ONE, BEGINNING WITH MINE "B", THE PROGRESSIVE STRONGHOLD, WHICH ELSHOFF THEN OPERATED, AND PROCEEDING SUCCESSIVELY TO OTHER PROGRESSIVE MINES, USING ELSHOFF AS A "FRONT" TO GET FINANCIAL CONTROL.

I. FROM 1932 UNTIL THE SPRING OF 1937, A BITTER AND VIOLENT STRUGGLE WAS BEING FOUGHT BETWEEN U.M.W. AND THE PROGRESSIVE MINE WORKERS, AN INDEPENDENT UNION IN ILLINOIS.

A. In 1932, 25,000 U.M.W. members in Illinois, angered by the belief that Lewis had stolen the ballots in a wage scale referendum, and resentful of the provisional government which Lewis had forced upon them, revolted against his leadership and set up an individual organization with headquarters at Gillespie, Illinois.

1. The Progressives were angered by a belief that Lewis had stolen the ballots in a second referendum to determine whether the

44-845-60
ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN L. LEWIS

PART 2 OF 13

FILE NUMBER: 44-845

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT John L. Lewis

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 2

SERIALS 61

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b3 b7c with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☒ For your information: b3 Statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
44-245-61

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FBI/DOJ

145-61

993a

Date: August 26, 1943

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith copies of three memoranda dated August 23, 1943, from the Criminal Division of the Department, and captioned, #1, #2 and #3, respectively, "King 'B' - Violations of Section 51, Title 18."

It is noted that these memoranda contain investigative suggestions set forth by the Criminal Division and they are forwarded for your information and assistance in conducting further investigation in this matter.

The investigative suggestions of the Criminal Division should be fully developed unless a specific reason exists as to why a particular suggestion should not be carried out.

Enclosures 3

SPECIAL DELIVERY

b7c

Bureau of Investigati

United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
September 6, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America; CARL H. ELSHOFF, Owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

URGENT

Dear Sir:

For the information of the Bureau, the following investigation is requested of the Indianapolis, Washington Field, San Francisco, Buffalo and Cleveland field divisions, in view of the fact that the enumerated officials of the National Labor Relations Board, who are reported to have participated in Mine "B" controversy between 1937 and 1941, are believed to reside within the area of the field divisions as set out below. For the information of all field divisions concerned this case must receive the most expeditious attention. In view of the extreme emergency and expeditious nature of this investigation, and if this field division is to meet a deadline set by the Bureau, a report of the results of this investigation must be in the hands of the Springfield Division within seven days of the receipt of this letter.

For the information of all field divisions concerned the Department has requested a full and complete investigation into the charges that JOHN L. LEWIS, President of the International United Mine Workers of America Union, RAY EDMUNDSON, President of District 12 (Illinois), United Mine Workers of America, and WALTER J. JAMES, Secretary Treasurer, District 12 (State of Illinois), and CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of the Mine "B" Coal Company, a coal mine in Springfield, Illinois, conspired during the years 1937 to 1941 in violation of Section 51, Title 18, U.S.C. to injure and oppress ELSHOFF's employees in the free exercise of the right secured to them by the National Labor Relations Act. According to the information furnished by the Department, it is alleged that the sum of [redacted] was paid from the years 1937 through 1941 by officials of the United Mine Workers of America to CARL H. ELSHOFF

2 cc Indianapolis (Encl.) S.D.
Washington Field (Encl.) AMSD
San Francisco (Encl.) AMSD
Buffalo (Encl.) AMSD
Cleveland (Encl.) AMSD

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FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

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with the intent to induce ELSHOFF to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, who were at that time members of the rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America. If it can be proven that ELSHOFF and the officials of the United Mine Workers of America conspired to deprive members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America of their rights, as secured by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act, there can undoubtedly be established a violation of Section 51, Title 18, U.S.C.

The Department advises that the following individuals were officials of the National Labor Relations Board who actively participated in the Mine "B" controversy between 1937 and 1941. The Department has furnished the following names and the best addresses available:

Attention Indianapolis:	JAMES C. CLARK, formerly National Labor Relations Board Field Examiner working out of Chicago, Illinois, now reported in Indianapolis, Indiana.
Attention Washington Field:	O. S. SMITH, formerly National Labor Relations Board Field Examiner, Chicago, Illinois, now Director of the Field Division in Washington, D. C.
	I. S. DORFMAN, formerly Acting Regional Director, National Labor Relations Board, 13th Region. Now in Washington, D. C. with the Office of Strategic Services.
Attention San Francisco:	MARTIN W. NER, formerly National Labor Relations Board Field Examiner, 13th Region, Chicago, Illinois. Now National Labor Relations Board Regional Director, San Francisco.
Attention Buffalo:	MEYER S. RYDER, formerly National Labor Relations Board Field Examiner, Chicago, Illinois. Now Regional Director, Buffalo, New York.

Attention Cleveland: G. L. PATTERSON, formerly Regional Director, National Labor Relations Board, 13th Region. Now General Counsel, United Rubber Workers, Akron, Ohio.

The Department requests that each of the individuals enumerated above be interviewed to determine whether or not they have information regarding the issues of this case beyond that which is reflected in the file of the National Labor Relations Board. Many of these individuals conferred at length with ELSHOFF, EDMUNDSON, JAMES and others involved in this case.

[redacted] as a result of which this office is in possession of extremely voluminous photostats and exhibits. Because of the large volume, it is not possible to furnish in letter form all background information concerning this case. From one interview already conducted, it is believed highly possible that these individuals may not recall a great deal of information other than that which was made a matter of record of the National Labor Relations Board file at the time and which file is in the possession of the Department. However it is highly desirable to interview these individuals at length to determine what additional information they may have, what their attitude in the matter is, whether or not they will make good witnesses and for all details which they may recall.

b3 T26, USC, §6103

For the information of the Indianapolis Field Division, JAMES C. CLARK was Field Examiner for the 13th Region, National Labor Relations Board, with headquarters at Chicago. During December 1940 and January 1941 it is known that he had conversations with CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B", OSCAR FALCETTI, Superintendent of Mine "B", RAY EDMUNDSON, LEE ENSEL, attorney for the company, and JOHN B. KANE, attorney for the Progressive Mine Workers of America and it is also known that he interviewed a large number of employees of Mine "B", which at that time was operating as an open shop, who was also involved in a request of the Progressive Mine Workers of America for contempt proceedings in case No. XIII - C- 473, involving a stipulation dated August 10, 1938, signed by both unions and the company. It will be important to determine over what period of time CLARK was active in the Mine "B" matter. If he were connected with the matter on May 12, 1937, whether or not the dismissal or the refusal to dismiss the twelve miners expelled from the

Progressive Mine Workers of America was ever taken up with him by CARL ELSHOFF to determine whether or not this might be an unfair labor practice. It should be determined whether or not RAY EDMUNDSON or WALTER J. JAMES ever showed Mr. CLARK any petition or other form of group signatures such as application cards or membership cards, prior to ELSHOFF'S signing a contract with United Mine Workers of America on August 18, 1937, or subsequent thereto, and prior to December 15, 1937 when the first National Labor Relations Board election was held.

For the information of the Washington Field Office, Mr. O. S. SMITH was Field Examiner out of the 13th Region, Chicago Office, National Labor Relations Board. Mr. LEONARD C. BAJORK, Regional Director, during part of the Mine "B" controversy, on interview has advised that SMITH was the Field Examiner most familiar with Mine "B" matters. Since he is presently connected with the National Labor Relations Board in Washington there is no doubt but what he will have access to any files necessary in connection with this matter. He should be particularly questioned as to whether or not CARL ELSHOFF ever contacted him on or about May 12, 1937 for an opinion as to whether or not the dismissal of or the refusal to dismiss the twelve miners expelled from the Progressive Mine Workers of America on May 11, 1937 was an unfair labor practice. He should also be questioned as to whether or not RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES or any other official of the United Mine Workers of America ever showed to him a petition or a group of application cards or membership cards which would purport to prove that the United Mine Workers of America had a majority of the miners signed up in Mine "B" prior to that union's signing a contract with ELSHOFF on August 18, 1937, or after that and prior to the National Labor Relations Board election on December 15, 1937. Any information indicating that ELSHOFF and EDMUNDSON were working together in connection with this matter or any occasion when SMITH may have been contacted by both individuals would be important to this case. Mr. SMITH should be questioned concerning the National Labor Relations Board election of December 15, 1937 after which the United Mine Workers claimed fraud in connection with the election. He should also be questioned as to whether or not any investigation was made by the National Labor Relations Board on the allegation of fraud in the election and what, if any, was the conclusion of the investigation.

For the further information of the Washington Field Division, it is known Mr. DORFMAN represented the National Labor Relations Board in a stipulation and agreement between Mine "B" Coal Company, Progressive Mine Workers of America and United Mine Workers of America, which was signed on August 10, 1938. He also represented the National Labor Relations Board in a decision and order of the National Labor Relations Board, which was dated September 19, 1938.

This office is unable to advise the San Francisco and Buffalo Offices of any of the activities of MARTIN WAGNER or MEYER S. RYDER, who the Department states, were Field Examiners in connection with this case.

For the information of the Cleveland Office, G. L. PATTERSON was Regional Director, 13th Region, National Labor Relations Board, following LEONARD C. BAJORK during the approximate period of 1940-1941. He should be questioned concerning his knowledge of the case, particularly as to whether or not RAY EDMUNDSON and ELSHOFF ever appeared together at his office concerning the Mine "B" controversy, and if such is the case, the exact nature of their call.

For the assistance of all offices there is transmitted herewith one copy of a memorandum prepared by Special Agent [redacted] which sets out in brief a chronological resume of the principle incidents of interest in this investigation. For your information the Bureau has instructed that only "experienced and well-qualified agents" be assigned to this investigation.

In the event that any of the men interviewed are able to furnish any probative information, it should be reduced to signed statements. Five copies of this report should be furnished to the Bureau and three to this office. Springfield is the office of origin.

I again wish to impress upon you the importance of this investigation and the fact that it is imperative that these leads be covered immediately. In addition it is the Bureau's desire that you give this matter your personal attention.

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD, S.A.C.

[redacted]

44-18

b7c

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
September 6, 1943

[redacted]

Director, FBI

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, etal;
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau is advised that Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] who are in this office on special assignment to assist in the investigation of this matter, have been assigned to interviewing the twelve so-called spies of the U.M.W. in the P.M.W. of A. Local at Mine B in Springfield, Illinois. They made contact with each of the following persons and they agreed to appear at the Springfield Office for interview at the times specified:

James Hale, 9:00 a.m., September 4, 1943.
Frank Austin, 11:00 a.m., September 4, 1943.
Andrew Skrelevious, 2:00 p.m., September 4, 1943.
John Ananias, 4:00 p.m., September 4, 1943.
Anthony J. Plotch, 10:00, September 5, 1943.
Dominic Pasquale, 2:00 p.m., September 5, 1943.
Emery Jacaway, 4:00 p.m., September 5, 1943.

Mr. Hale, Mr. Austin and Mr. Jacaway were the only persons who kept their appointments, although at the time of making each appointment, all seemed cooperative and willing to come to the Springfield Office for interviews. Mr. Hale, Mr. Austin and Mr. Jacaway were seemingly cooperative and executed signed statements.

Dominic Pasquale was contacted telephonically and appears to have forgotten his appointment.

Anthony J. Plotch was contacted at his residence on the morning of September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] and advised that on Saturday morning, September 4, 1943, he, JOE ALBANESE and JOHN ANANIAS were at the office of the United Mine Workers in Springfield and were talking to RAY EDMUNDSON. DOMINIC PASQUALE was downstairs and may have come up to EDMUNDSON'S office later. He said there were some other men there whom he had never seen before. He said EDMUNDSON called ARTHUR FITZGERALD, an

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Op. 7

attorney in Springfield, who came to the United Mine Workers office and advised them that they should not make a statement to the FBI unless he, FITZGERALD, was present at the interview, because they might incriminate themselves. Mr. PLOTCH stated that other persons were similarly advised but did not know specifically. Mr. PLOTCH was cooperative and willing to make any statement his attorney might permit.

In view of the above attitude of the alleged spies of the U.M.W., these facts were telephonically relayed to Mr. MUMFORD of the Bureau on September 6, 1943 and later discussed with [redacted] at the Bureau. It was pointed out that no interviews would be conducted with these alleged spies in the presence of their attorney unless the Bureau was specifically instructed to do so through the Department. However, it was pointed out to both [redacted] and Mr. MUMFORD that Agents of this office would contact each of the alleged spies personally to determine their attitude toward an interview and they would also be questioned specifically as to what occurred in the office of RAY EDMUNDSON on the morning of September 4, 1943.

This letter will confirm the telephone conversation of [redacted] and Mr. MUMFORD and the above investigative step will be taken in regard to each alleged spy of the U.M.W, but again it is stated no detailed interview will be had with any of these persons unless they agree to be interviewed without the presence of an attorney.

Very truly yours,

Fred Hallford

FRED HALLFORD,
Special Agent in Charge.

FH:lmj
44-18

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
August 11, 1943

Director, FBI

AIRMAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, etal;
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my telephonic conversation with Mr. MUMFORD of the Bureau on August 11, 1943, at which time I informed him that there was a release in the St. Louis Post Dispatch under date of August 8, 1943, in regard to the ordered investigation in this matter.

I am enclosing herewith an item which appeared in the St. Louis Post Dispatch, St. Louis, Missouri, dated August 8, 1943, in regard to this matter. It will be noted that this release carries a Springfield, Illinois, date line.

I do not know who made this release. However, I received a telephonic inquiry from the Associated Press in this office on the night of August 7, 1943, at which time I was informed that an inquiry had been received from the Associated Press in Springfield from a paper in St. Louis desiring that the Associated Press here contact this office in order to determine the names of the fourteen spies who allegedly worked for the Progressive Mine Workers of America on a secret payroll of the United Mine Workers of America. The Associated Press representative here informed that he understood from the paper in St. Louis that a release in this matter had been prepared by the Attorney General.

No publicity has appeared in regard to this investigation in the Springfield papers.

As I informed Mr. MUMFORD at the time of my telephonic conversation with him on August 11, 1943, no interviews have been conducted in this case as yet. The exhibits transmitted by the Department contain a tremendous volume of information which must be thoroughly reviewed and other files in this office are presently being reviewed for background data in this case. It is anticipated that the Agents engaged in this case on special at the present will begin interviews with the alleged spies of the United Mine Workers by at least August 16, 1943, and that the investigation will move rapidly from that point.

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It appears from a review of the file in this case and the data submitted by the Department that at least one accountant will have to spend considerable time on this case and it may be that the services of an additional accountant will be required from the Bureau.

It further appears that after initial interviews are conducted with the fourteen alleged spies of the United Mine Workers that it may be necessary to request additional experienced agent personnel be sent to this field division by the Bureau in order to expedite the completion of this investigation.

The Bureau will be further advised in this matter, as well as any important developments in the investigation.

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD,
Special Agent in Charge.

FH:lmj
44-18
Enclosure

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH
Dated 8-8-43
St. Louis, Missouri.

UMW PAID 14 PMW MEMBERS DURING MINE B DISPUTE

Payroll Was Secret, With Progressives Getting Cash From Edmundson's District 12.

F. B. I. INQUIRY BEING MADE ON PAYMENTS

Agency Looking Into Charges That Conspiracy Existed to Violate Labor Act.

By a Staff Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 7. — Fourteen members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America were on a secret payroll of the United Mine Workers of America during most of the time that the two unions were disputing control of Mine B here at Springfield, the Post-Dispatch has learned from a reliable source.

The 14 Progressives were paid in cash out of funds of UMW District 12, which embraces Illinois.

Their names were never carried on the books of District 12 for fear that they might become known. Disclosure would have meant immediate reprisal by loyal Progressives, who have engaged in a long and bloody warfare with the powerful UMW.

Inquiry by F. B. I.

These secret payments are under inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation which, on instruction of Attorney General Francis Biddle, is investigating charges that a conspiracy existed to violate the National Labor Relations Act. The inquiry is under the direction of Frank Coleman of the criminal division of the Department of Justice.

As has been told in the Post-Dispatch, the Treasury prepared a case involving income tax charges against Carl Elshoff, lessee of Mine B, and Ray Edmundson, head of UMW's District 12 and often referred to as John L. Lewis's "hatchet man." A Bureau of Internal Revenue report was sent to the Department of Justice for action after it had been seen by President Roosevelt, who gave it his endorsement.

Biddle thought far less of the tax case than Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, and put the F. B. I. to work investigating the Wagner Act conspiracy phase. The Treasury was naturally not concerned with that angle.

Treasury investigation centered around a "loan" of between $200,000 and $300,000 which Edmundson is reported to have made to Elshoff just before Mine B was closed down for nearly two and a half years. That followed a Labor Board election in which the Progressives won an overwhelming majority. When the mine reopened at the end of the two and a half period, the Progressive majority had dwindled almost to nothing and the UMW won control.

Significance of Inquiry

Investigation of the conspiracy charges has especial significance now in the light of John L. Lewis's application to re-enter the American Federation of Labor. The executive council of the AFL is meeting in Chicago tomorrow to pass on the Lewis application following a session in Washington a month ago with a special committee named to consider the question.

At the time Lewis walked out, the AFL in retaliation gave the Progressives a charter providing exclusive jurisdiction in the coal mining field. Recently Lloyd Thrush, PMW president, went to Washington to protest to William Green, AFL president, and others against consideration of the UMW application for reinstatement. Thrush has said that he would leave the AFL and affiliate with the CIO if Lewis were readmitted.

Latest information here is that the UMW will not go back into the AFL fold. The executive council will announce terms for readmission following the meeting in Chicago next week. Lewis, it is believed now, will find these terms unacceptable and will withdraw his application before the AFL convention this fall.

[redacted]

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 19, 1943

Mr. Edison
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Clavin
Mr. Ford
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Miss Gandy

WELCA

[redacted]

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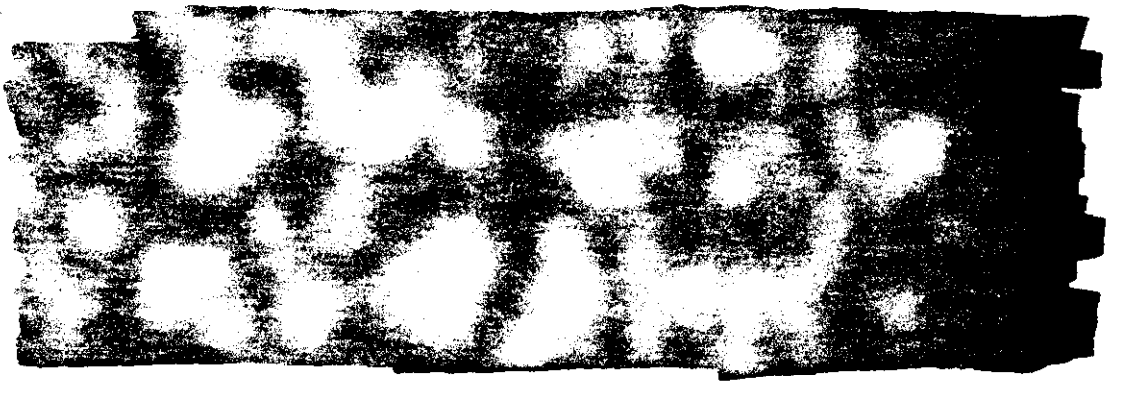
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 1

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

Frank Coleman has reported to me on his trip last week to St. Louis, Missouri, and Springfield, Illinois, of which I advised you in my memorandum dated August 6, 1943.



[redacted]

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At Springfield, Illinois, on August 11, 12, and 13, Mr. Coleman conferred with United States Attorney Doyle and his staff who advised that they would, to the full extent of the facilities of that office, cooperate enthusiastically with the Bureau whenever called upon during the course of the investigation.

Mr. Coleman also consulted with Special Agent in Charge Hallford at your Springfield office, and was introduced to members of his staff assigned to this investigation. Mutually helpful discussions were had. Mr. Coleman advised Mr. Hallford fully of all the interviews that he proposed to undertake. Mr. Coleman interviewed the following individuals:

1. William Ryan, former operator of Mine "A", now retired, who lives at 801 Douglas Avenue, Springfield,

[redacted]

b7c

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2. John Schneider, Board Member, Progressive Miners of America, Springfield, Illinois. Office phone-2722, home phone-5073.

3. Fullerton Fulton, C.I.O. Regional Director, Chicago, Illinois.

4. John W. Hindmarsh, C.I.O. Representative, Springfield, area. (Can be reached through Fulton's office.)

From these several conferences and interviews, Mr. Coleman makes the following observations:

1. It is apparent that the alleged violation is of broader scope than was first thought. The following picture begins to emerge. Sometime in 1936 or early in 1937, Lewis and Edmundson, fearing that the Progressive movement would spread beyond the confines of Illinois and challenge Lewis' national control, resolve to destroy the Progressives in Illinois piecemeal by buying out one mine after another, using Elshoff as the "front". Mine "B" was conquered between 1937 and March, 1941. A month later, Elshoff begins negotiations to purchase Mine "A" with $60,000 of U.M.W. funds. A victory was achieved in this case in the fall of 1941. Soon thereafter, tentative negotiations are begun by Elshoff to purchase the Panther Creek Mines, also Progressive, with $400,000 of U.M.W. funds. In my memoranda to you of June 24, and August 11, you were requested to investigate these three cases fully.

In his interview with Mr. Coleman, Mr. Ryan indicated that Elshoff had told him recently that he (Elshoff) proposed to buy another mine, also Progressive, in Bond County. Mr. Ryan stated that Charles Malloy (who can be located through United States Attorney Doyle) knows the exact name and location of this mine. It is requested that the circumstances of this proposed purchase be fully investigated.

These four transactions suggest that Elshoff may have approached still other Progressive mine operators with the same purpose in mind. It is requested, therefore, that the principal Progressive mine operators be interviewed to determine whether any such overtures have been made over the past several years.

It does not appear from the evidence now available whether these cases will constitute, in law, separate conspiracies, or whether they can be joined--as would be highly desirable--in one indictment as parts of a single continuing conspiracy. It will be highly valuable, therefore, to discover any evidence which indicates that within the three year statute of limitations there

was a purpose on the part of Lewis and Elshoff to use this technique not only in an individual case but as a general means whereby the Progressive organization in Illinois would be driven to the wall.

2. It becomes probable that we can discover evidence which will establish that Lewis had connived with Elshoff prior to the closing of Mine "B" on May 12, 1937.

Mr. Ryan told Mr. Coleman and Mr. Doyle in confidence that sometime prior to the closing of the mine, he believes in February, 1937, Edmundson approached him with the proposition that if he would close down Mine "A", the U.M.W. would subsidize him during the shut-down. Mr. Ryan said that he flatly rejected the proposition with the statement, "I want to be able to go home, put my head on a pillow and go to sleep at night". (It was not clear whether he stated this as a matter of conscience or through fear of being dynamited as a result of inter-union warfare.) It is believed and hoped that Mr. Ryan will release his confidence in this respect and voluntarily make this statement to the grand jury.

Mr. Ryan gave Mr. Coleman the following lead:

The importance of evidence indicating connivance prior to the closing of Mine "B" cannot be overemphasized. From the standpoint of a jury trying this case, the reason for the strike of May 12, 1937, will be vital. The defense will insist that the strike was precipitated by a group of radical and criminal Progressive leaders, who were later convicted for dynamiting in the federal court, and that it was sound union policy to extend financial aid to the mine operator to prevent him fromm going into bankruptcy, a result which, they would say, would jeopardize the job opportunities of all the miners and would bring disrepute upon unionism generally among the coal operators and the general public. In this connection, it is noted that all the subjects contend that consideration of the "loans" was not broached until sometime in June, 1937, after the mine was shut down.

It is obvious the ground will be cut from under this defense if pursuit of the two leads which Mr. Ryan gives us establishes that the subjects conspired prior to the closing of the mine.

Every effort should be made to ascertain from [redacted] the full circumstances of the alleged meeting at [redacted] It is believed that attorney [redacted] should also be appropriately interviewed in this connection. If the meeting can be established, every effort should be made to pin the witnesses down to the specific purposes of the meeting, in order to avoid attempts on the part of the defense later to concoct an innocent explanation.

3. There is a possibility that the Peabody Coal interests, the largest and most influential operators in Illinois, are involved in this violation. Mr. Ryan suggested that not only did Lewis make money payments to Elshoff, but that he also used his power with the Peabody interests to obtain favorable concessions and rebates to Elshoff in the sale of brokerage coal while Mine "B" was shut down. Mr. Ryan points out that during the first few months of the shut-down, Elshoff carried on his brokerage operations with the Panther Creek Mines, organized by the Progressives. Later, however, when it appeared that the shut-down would be extended indefinitely, he switched over to the Peabody Coal Company. Ryan states that his commissions with Panther Creek were the normal rate, $.15 a ton, but that his commissions with Peabody reached the exorbitant figure of $.50 a ton. It is requested that this lead be thoroughly investigated. Mr. Ryan had in mind several methods which could be used in following down this lead.

Mr. Ryan stated to Mr. Coleman that he would cooperate fully with the Bureau during the course of this investigation, and he was advised that Mr. Hallford's office would communicate with him within a few days. It is believed that Mr. Ryan will be of great assistance since he is an experienced operator and is familiar with all the personalities and events in connection with this case over the past decade. It is obvious, of course, that Mr. Ryan has a bias against subject Lewis and that he has a wholesome contempt for subject Elshoff. On the other hand, he gave Mr. Coleman and Mr. Doyle the impression of being a man of ability and integrity, and that he is motivated in his cooperation by the principal fundamentals of citizenship and patriotism.

Harold

Mr. Ryan stated that Elshoff had boasted lately of writing Secretary Ickes, as government manager and operator of the mines, demanding that the Federal Government subsidize his payrolls, otherwise threatening to shut off production. Ryan believes that Lewis is actually the author of these demands. I called the Attorney General's attention to these allegations, and he has asked me to confer with Secretary Ickes's office regarding this correspondence which I intend to do in the near future. The results of this conference will be reported to you promptly.

It is believed that John Schneider, mentioned above, will also be of considerable assistance to the Bureau. He was not interviewed by Mr. Coleman until after several sources had indicated that he would not betray the government's confidence. It will be recalled that Schneider was one of the thirty-six defendants who were convicted in the federal court on the dynamiting charges. He states, however, that he bears no resentment against the government because of this, and that he will whole-heartedly cooperate in our present investigation. He is familiar with many of the relevant events and personalities involved.

Mr. Fulton and Mr. Hindmarsh, mentioned above, also indicated their willingness to cooperate fully. Of these two, Mr. Hindmarsh is more familiar with events and personalities. These two individuals stated that an attorney in Springfield, L. G. Pefferle, Reisch Building, was familiar with many of Elshoff's negotiations in his attempts to purchase Progressive mines, and that he would be cooperative. It is suggested, therefore, that Mr. Pefferle be appropriately interviewed.

The Attorney General and I conferred regarding this case on August 17, at which time we renewed our former decision to contemplate grand jury action in this case not later than October 1. We realize the immensity of the task which we have requested you to undertake. We are both deeply grateful to learn from Mr. Coleman's report that your investigative campaign has been undertaken in a spirit of achieving the impossible.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

173d

b7c [redacted]

RECORDED 44-845-65

X O

Date: August 21, 1943 **SPECIAL DELIVERY**

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 20, 1943, in the above entitled matter.

For your information, there are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of a Memorandum for the Director received from the Criminal Division of the Department, dated August 19, 1943, and entitled "Mine 'B' - Violations of Section 51, Title 18." It is noted that this memorandum sets forth the names of the individuals interviewed by Mr. Frank Coleman of the Criminal Division while in St. Louis, Missouri, and Springfield, Illinois, in the recent past. The suggested investigation set forth in this memorandum by the Criminal Division should be fully conducted, and the individuals suggested by the Criminal Division should be interviewed unless a particular reason exists why this should not be done.

The Criminal Division has also advised that in 1932 injunction proceedings were instituted in the State Court at Springfield, Illinois, against Lewis, which resulted in an injunction forbidding Lewis from interfering with Progressive Mine Workers activities in Illinois. The Criminal Division has requested that a copy of these proceedings be secured and forwarded to the Department. It is desired that at least two copies of these proceedings be secured in order that your office may have a copy of at least one of these records.

It is desired that this matter be given expeditious attention.

Your attention is invited to the memorandum to the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943, copies of which were transmitted to you by Bureau letter dated August 2, 1943. Page 10 of this memorandum sets forth an area of investigation entitled "VIII - Investigation of Explanation Given for Continuation of Payment after Mine Opened in November, 1939." It is noted that subject James in his statements contends that these payments were intended to cover expenses of a fire and "big cave-in" at Mine B. The Criminal Division has requested that the circumstances of any fire or cave-in be investigated

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Gandy

MAILED 6
AUG 21 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b7c [redacted]

fully. In this connection, it is desired that you make inquiries to determine whether Kishoff did have insurance which would have compensated for some of the alleged losses. [redacted]

b3
T26, USC
§6103

There are also attached for your information copies of an affidavit made by John R. Kane and notarized September 13, 1940. This affidavit was secured from File 13-C-1345 of the National Labor Relations Board, Washington, D. C.

Your attention is invited to the material previously transmitted to your office which indicates that subject James maintains that he took the records of the Local Union to Washington, D. C., [redacted] It is desired that your office appropriately instruct the Washington Field Office to conduct a thorough investigation into the allegations of subject James in an attempt to ascertain the truth of his story, when and if, in your opinion, such action appears to be logical.

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Enclosure

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 19, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coyne
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Miss Gandy
WELCH

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 2

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

Referring to my memorandum to the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943, which was transmitted to you, you will note, on page 10, an area of investigation entitled, "VIII. Investigation of Explanation Given for Continuation of Payment after Mine Opened in November, 1939."

Subject James contends that these payments were intended to cover expenses of a fire and "big cave-in" in the mine. You were requested in that memorandum to investigate these circumstances fully. In this connection, it is suggested that you inquire ~~whether~~ Elshoff did not have insurance which would have compensated for some of these alleged losses.

b3

[redacted]

Respectfully,

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INDEXED

44-845-66

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

5 1943

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[redacted]

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SEP 18 1943

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 19, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Ladd
Tamm
Nease
Miss Gandy

WELCH

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 3

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

In 1932, injunction proceedings were instituted in the state court at Springfield, Illinois, against Lewis, which resulted in an injunction forbidding Lewis from interfering with U.M.W. activities in Illinois.

I am not informed as to the extent of the hearings or proceedings in this case. I believe, however, that we should have copies of these proceedings. It is requested, therefore, that you arrange to have at least two copies obtained, forwarding one copy to this Division as soon as it is available.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

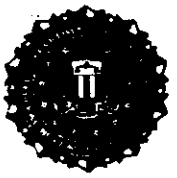
RECORDED & INDEXED

44-845-67

[redacted]

60 SEP 19

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

[redacted]

August 17, 1943

Time: 3:55 PM
Dictated: 4:30 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

At the above time, Mr. O'Donnell of the Criminal Division of the Department personally delivered the attached memorandum dated August 17, 1943, to my office, where he talked with Supervisors [redacted] and [redacted] in my absence. The memorandum delivered by Mr. O'Donnell was in response to Bureau memorandum dated August 6, 1943, in the above entitled matter, which referred to a number of discrepancies in the exhibits [redacted] which had been forwarded to the Bureau. b3 T26, USC, §6103

The Bureau memorandum to Mr. Berge dated August 6, 1943, pointed out that installment 4 actually included only Exhibits 30 to 43, inclusive, together with other material that was not marked, whereas the Department had advised that the 4th installment included Exhibits 30 to 58, inclusive. The Bureau memorandum also stated that Exhibits 11, 12 and 15 were either missing or had not been marked as such. Mr. O'Donnell advised he desired to make sure that the memorandum which he delivered identified all exhibits which had apparently been missing in the 4th installment.

[redacted] checked the exhibits with Mr. O'Donnell and it was found that Exhibits 44 to 58, inclusive, had actually been transmitted to the Bureau, although they were not numbered as such. Mr. O'Donnell advised that Exhibit 48 is an Analysis of the Records of Local #54, Progressive Mines of America, disclosing the membership of that Local from June, 1939, to June, 1941, instead of November, 1939, to June, 1941, as the Department had advised.

Mr. O'Donnell advised that Exhibit 13 consisted only of one page, numbered 8. He advised this appeared to be a page number but actually was not and made the exhibit appear incomplete.

44-845-68

It was pointed out to Mr. O'Donnell that only the first and last pages of Exhibit 18 had been received from the Department. Mr. O'Donnell stated that he had just secured all pages of this exhibit from the National Labor Relations Board, which would be forwarded to the Bureau on August 18, 1943.

FOR DEFENSE
BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

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[redacted]

It is noted that all of the exhibits and photostats received from the Department have been forwarded to the Springfield Office; however Exhibits 44 to 58, inclusive, have not been designated by number to the Springfield Office.

The Bureau memorandum to the Department dated August 6, 1943, also advised the Department that the original as well as a photostatic copy of document 25, [redacted] had been received with the 3rd installment of the exhibits. Mr. O'Donnell advised that the original had been erroneously transmitted and was returned to Mr. O'Donnell.

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T26, USC, §6103

ACTION TAKEN:

The Springfield Office is being advised of the correct number of photostatic copies of exhibits submitted to that office, as indicated by Mr. O'Donnell.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Bureau of Inve
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

[redacted]
Time: 2:30 p.m.

August 13, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

At this time SAC Hallford called from Springfield and talked to Agent [redacted] in my office. He advised that Frank Coleman, the Departmental attorney assigned to this case, had arrived in Springfield and that he had talked to Coleman and had listened to Coleman's comment regarding the case but that he, Hallford, had declined to sit in on any interviews with Coleman, in accordance with Bureau instructions. He indicated that Coleman was apparently contacting two or three individuals for the purpose of enlisting their cooperation in instant matter. Mr. Hallford indicated that he was getting across to Mr. Coleman that the Bureau would conduct any interviews with regard to this investigation in the manner decided upon by the Bureau and Mr. Coleman understands this.

In addition, Mr. Hallford advised as a matter of interest that John L. Lewis had arrived in Springfield but that nothing had been done by Lewis nor had anything happened with regard to the case but he thought the Bureau would like to know that Lewis was in Springfield.

Mr. Hallford understands the necessity for discretion regarding the matter and he is forwarding a letter to the Bureau outlining generally what Frank Coleman incidentally discussed with SAC Hallford regarding the background of the case, including information regarding the Treasury investigation which may be of interest in the event it is not already contained in communications from the Department to the Bureau.

RECORDED
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Mr. Hallford stated that his main purpose in calling is that according to indications which he received from Frank Coleman the Department will probably request that interviews be conducted with most, if not all, of the approximately 450 miners and officials involved in the case. Mr. Hallford understands, of course, that there is a possibility that not all of these may need to be interviewed; however, after analyzing the matter to date, he finds that he only has four qualified men in the Springfield office whom he can assign to instant investigation in view of its nature. He feels at this time that

FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES SAVINGS
BONDS AND STAMPS

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he will need at least 12 additional experienced men from outside offices in order to hope to meet the deadline for completion. With regard to the deadline, [redacted] indicated to SAC Hallford that the matter should be handled and completed on or about September 25, inasmuch as the Department plans to present the matter to a grand jury, apparently from present indications, in October of this year.

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SAC, Hallford observed that it would undoubtedly be necessary for the interviews in these cases to be conducted by two Agents which, of course, is true. In addition, the Springfield office has a fraud case at Decatur, Illinois, which is apparently the case of [redacted] Fraud Against the Government and concerns the defective manufacture of shells, and which is tieing up two Agents, according to Mr. Hallford. In addition, Mr. Hallford says that very recently a number of Agents were transferred out of the Springfield office, and a combination of all these circumstances prompts his request for 12 qualified men from outside offices.

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Mr. Hallford also pointed out, incidentally, that although he had received exhibit #18 [redacted] the exhibit contained only the first and last pages of the report with which it was concerned and the intervening pages are missing.

b3 T26, USC, §[illegible]

He also indicated that exhibit #13, namely contact between the Progressive Mine Workers Union and Carl Elshoff, dated January 18, 1936, is not complete. [redacted] indicated that the matter would be checked immediately and would be straightened out.

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In connection with his request, Mr. Hallford also pointed out that from the present indications he would estimate that a large percentage of the persons to be interviewed would be outside of the Springfield territory, which would necessitate expenditure of time in locating the individuals outside of that territory for appropriate interview.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Bureau consider assigning to the Springfield office the 12 men requested by SAC Hallford. The request would appear to be reasonable under the circumstances, that is, the nature of the case and the necessity for expeditious handling. In fact, it may be necessary after the case is initiated to assign additional Agents in order to appropriately handle the matter within the time alloted. Mr. Hallford indicated that the investigation would probably be initiated by the middle or the end of next week, that is around August 19 or 20. The last exhibits from the Department should be in his possession by the 17th or 18, inasmuch as the Department indicates it will forward the last group of exhibits at the latest by Monday, August 16, 1943.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

Bureau of Invest

United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
August 26, 1943.

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director, FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America;
CARL H. ELSHOFF, Owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois,
CIVIL RIGHTS and DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

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Dear Sir: URGENT

For the information of the Bureau the following investigation is requested of the Miami Field Division in view of the fact that [redacted] is now located in Carrabelle, Florida.

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For the information of the Miami Field Division this case must receive the most expeditious attention, and a report of the results of this investigation must be in the hands of the Springfield Field Division within seven days of the receipt of this letter, in view of the extreme urgency and expeditious nature of this investigation, and if this field division is to meet a dead line set by the Bureau.

44-845-70

For the Miami Field Division's information, the Department has requested a full and complete investigation into the charges that JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, and WALTER J. JAMES, officials of the United Mine Workers of America, and CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B", a coal mine in Springfield, Illinois, conspired during the years of 1937 to 1941 in violation of Section 51, Title 18, U.S. Code, to injure and oppress ELSHOFF's employees in the free exercise of the rights secured to them by the National Labor Relations Act.

According to information furnished by the Department, it is alleged that the sum of $225,000 was paid from the years 1937 through 1941 by officials of the United Mine Workers of America to CARL H. ELSHOFF, operator of Mine "B", with the intent to induce ELSHOFF to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, who were at that time members of the rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America. If it can be proven that ELSHOFF and

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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the officials of the United Mine Workers of America conspired to deprive members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America of their rights as secured by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act, there could undoubtedly be established a violation of Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code.

The Miami Field Division is requested to interview [redacted]

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CARL H. ELSHOFF has been President of Mine "B" Coal Company, an Illinois corporation, since December 22, 1927 when the company was organized, owning 498 shares of the 500 shares of stock. One share was owned by FLORENCE ELSHOFF, then subject's wife, who was also Vice-President of the Company. In 1932 SAMUEL R. GOURLEY acquired one share and became Secretary-Treasurer of the Company. On November 20, 1937, the Mine "B" Coal Company changed its name to the Elshoff Coal Company and on the same date transferred all of its assets and liabilities to the Mine "B" Coal Company, a Delaware corporation. CARL ELSHOFF retained 498 shares of the stock of the Delaware corporation, FLORENCE one share, and GOURLEY one share. The reason for this change is not known other than for the purpose of bringing matters concerning this company within the jurisdiction of the Federal courts. [redacted]

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b7c [redacted]

Subject CARL ELSHOFF is known to have traveled extensively especially to Chicago, Illinois, St. Louis, Missouri, New York City, New York, and Washington, D. C. He has been a lavish spender at hotels and private clubs. It is felt altogether possible and probable that CARL ELSHOFF has had meetings with and has entertained officials of the United Mine Workers of America during the pertinent period from 1937 to 1931, especially JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, and WALTER J. JAMES. It is altogether possible that [redacted] may have accompanied subject ELSHOFF on some of these trips or may have been present during lavish entertaining of these individuals at Springfield, Illinois.

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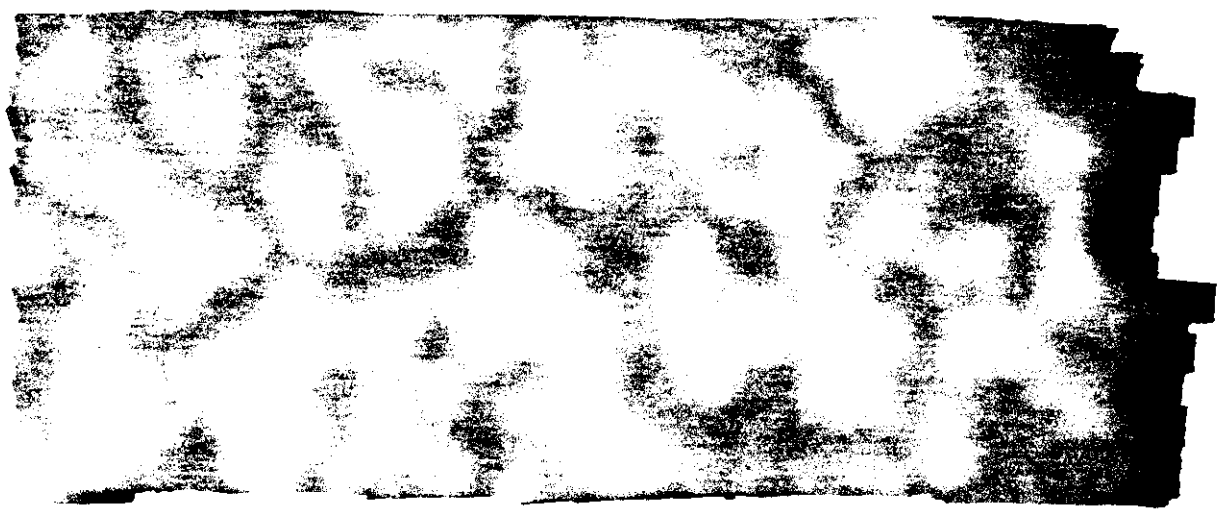

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[redacted] Because of this large volume, it is not possible to furnish in letter form all background information, but it is believed that this letter contains all pertinent information necessary to you.

For your information and any assistance it may be in connection with this matter, I am transmitting, herewith, a copy of a memo prepared by Special Agent [redacted] which sets out in brief form a chronological resume of the principal incidents of interest in this investigation.

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For your further information the Bureau has instructed that only "experienced and well qualified Agents" be assigned to this investigation. It is further the Bureau's instructions that all interviews in connection with this case be conducted by two Agents. The Bureau has further instructed that signed statements be obtained even though the information

is negative. Five copies of this report should be furnished to the Bureau and three copies to this office. Springfield is the office of origin.

I again wish to impress upon you the importance of this investigation and the fact that it is imperative that this lead be covered immediately. In addition, it is the Bureau's desire that you give this matter your personal attention.

Very truly yours,

Fred Hallford

FRED HALLFORD,
Special Agent in Charge.

b7c [redacted]
44-18
cc-Miami Field Division
Enc.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 44-5 [redacted]

BUFFALO, NEW YORK 9/9/43 9/8/43 [redacted]

JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America; CARL H. ELSHOFF, Owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois

CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

[redacted]ER S. RYDER acted as NLRB dispute pacifier [redacted] approximately 2/5/41 to 2/21/41, during which time PMWA attorney submitted plan which relieved active belligerency of both unions at Mine "B" and which allowed for 2/21/41 election won by UMWA. RYDER has no knowledge of incidents indicating interference with rights of PMWA, nor has he ever seen any lists substantiating majority claims of either union, although he states that non-specific and common knowledge in Springfield and his own non-factually based opinion designates ELSHOFF as pro-NMWA.

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- R U C -

REFERENCE: Letter from Springfield Field Division to Buffalo Field Division dated September 6, 1943.

DETAILS: The following information was obtained during a personal interview between MEYER S. RYDER and Special Agent [redacted] in the presence of Special Agent [redacted] The interview occurred in the offices of the National Labor Relations Board, Genesee Building, Buffalo, New York. Mr. RYDER'S statements were based upon personal recollections. The exact facts, he

John B. Cutler

RECORDED INDEXED

9 - Bureau
4 - Springfield (44-18)
2 - Buffalo

44-845-71
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15 SEP 15 [redacted]

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stated, were contained in the National Labor Relations Board files maintained in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. RYDER conversed willingly without clearance from his superiors in Washington.

MEYER S. RYDER stated that from hearsay he had learned that the National Labor Relations Board Field Examiners, LEISERSON and WILLIAMS, had investigated instant dispute about the time that the Progressive Mine Workers of America had filed a protest with the National Labor Relations Board that the "B" Mine had refused to bargain with the officials of their organization. RYDER stated that he was extremely uncertain as to the time of this investigation, but he fixed it at about the end of the long period during which the "B" Mine did not operate.

Mr. RYDER stated that the next investigation he had heard about was that conducted during late 1940 and early 1941 by JAMES C. CLARK, a Field Examiner working out of the Chicago office of the National Labor Relations Board. RYDER advised that he had heard from some source, presently unknown, that CLARK had at that time just finished extensive investigations in Kentucky concerning United Mine Workers and Progressive Mine Workers disputes and that in these Kentucky investigations CLARK had found the United Mine Workers justified in their claims. RYDER further advised that because of these Kentucky investigations the Progressive Mine Workers were claiming bias on the part of CLARK because he would not report that UMW were using illegal methods in obtaining membership increases in Mine "B". RYDER further stated that he did not know if this PMW claim was correct, nor had CLARK ever indicated to him his (CLARK'S) personal opinion in the matter.

Mr. RYDER stated that he accompanied CLARK to the "B" Mine area for about three days immediately after New Year's Day, 1941, during which time he assisted CLARK in interviewing numerous "B" Mine employees. RYDER said that this was the only time he was ever concerned in a mine dispute and because it was believed by the National Labor Relations Board that he was entirely unprejudiced, he was assigned to "B" Mine sometime in the vicinity of early February, 1941.

RYDER advised that at the beginning of his assignment in "B" Mine there had been numerous beatings, small riots, etc., and that his assignment to the mine was not so much as an investigator into the relative merits of the different factions, but rather as a pacifier to bring about some type of agreeable settlement without further bloodshed. RYDER stated that he interviewed numerous beating victims, etc.; that he believed he incorporated the results of these interviews into the Chicago records, but that he remembered no definite information was obtained as a result of these interviews. Mr. RYDER was pressed as to specific evidence disclosed during the interviews with the victims he had mentioned, but steadfastly maintained that they yielded no certain information as to the identity of assailants,

instigators of the beatings, or the immediate causes of any of the riots. RYDER advised that at about this time it appeared obvious that more men were switching from the PMW to the UMW. He said that nothing definite was present to form such an opinion, but that he was conscious of the trend, as was everyone else concerned. He said that, although there were numerous charges of duress by each union, his personal, baseless opinion was that the United Mine Workers were using every form of intimidation possible. RYDER explained, in illustration of this opinion, that at that time EDWARD HECKELBECK was employed as a mine inspector by the "B" Mine Company; that HECKELBECK as an inspector had access to every part of the mine; and that continuous "grapevine" reports indicated that HECKELBECK was propagandizing for the UMW at all times. RYDER stated that he believed there was a great deal of credence in these indirect reports, inasmuch as HECKELBECK left the mine immediately after the election and became a personal aid of JOHN L. LEWIS.

RYDER advised that he had received further indirect information indicating that JOHANNON, United Mine Workers local president, and others were terrorizing Progressive Mine Workers in attempts to have them sign with the UMW organization. RYDER said that, although he investigated all terrorizing claims, nothing definite had ever been determined. He further stated that he has never seen any list of any type showing who had signed with either union concerned, but that he had attempted to obtain the background of some sixty new employees when charges were made by the PMW that "B" Mine officials were "padding" the mine with employees favorable to the UMWA. RYDER stated that the outcome of this check showed no conclusive UMW "padding", and that he had brought this to the attention of CHARLES KANE, attorney for and leader of the Springfield local, PMWA. KANE, he stated, took exception to this survey, claiming that the intimidation practiced by the UMW could never be observed by an investigation into a worker's background, inasmuch as, in self-protection, workers showed ostensible impartiality, even after deciding to vote as United Mine Workers of America.

RYDER advised as it became more obvious to all concerned that the UMW were gaining the upper hand, CHARLES KANE, on behalf of the PMWA, suggested an arbitrary policy to RYDER. KANE'S plan, RYDER explained, encompassed three general points, which were as follows. First, that the "B" Mine officials should have a notice posted at various obvious points throughout the mine, which notice should definitely state that "B" Mine officials had absolutely no partiality so far as either Progressive Mine Workers or United Mine Workers were concerned, and that they were not backing either of the organizations in any way. Second, that such notice posted by "B" Mine officials should contain a statement to the effect that, should any further demonstrations of violence be observed, all people concerned in the violence would be immediately dismissed from the employment of the organization without reinstatement possibilities. Third, that should the above two points be adhered to by the company officials and the UMW, the PMW would,

in turn, withdraw their objection to the election which had been requested of the National Labor Relations Board by the UMW.

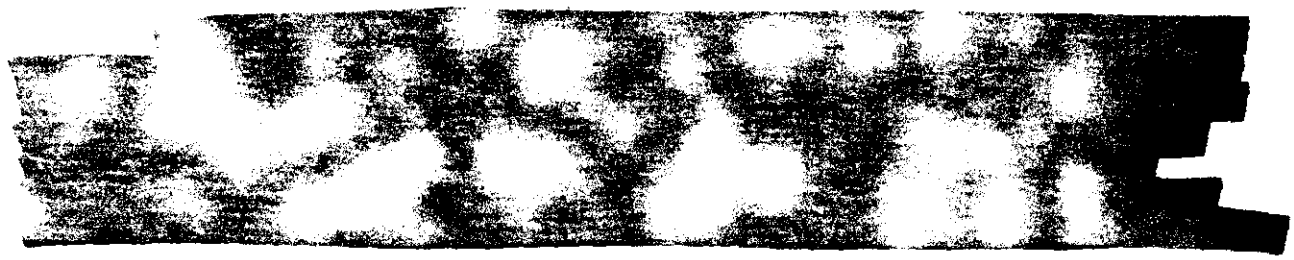
RYDER stated that this decision on the part of KANE was more important to him as a dispute pacifier, inasmuch as the NLRB was, at that time, in a peculiar position. This peculiar position, he advised, had been brought about by the fact that, although on the basis of a past election the NLRB had designated the PMWA as the sole bargaining agent at "B" Mine, recent claims by the UMW had stated that this organization now had a substantial majority of the workers concerned. RYDER stated that he had never seen any documentary evidence of this majority, nor, to his knowledge, had any other official of the NLRB received a list of names for review at this time. RYDER stated that, nevertheless, the NLRB had been looking for some conveniant method to settle the dispute and allow for an election, inasmuch as it seemed obvious that an election was the only method whereby further, state-wide bloodshed might be prevented. RYDER continued by saying that as a result of the arbitrary plan submitted by KANE, an election was held, inasmuch as the third point in his plan withdrew the PMW objections to this election; and that, as a result of the election, the UMWA were designated as the sole bargaining agent at "B" Mine.

At this point, RYDER was pressed as to the reason for KANE'S arbitrary suggestion, inasmuch as KANE could have claimed that a previous NLRB decision had appointed the PMWA as the sole bargaining agent, and also inasmuch as at the time it was obvious to everyone concerned that an election would result in a UMW victory. RYDER stated that he was unable to explain this decision on the part of KANE, inasmuch as the "B" Mine was perhaps the "key" mine in Illinois. RYDER, however, stated that the workers concerned were tired of the long and bloody dispute; that school children of the different factions were experiencing great difficulties in working together in schools; and that, in general, the trend on the part of the PMW was a desire to go to work peacefully regardless of to whom they owe their allegiance. RYDER explained that KANE was conscious of this spirit on the part of the workers and that he was further conscious of the fact that, while the Progressive Mine Workers were entering increased financial difficulties, the United Mine Workers appeared to be growing financially stronger, and that, as the PMW were unable to pay sick and death benefits, etc., their power in the state was rapidly vanishing. RYDER stated that he believed KANE had suggested his arbitrary plan in an effort to salvage some portion of the prestige of the PMW.

During the above interview MEYER S. RYDER indicated a number of personal opinions, although it was determined throughout the conversation that these opinions were based upon no definite facts or documents and that their utility in court would be negligible. RYDER advised that, in his opinion, the "B" Mine Company, as represented by its owner, CARL H. ELSHOFF, was pro-UMW. He stated that this was a natural tendency on the part of the

owner, since the experience in the state had indicated that the UMW contract was much better than a PMW contract, inasmuch as a greater volume of business was possible, more valuable contacts were made, and more permanent plans could be formulated in consideration of the nation-wide character of the union. RYDER further stated that to him a specific evidence of the pro-UMW attitude was the fact that the owner of the "B" Mine had never consented to a closed shop when dealing with PMW, but had immediately consented to a closed shop when the UMW held control following the last election. RYDER said that, in consideration of the belligerent faction nature of the neighborhood around "B" Mine, an open shop was, in effect, a strong agent for the UMW, for it allowed their strong militant and highly organized minority to propagandize more than the less organized majority of PMW. RYDER further claimed that, from his observation of the general attitude in the "B" Mine district, he felt that duress and every other method of obtaining UMW votes was used, although he had not been able to obtain specific evidence during his investigation.

RYDER stated that he had no knowledge of any financial arrangements between "B" Mine, ELSHOFF, and the UMW, nor had he ever heard of the transfer of any funds among them. He stated that the only money he had ever heard involved in the dispute was at the time of the death of a Progressive Mine Worker, when a representation of United Mine Workers appeared at the wake and gave a $200 check to the widow. This type of perfectly legal propaganda, RYDER advised, was extremely powerful, inasmuch as at the time the PMW were unable to pay any of their death benefits.



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served with process in conjunction with an injunction proceedings filed earlier that morning by the Wage and Hour Division. The injunction was filed under Civil Docket #191 on November 6, 1941. The case was heard and the court dismissed the injunction complaint on July 1, 1942.

Mr. BARBER pointed out that he was never able to ascertain to his satisfaction where the complaint was received from which caused the Wage and Hour Division to initiate an investigation; further, that the company had never received any such complaint from any of the company's miners. He pointed out that in hand-loading mines in this area and all areas, the same procedure and same method of pay is followed; that due to the nature of hand-loading, coal miners cannot be paid by any other method as it would be impossible and impractical to make any other arrangement. He stated that he made an exhaustive search to attempt to find information as to where the Wage and Hour Division had ever filed any other similar injunction proceedings, but without success.

Mr. BARBER advised that he felt that in view of the whole situation, and especially in view of the fact that CARL H. ELSHOFF, and the UMW probably through him, knew the financial status of the Panther Creek Mines and the fact that they were burdened with approximately $400,000.00 indebtedness, caused this complaint to be made to the Wage and Hour Division immediately after negotiations with ELSHOFF failed at the price which ELSHOFF was willing to pay, in an attempt to force Panther Creek Mines to sell.

The above information is submitted in order that the Bureau and the Department may have the benefit of the same and determine whether or not they desire to have the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor, contacted for the purpose of determining whether or not the complaint in connection with this matter originated with the UMW and hence may be a part of the conspiracy between CARL H. ELSHOFF and UMW in instant case.

Respectfully submitted,

[redacted]
Special [redacted]gent.

[redacted]
44-18
cc Bureau (9)
Springfield (3)

b7c

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois

September 9, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are nine copies of a memorandum submitted by Special Agent [redacted] This memorandum is submitted with the thought that you may desire to present same to the Department to ascertain whether or not the Department desires to make or have made any inquiry at the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor.

DEFERRED

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD, SAC.

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Encl.

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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[redacted]

I request that the circumstances surrounding this event be thoroughly investigated.

This investigation will be pertinent to Point Two, I, B of the "Outline of the Trial Brief" referred to in my memorandum to you dated August 26, 1943, numbered 1.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943

MEMORANDUM:

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

In connection with an interview had with Mr. CLAYTON J. BARBER, attorney for the Panther Creek Mines, 10th Floor, First National Bank Building, Springfield, Illinois, by the undersigned on September 7, 1943, the results of said interview being reported elsewhere, the undersigned submits the following information.

Mr. BARBER stated that shortly after negotiations for Panther Creek Mines by CARL H. ELSHOFF failed, a Mr. HERMAN GRANT of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor, 222 West North Bank Drive, Chicago, Illinois, came to his office and asked if he would enter a Consent Decree to an injunction against Panther Creek Mines, Inc. Mr. GRANT stated that a review of the records of Panther Creek Mines revealed that on each pay period all employees of the mine were not receiving the minimum amount per hour, as required under the Wage and Hour Statutes and rules and regulations. Mr. BARBER refused to enter a Consent Decree and advised that it would be, due to the nature of mining business, an impossibility for the mine to have watchmen for every miner in the mine to see that he actually worked the required number of hours; also that on some days a miner will shoot down large amounts of coal and his pay for that period would be light. At the beginning of the next pay period he might spend several days loading this coal, during which time his pay period would be much above average. Mr. BARBER pointed out that the company was attempting to comply with all these rules and regulations.

After Mr. GRANT's call, Mr. BARBER said he addressed a letter to the Wage and Hour Division in Chicago and sent a copy of this letter to the Labor Department in Washington, D. C. He received an answer from Chicago, wherein that office denied that he had ever been asked to enter a Consent Decree in connection with the injunction. Later he received advice that Mr. HERMAN GRANT was to be in the post office building in Springfield at a given time. Mr. BARBER went to the post office to meet Mr. GRANT. Mr. GRANT was not there but instead Mr. BARBER was

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44-845-72

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 44-13

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
CLEVELAND, OHIO	9/10/43	9/8/43	[redacted]

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America; CARL H. EISHOFF, Owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois	CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: GARNET L. PATTERSON, general counsel for United Rubber Workers, Akron, Ohio, reviewed the facts in the Mine "B" controversy and advised that EDMUNDSON and EISHOFF had appeared at his office to discuss matters of a general nature. No indication of conspiracy against the Progressive Mine Workers as evidenced by their line of questioning.

- RUC -

Reference: Letter from the Springfield Field Division dated September 6, 1943.
Teletype from the Springfield Field Division dated September 8, 1943.

Details: At Akron, Ohio

GARNET L. PATTERSON, who resides at Navarre, Ohio, and is presently engaged as general counsel for the United Rubber Workers, with offices located on the fifth floor of the United Building, Akron, Ohio, stated that he remembered the "B" Mine controversy that occurred prior to his appointment as Regional Director for the National Labor Relations Board at Chicago and which continued during his term as Regional Director from February of 1939 to January of 1941. He added

DEFERRED PROSECUTION

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: L. V. Boardman, SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES: 44-845-73

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9 Bureau
4 Springfield
2 Cleveland

[redacted]

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R411 JAN 11 1962

that since that time, however, situations of importance have arisen that dimmed the mine affair in his memory. PATTERSON summarized the "B" Mine incident that existed prior to his appointment as Regional Director and recalled some of the events that took place while he was in Chicago.

In answer to the question as to why dues are checked off the payroll, which matter is mentioned on page six of the Springfield office memorandum for the file dated August 23, 1943, PATTERSON advised that there is a provision whereby the company checks off and deducts monthly dues from union members and forwards the dues collected to the Union Headquarters.

He further stated that in August of 1940 an agreement was entered into by ELSHOFF, the United Mine Workers, and the Progressive Mine Workers, whereby ELSHOFF would bargain with the Progressive Mine Workers as the mine representative, and that interference with employees attempting to join or form a union of their own should be stopped. These agreements were entered by the National Labor Relations Board in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. Late in the year of 1939, the "B" Mine was reopened on an open shop basis.

In July of 1940, the Progressive Mine Workers filed a new charge against the Mine "B" company, alleging that the Mine "B" operators were encouraging membership in the United Mine Workers Organization. At about this time the United Mine Workers petitioned the National Labor Relations Board for an investigation to determine if their organization should not be the bargaining agent in the mine. He explained that the Board had not acted on the United Mine Workers' Petition at that time because the Board was still investigating the charges made by the Progressive Mine Workers against the Mine "B" company, wherein it was alleged that the Mine "B" company had been engaging in unfair labor practices.

In January of 1941 the Board issued a notice that the question of representing would come up at a hearing at Springfield. He stated that a number of signatures for the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers in relation to the company's payroll, represented a sizeable discrepancy and had later developed that some of the employees had signed both petitions with a view in mind of being with a group that emerged victorious at the election.

The Progressive Mine Workers filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board, requesting that the United Mine Workers' petition for identification be dismissed on the grounds that the United Mineworkers

ADDRESS REPLY TO
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INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:DC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 27, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 1

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

[redacted]

b7c

In my memorandum of August 11, 1943, I listed on page 4 the names of twelve men believed to have been expelled from the Progressive Mine Workers of America prior to May 12, 1937.

We have statements that none of these men appealed from the order expelling them, and that in one case a man voted for his own expulsion. [redacted]

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[redacted]

INDEXED 44-845-74

I do not believe that I have heretofore requested you specifically to investigate fully the circumstances surrounding the trial of these men by the Progressive Union's Trial Committee. It is possible that Lewis and Edmundson contemplated the expulsion of these men from the Progressive Union as a method of precipitating a strike, it being agreed that Elshoff would refuse to fire them as he was probably required to do under his contract. If this is the correct theory, these men would probably have been instructed not to put up any serious resistance to their expulsion and even to cooperate to that end.

[redacted]

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R411 JAN 11 1962

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[redacted]

had resorted to unfair methods in bringing about a majority. This motion was filed after the hearing of the National Labor Relations Board at Washington had started action. The investigator working out of the National Labor Relations Board, Chicago office, that investigated the controversy, was called into Washington to testify before the Board there.

Mr. PATTERSON further stated that ELSHOFF had been in his office as well as EDMUNDSON, and that perhaps the two had been in the office at some time. Most of the meetings were attended by representatives of the United Mine Workers, the Progressive Mine Workers, and officials of the "B" Mine at the request of the National Labor Relations Board.

He advised that nothing ever developed in these meetings to indicate that there was collusion between ELSHOFF and EDMUNDSON, nor anything to indicate that the United Mine Workers and the "B" Mine operators were conspiring against the Progressive Mine Workers. Neither of these men have asked for information or opinions that could in any way be interpreted to mean that they were soliciting this information with a view in mind that they were anticipating engaging in some questionable activity that would permit them to keep within the law.

He further stated that the attorneys for EDMUNDSON and ELSHOFF appeared to be fine young men, clean cut, and very business like. EDMUNDSON and ELSHOFF also impressed him as being respectable, conscientious, and hard working. He advised that on one of his visits to Springfield, a Mr. KANE, attorney for the Progressive Mine Workers, contacted him and advised that the United Mine Workers had paid ELSHOFF a sizeable sum of money to influence his decision in favor of the United Mine Workers. This matter was investigated by one of the field men with negative results.

The interviewing agent questioned Mr. PATTERSON as to a possible explanation why ELSHOFF awarded the United Mine Workers a Closed Shop Contract in 1941 eight days after the National Labor Relations Board certified the United Mine Workers as the collective bargaining agent, whereas the Progressive Mine Workers had been negotiating since the summer of 1937 for the same type of contract. Mr. PATTERSON explained that it was his opinion that ELSHOFF was a member of the State Coal Operators Organization and in all likelihood their contracts with the union are for a closed shop agreement, and that ELSHOFF felt that he could not get by without offering the closed contract to the United Mine Workers.

In addition to this he stated that perhaps ELSHOFF was rather disgusted with all the bickering that had taken place between the unions, and that throughout this period, the mine had not operated as profitably as it

CV. F.O.
44-13

should have and that this final action perhaps would mean that the trouble would be terminated. Mr. PATTERSON appeared to be very cooperative and expressed a willingness to help in any manner whatsoever. The discussion with Mr. PATTERSON was not reduced to a signed statement in view of the fact that it did not appear to be probative information.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

[redacted]

RECORDED 44-845 - 74

Date: August 28, 1943

To: SAC, Springfield

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of five memoranda dated August 27, 1943, from the Criminal Division of the Department, captioned 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, respectively, "Mine B - Violations of Section 51, Title 18."

T26 USC 5

With regard to your telephonic comments of August 23, 1943, regarding Exhibits 36, 54 and 58 [redacted] you will note that memorandum #4 dated August 27, 1943, indicates that the ballots used in the elections held at Mine B on December 15, 1937, and February 21, 1941, did not show how an employee actually cast his vote. With respect to Exhibit 54, the Department indicates that the application for membership cards were not submitted to the National Labor Relations Board but merely exhibited to the field examiner for his information in making a decision as to whether an election to determine a bargaining representative for the Mine employees should be held.

Copies of the above memoranda are forwarded for your information and possible assistance in conducting the investigation in the above entitled case. You will note that these memoranda contain certain investigative suggestions as set forth by the Criminal Division. These investigative suggestions should be fully developed unless a specific reason exists making it inadvisable to do so.

Enclosure

SPECIAL DELIVERY

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 11
AUG 30 1943 P.M.
SEP 18 1943
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
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AUG 30 11 32 AM '43

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AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:JLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 23, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

[redacted]

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 3

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

It is important to establish the subjects' attitudes regarding the length of the period over which payments would have to be made pursuant to their agreement. It is believed that in June, 1937, they were hopeful that these payments would have to be made only for a short time.

[redacted]

This possible inconsistency is being called to your attention for whatever value it may have for investigative purposes.

INDEXED

Respectfully,

44-845-75

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

[redacted]

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8/26/43

SEP 18 1943

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
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INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 23, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
No. 1
Re: Mine "B" — Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

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[redacted]

The significance of the audit report is not understood. It is requested that you make inquiry to determine whether the audit was specifically ordered by subject Lewis, whether it was a report made in the regular course of business, and, if not, why it was requested at this particular time.

The suspicion is that Lewis, learning that certain persons were showing an unwholesome interest in his relationships with Elshoff, determined that the records for this period should be destroyed, that an audit should be made to cover up and fill in the blank, and that thereafter the falsification of the records should be accomplished in a more subtle fashion.

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Respectfully,

44-645-76

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General

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In my memorandum to you of July 24, 1943, you were requested to interview Mr. Bajork.

G. L. Patterson, formerly Regional Director, N.L.R.B. 13th Region. He is now General Counsel, United Rubber Workers in Akron, Ohio.

I am reliably informed that Mr. Patterson will cooperate to the fullest extent with your Bureau, and it is understood that he has significant information. Because he was Regional Director in Chicago during the Mine "B" controversy, he should be of considerable assistance to your Bureau.

It is requested that each of these officials and former officials be interviewed to determine whether or not they have information regarding the issues of this case beyond that which is reflected in the files of the National Labor Relations Board. Many of these individuals conferred at length with Elshoff and Edmundson, and for that reason, they may be valuable witnesses as to incriminating statements and admissions made by these subjects.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
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WB:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 27, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 2

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

[redacted]

In connection with the history of the controversy between the Progressives and U.M.W. of 1932 until 1937, it will be helpful to have a comprehensive picture of the mines which were, at one time or another, controlled by these opposing forces.

It is believed that some of the Progressive officials will be able to furnish a map graphically portraying the shifting tides of fortune during this struggle.

This information will be of assistance in determining the relationship to the over-all state controversy of the U.M.W. campaign to break the Progressive locals at Mine "B", Mine "A", the Panther Creek Mines, and the other mines of which Elshoff was to be used to get control.

Carl

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

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INITIALS AND NUMBER

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144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 27, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 3

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

The following individuals were officials of the National Labor Relations Board who actively participated in the Mine "B" controversy between 1937 and 1941. Some of them are now with the Board and others have gone into other employment. I checked with the National Labor Relations Board but could not obtain the exact addresses of these individuals in every case.

James C. Clark, formerly N.L.R.B. Field Examiner working out of Chicago, Illinois. I am informed he is now in Indianapolis, Indiana.

O. S. Smith, formerly N.L.R.B. Field Examiner, Chicago, Illinois. He is now Director of the Field Division in Washington, D. C.

I. S. Dorfman, formerly Acting Regional Director, N.L.R.B., 13th Region. He is now in Washington with the Office of Strategic Services.

Martin Wagner, formerly N.L.R.B. Field Examiner in the 13th Region. He is now N.L.R.B. Regional Director in San Francisco.

Meyer S. Ryder, formerly N.L.R.B. Field Examiner, Chicago. He is now Regional Director at Buffalo, New York.

Leonard C. Bajork, formerly Acting Regional Director, N.L.R.B. 13th Region. He is now probably in Chicago, Illinois, as private labor consultant.

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WE:FC:LB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 27, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 4

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of Section 51, Title 18.

[redacted]

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I have your memorandum of August 25, 1943, referring to [redacted] Exhibits No. 36, No. 58, and No. 54.

In respect to the inquiry relating to Exhibit No. 36, I am reliably informed by officials of the National Labor Relations Board that in Board elections, the ballot does not disclose the name of the voter who cast it. Apparently, there is no way to determine from the Board's records how any employee actually cast his vote.

This information is equally applicable to the inquiry relating to Exhibit No. 58.

In respect to the inquiry relating to Exhibit No. 54, I am informed that the Membership cards referred to did not actually come into the possession of the Board officials but were simply exhibited to the Field Examiner who made calculations therefrom, and the cards were returned to the possession of the unions. Apparently, if these cards are available at all in their original form, they are to be found in the unions' files.

With respect to the last paragraph of your memorandum, I believe that all petitions addressed to the Board have been forwarded to the Bureau.

RECORDED 44-843-79
INDEXED 110

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

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[redacted]

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AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

TP:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 27, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 5

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

[redacted]

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[redacted]

There is reason to believe that O'Leary was used by Lewis as a means of checking to see that the payments actually reached Elshoff and were not misappropriated en route.

[redacted]

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8/26/43 - cc Springfield

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[redacted]

b7c

[redacted]

b3
T26, USC
§6103

[redacted]

Any information which you may discover regarding the identification and location of the missing $15,000 will be extremely valuable. At an appropriate time, O'Leary should be interviewed.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

August 30, 1943

[redacted]
Time: 12:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

At the above time Mr. Frank Coleman of the Department called with respect to the situation which was reported in my memorandum of Saturday, August 28, 1943, that is, [redacted]

b3
T26
USC
§6103

Mr. Coleman advised [redacted] in my office that he personally took the matter up again with Mr. Carusi in the Attorney General's office and as a result he has reached an agreement with the Tax Division in the Department whereby arrangements will be made, according to Mr. Coleman, [redacted]

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

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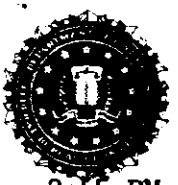
50 SEP 18 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOV
DIRECTOR



2:45 PM
[redacted] b7c

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Bureau of Investi
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
August 28, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: John L. Lewis et al
Civil Rights & Domestic
Violence

Mr. Frank Coleman, Civil Rights Section in the Department, called regarding this case. Mr. Coleman stated that he was concerned about the following possible conflict of investigative activity which has presented itself.

b3
26 USC §6103

[redacted] Mr. Coleman stated that for his part he desired to present the evidence regarding the violation by Elshoff to the same grand jury which would be called to hear the evidence developed by the Bureau in instant investigation regarding not only Elshoff's activities but also those of John L. Lewis and others.

[redacted]

RECORDED & INDEXED 47-845 '82

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Mr. Coleman requested advice from [redacted] who took the call, as to the Bureau's viewpoint in the matter. It was pointed out to him that very definitely the Bureau does not want any other investigators making inquiries regarding the same situation in any investigation, since it is highly undesirable from the standpoint of both organizations and [redacted] particularly stressed the fact that in an investigation as delicate as the present one it was felt that there would be no question but that the Bureau would strenuously object to any such procedure. It was pointed out to Mr. Coleman that necessarily in connection with investigation in this matter an accounting investigation would have to be made in accordance with the Department's request into the circumstances surrounding the payment of the $225,000 to Carl Elshoff by the United Mine Workers and that after the Bureau had completed its investigation and the evidence developed had been reviewed in the Department [redacted]

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R411 JAN 11 1962

60 SEP 18 1943

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b3 [redacted]

b7c ACTION: [redacted] advised Mr. Coleman that in response to his request, the complete matter would be taken up with you so that a clear and definite expression of the Bureau's desires in the premises could be forwarded to Mr. Coleman. Mr. Coleman definitely understands, however, that the procedure is highly undesirable from our point of view.

3:45 PM - Addendum:

Mr. Coleman called again at this time and stated that he had just found out that the Tax Division had taken the matter up independently with the Attorney General, that is, the matter discussed above, [redacted] Mr. Coleman stated in view of this unfortunate occurrence, he was not in a position to say what would happen with regard to the independent investigation [redacted] possibly interfering with and being to an appreciable extent an exact duplication of the Bureau's investigation.

b3

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

JOHN E[illegible]VER

. Tolson
. E. A. Tamm
. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

[redacted] b7c

September 9, 1943

Call: 8:00-8:06 p.m.
Dictated: 8:40 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al
CIVIL RIGHTS & DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

At this time [redacted] in my office telephonically contacted the Springfield Office and advised Agent [redacted] who is acting in Mr. Hallford's absence from the office, that the Department had been contacted relative to the requests which had been made by certain of the miners who had given signed statements to Agents at Springfield, Illinois, in the above captioned matter, as a result of which Mr. Frank Coleman of the Department had verbally indicated to [redacted] today that the Department's attitude is as follows. Under no circumstances does the Department desire that copies of statements be given to any lawyers who might request same. In addition he furnished him with the advice of Mr. Coleman that copies of statements should not be furnished to any of the individuals if they requested them but rather that they should be referred to the Attorney General or the Criminal Division of the Department in connection with any such request.

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INDEXED 110 47-87-83

[redacted] was apprised by Agent [redacted] of the fact that Mr. Coleman was planning to arrive at Springfield, Illinois, sometime late tonight or early tomorrow and that Mr. Coleman planned to spend a week there. Agent [redacted] was advised that previous Bureau instructions as to contact with Mr. Coleman while he was there should be followed and any requests for additional investigation which might be made by Mr. Coleman should be referred by Mr. [redacted] Coleman to the Bureau through the Department at Washington unless in Mr. Hallford's opinion the matter was such as could be said to be nothing more than an extension of an approved procedure, already in existence.

SEP 9 1943

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Agent [redacted] stated that in connection with the request which has been made for copies of statements already furnished to Agents, there have been very recent indications that certain individuals are contacting the miners as they leave the mines and are inquiring of the miners whether they have furnished statements to any investigators recently and these individuals are either suggestion to or counseling the miners that if they have not given statements they should tell any investigators that might contact them for statements that on the advice of Attorney Fitzgerald they do not wish

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

COPIES DESTROYED
R411 JAN 11 1962

to furnish any statements. Attorney Fitzgerald has been previously mentioned in this case as being the attorney in whose office Ray Edmondson, one of the subjects in this case, had a meeting with four or five of the miners who are reported as having been members of the Progressive Mine Workers Union during the troubledtime between that Union and the United Mine Workers Union between 1937 and 1941, and which individuals were also reported as having acted as spies in the Progressive Mine Workers Union for the benefit of the United Mine Workers Union. This angle of the case is being closely watched by the Springfield Office and Agent [redacted] as requested to advise the Bureau by letter of the circumstances of the matter so it could be referred to the Department for its consideration.

b7c

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:HO'D:MLB

144-10

ENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 19, 1943

Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

I am attaching a photostatic copy of the petition signed on May 26, 1937, by members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America and presented to Mr. Elshoff.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge
WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

Enclosure
No. 218937

1 ENCL G
-35

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35 AUG 19 1943

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FOR VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

174

60 SEP 18 1943

Op. 7

Springfield, Illinois

May 26, 1937

DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVE FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

UNDER THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.

We, the undersigned, being more than a majority of all the employees employed at Mine 3 near Springfield, Illinois, now operated by the Mine 3 Coal Company, a corporation of Springfield, Illinois, and all of us being members of Local Union #54, Progressive Miners of America, a labor organization, hereby authorize the Progressive Miners of America, through its duly elected officers to exclusively represent us in the matters of collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment or other conditions of employment with the Mine 3 Coal Co., or any other individual or company who may later operate said Mine 3 from the date of this instrument.

We hereby authorize our employer, the Mine 3 Coal Company, or any individual or company who may later operate said Mine 3, to deduct from our wages, initiation fee, dues and assessments as provided for in the

4-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

16 ~~DP~~ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b7C with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
September 2, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

[redacted]

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter and in connection with an interview had with [redacted] which will be recorded in the first report submitted from this office on September 4, 1943, the following additional information is furnished to the Bureau.

During the interview [redacted] voluntarily furnished Special Agent [redacted] a pamphlet entitled "The Wrecking of the Miners' Union" by FRANK FARRINGTON, Former President, District 12, United Mine Workers of America, now deceased. [redacted] stated that the information contained in this pamphlet would furnish a good background on JOHN L. LEWIS. He however pointed out that he did not desire anyone, other than the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to be apprised of the fact that he had furnished this pamphlet because he feared he might be severely injured by the United Mine Workers should any of them discover that he had furnished this pamphlet to this Bureau. He pointed out that approximately one year ago he was severely beaten to the point of having a concussion of the brain and his teeth kicked out by members of the United Mine Workers and he was afraid to take any other chances.

Photostatic copies of the pamphlet were made and two copies of the same are being forwarded herewith to the Bureau. It is thought that the Bureau may desire the background information contained therein concerning JOHN L. LEWIS and that the Bureau may want to furnish the Department one copy for its information, without disclosing the knowledge of the confidential source from which it was obtained. One copy is being retained in the Springfield file.

RECORDED & INDEXED

44-845-85

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD, SAC.

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411 JAN 11 1962

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

CHK
44-18
Encl.

9/9/43
Not clerk (one of enclosures forwarded)

SEP

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

44-845-45

Date: 9/9/43

To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There is transmitted herewith a photostatic copy of a pamphlet entitled "The Wrecking of the Miners' Union," by Frank Farrington, former President of District #12, United Mine Workers of America. A copy of this pamphlet was obtained from a very confidential source, and it is reliably reported that Frank Farrington is now deceased.

A copy of this pamphlet is forwarded to you for any information it may contain pertaining to the background activities of subject Lewis.

Enclosure

b7c

UNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 10 1943
P. M.
FBI
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Lease
Gandy

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R

INCLOSURE 44-845-85

THE WRECKING

of the

MINERS' UNION

[illegible] DEARLINGTON

The articles reprinted herewith appeared first in The Belleville News-Democrat, published by Fred J. Kern at Belleville, Illinois.

The edition is limited but a few additional copies are available for those interested in their distribution and may be secured by addressing the author.

Published by
FRANK FARRINGTON
749 So. Grand Ave. W. Springfield, Illinois

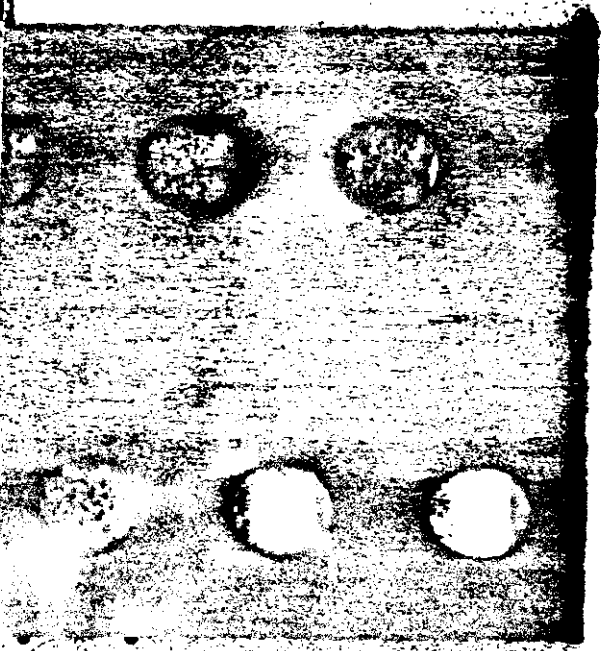
Organized Labor's Greatest Disaster

NO WHERE in the history of the Trade Union Movement of America is there embraced the record of another happening so tragic, so fraught with disaster and despair, as the disintegration of the United Mine Workers of America. Organized Labor has not experienced another debacle so great, so utterly crushing. Wrecked and beaten beyond repair, not by the forces of corporate greed, but by predatory enemies of brutal foes from without, but by sinister leadership within its own ranks, this once militant fighting force of more than half a million men, is but a remnant of its former greatness.

The Mighty Union of Mine Workers was the culmination of the blending of the best thought, study and endeavors of the ablest men of each succeeding generation within the miners' ranks and of their herculean efforts extending over a period of nearly three-quarters of a century, during which countless men, women and children suffered insultous abuses, hunger and cruel privations and many of them imprisonment and death in the harsh struggle to win the right to organize. Preceded by several other incipient organizations of miners that were unable to overcome the brutal opposition from without and the indifference and dissension from within and that failed of consummation, the United Mine Workers of America was founded in 1890.

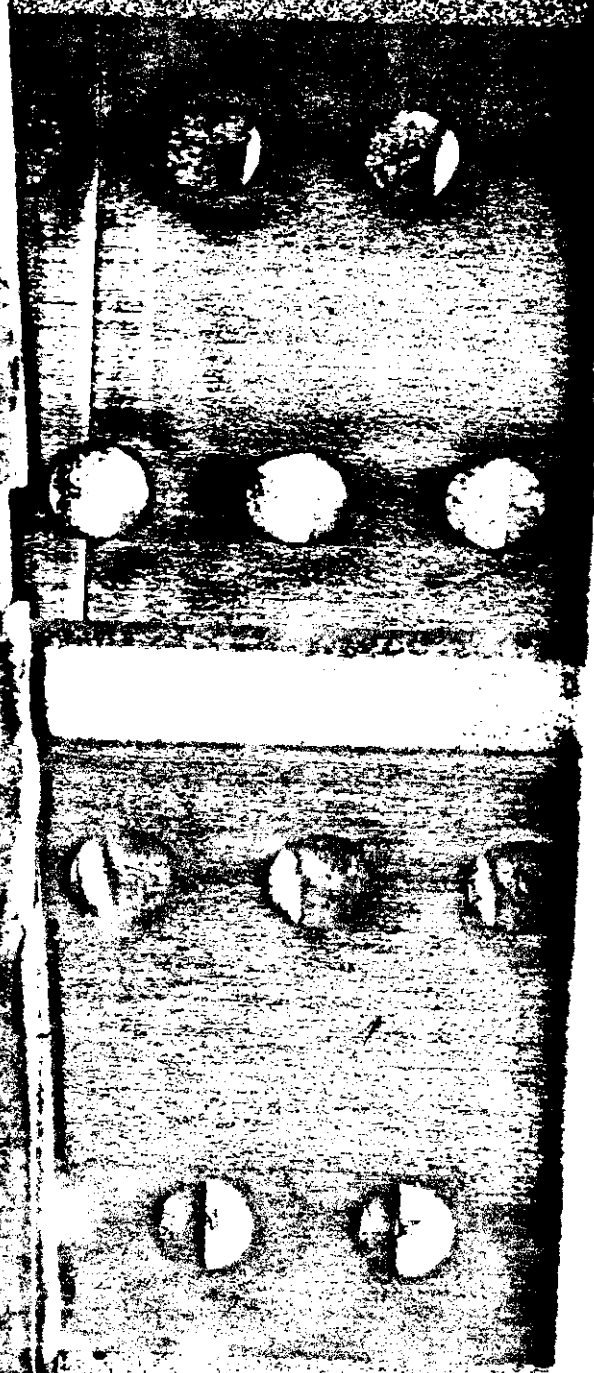
Mitchell—Peerless Leader

For several years following 1890 or until the peerless leader of men, John Mitchell, was elected to command the Miners' Union met with indifferent [illegible] 1897 there were less than 7000 members [illegible] the mining districts of the Country. [illegible]



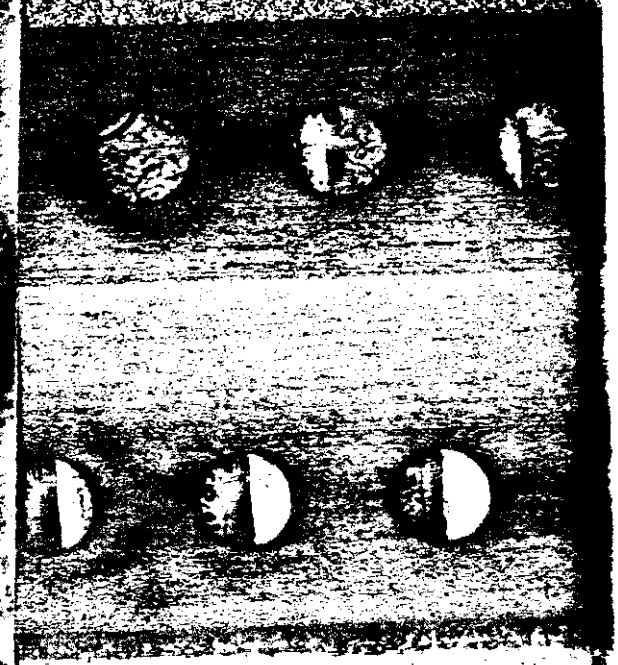
[illegible] to the movement to organize [illegible] magnetic personality drew men [illegible] confidence and hope. Under his [illegible] Union made gigantic progress [illegible] strength until its members [illegible] thousands, it expanded from [illegible] until its power and influence [illegible] in the country, and it was [illegible] the Trade Union [illegible] every member [illegible] power and [illegible] was a stabilizing factor in the mining industry [illegible] the confidence and respect and admiration [illegible] millions. It wielded immeasurable prestige [illegible] in industrial affairs. Mighty in numerical strength [illegible] righteous of purpose, impervious to every attack from without and invincible against every [illegible] fee. [illegible] years it survived the fury of storm and [illegible] a bulwark of protection to the [illegible]

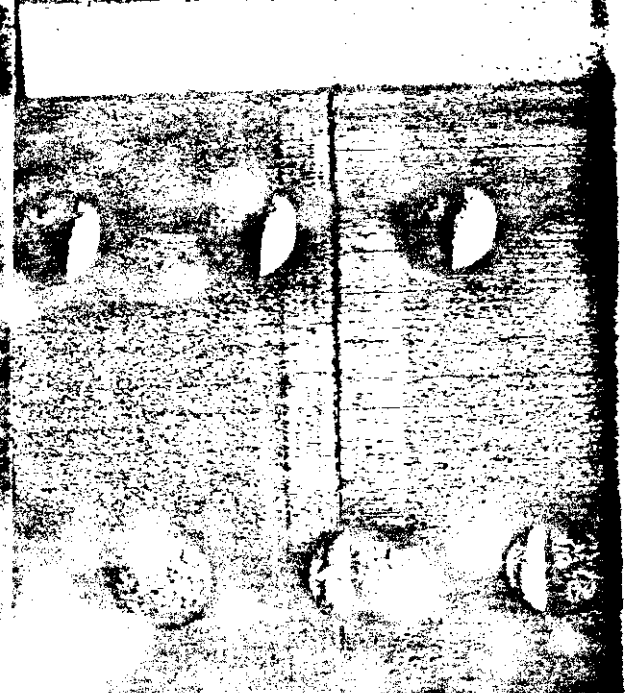
[illegible] leadership [illegible] a [illegible] of a century [illegible] the Miners' Union was [illegible] better things for the miners and their dependents. [illegible] this instrumentality things took on a new meaning [illegible] were raised from their knees to their feet. One by one [illegible] abuses were wiped out. [illegible] wages and improved working conditions were wrested from harsh employers and a higher standard of living obtained. The gaunt, hideous specter of poverty and squalor was banished from the miserable homes of millions, children were transferred from mines to schools and the pinched look of poverty was erased from their faces by the happy look of nurtured childhood. The sunshine was beginning to permeate the dark places, men were beginning to read more of the things that are entitled to, to acquire their little homes and to make themselves more secure against the future. Things were a little better and brighter than they had been before and the Union was advancing step by step to more of the [illegible] for all.



[illegible] numerical strength [illegible] until [illegible] had [illegible] good-sized [illegible] was [illegible] very [illegible] [illegible] directly [illegible] [illegible] to protect [illegible]

[illegible] that obtained when the [illegible] was appointed to the [illegible] the Union had grown so big and powerful [illegible] its influence and was so generally [illegible] that we [illegible] [illegible] threatened with disintegration [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

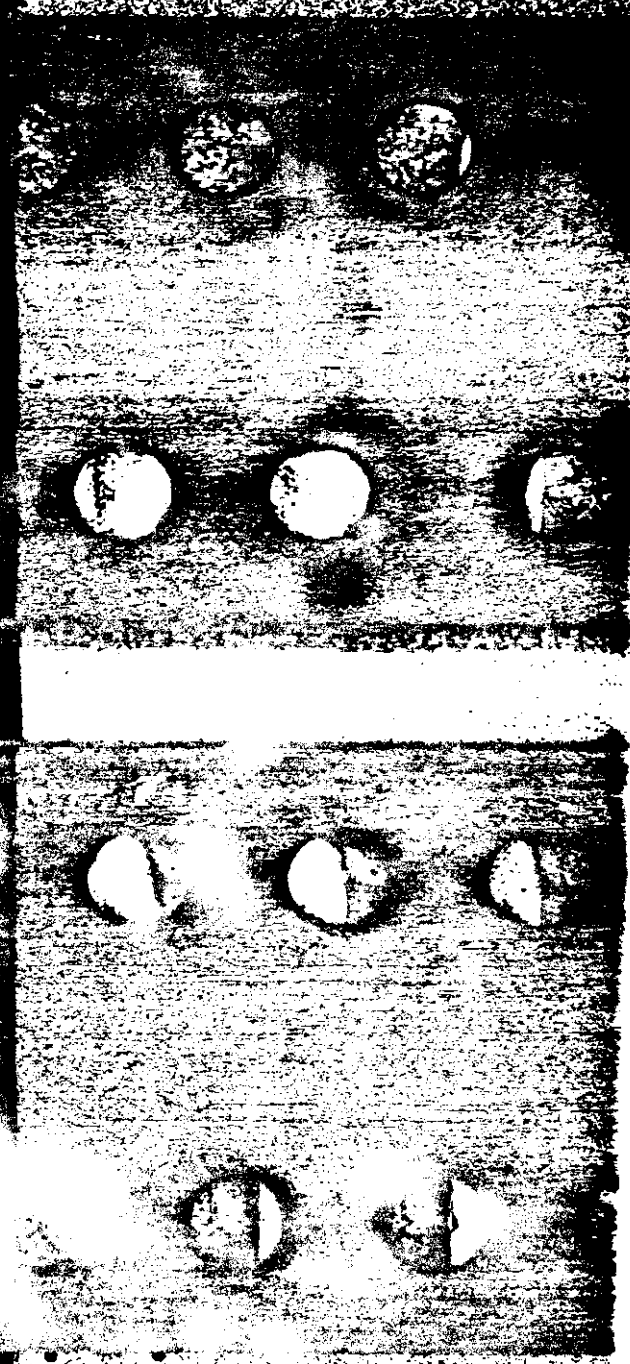




the soft coal fields had reached an appalling stage. The membership had dwindled until only 89,186 dues paying members were left — 45,203 of these were in Illinois. The remaining 43,983 were scattered over 20 different fields and divided into so many parts as not to leave a single unit of any material strength, outside of Illinois. In reality of all the once splendidly organized district unions [illegible] made up the International Union, Illinois is the only [illegible] that has survived the havoc of Lewis' leadership and that still remains intact. All the others have dwindled until only inconsequential fragments are [illegible]

That Illinois is still intact [illegible] attributable to the fact that all during his tenure of [illegible] Lewis was held at arms length and [illegible] not allow[illegible] [illegible]fere in the internal affairs of the Illinois Miners [illegible] and because those who [illegible] affairs forced him [illegible] allow action necessary to preserve its [illegible] [illegible] permitted to pursue his cours[illegible] would have drifted [illegible] disas[illegible] solution [illegible] with the others [illegible]

[illegible]



Western Pennsylvania from 40,000 to 364 members.

West Virginia reduced from 67,000 to 32 dues paying members.

Kentucky reduced from 40,000 to 88 members.

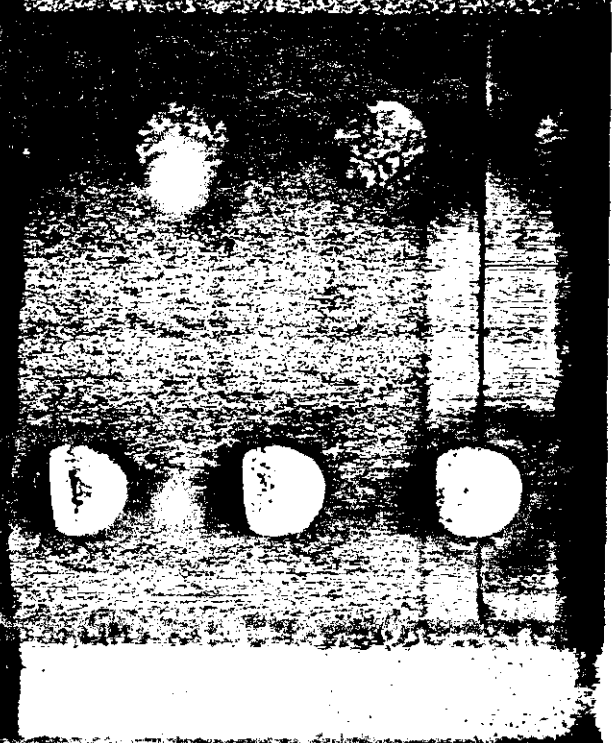
In the Southwestern mining districts, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas, where the men struck and fought and suffered for four long, weary years to win the right to organize and where for more than 25 years they had been solidly organized, the Union has dwindled in numerical strength from 30,000 to 128 dues paying members in these three states.

[illegible]agic Debacle

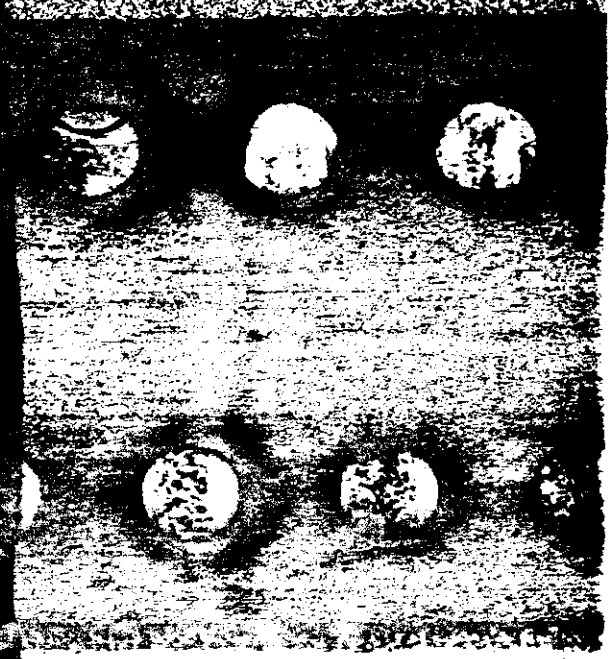
So it has been [illegible] coal district in the country. With [illegible] exception of Illinois, the Union has all [illegible] vanished. The [illegible] is mor[illegible] in anoth[illegible] the incumb[illegible] Presid[illegible] appointed. Union Miners mined 75 per cent of [illegible] coal produced in the [illegible]

The tonnage [illegible] now 90 per cent [illegible]

[illegible] mined [illegible] debac[illegible] earnest [illegible] and the [illegible] be [illegible] on the min[illegible] as [illegible] poverty [illegible] is certain [illegible] enou[illegible] dism[illegible]

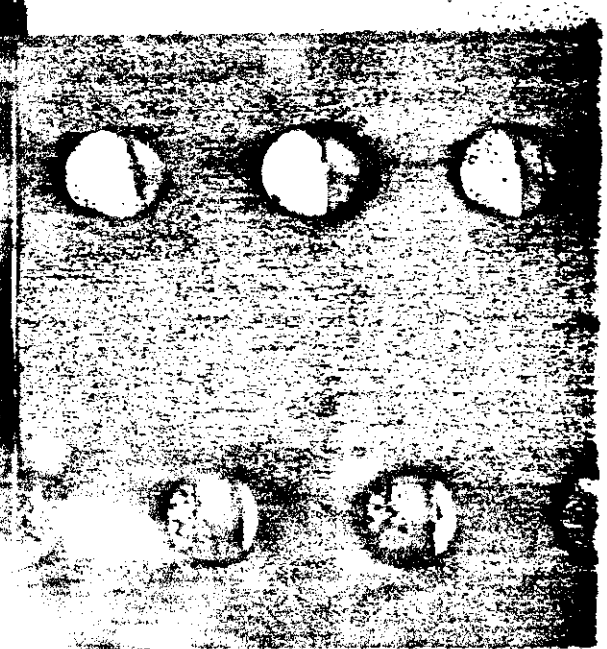


are opened where only one is needed to supply the normal demand for coal, and the struggle for markets is constant and fierce. Those who can sell their coal the cheapest, get the markets. To sell cheaply one must produce cheaply and in the effort to reduce production costs, wages are cut to the bone and working conditions are shamelessly degraded unless there is some restraining force and the only restraining force the miner has is his Union. With it obliterated he is at the mercy of an employer who is striving desperately to cut his production costs to the last penny so he can sell his coal, keep his mine operating and reap a return from his invested capi[illegible]



The Miner [illegible]

Where that condition obtains, and it is always present in the mining industry, the [illegible]iner is the victim of inevitable oppression and injustice [illegible] he can turn [illegible] his Union for protection. In the [illegible] competition for [illegible] there is no ma[illegible]animity, no [illegible]erosity. Indeed [illegible] of justice is [illegible] and emplo[illegible] though [illegible]nely disposed become harsh and ruthl[illegible] with financial ru[illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] are invested [illegible] because [illegible] miner coal.



The mine[illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] working [illegible] [illegible] Union is [illegible] [illegible]

will sink back into their old brutal status of injustice and oppression.

Other unions are going forward, gaining in numerical strength, raising wages, shortening hours of labor and better working conditions, but the miners, whose Union was once the paragon of other unions, are forced to accept reduced wages and are headed toward the position they occupied [illegible] years ago.

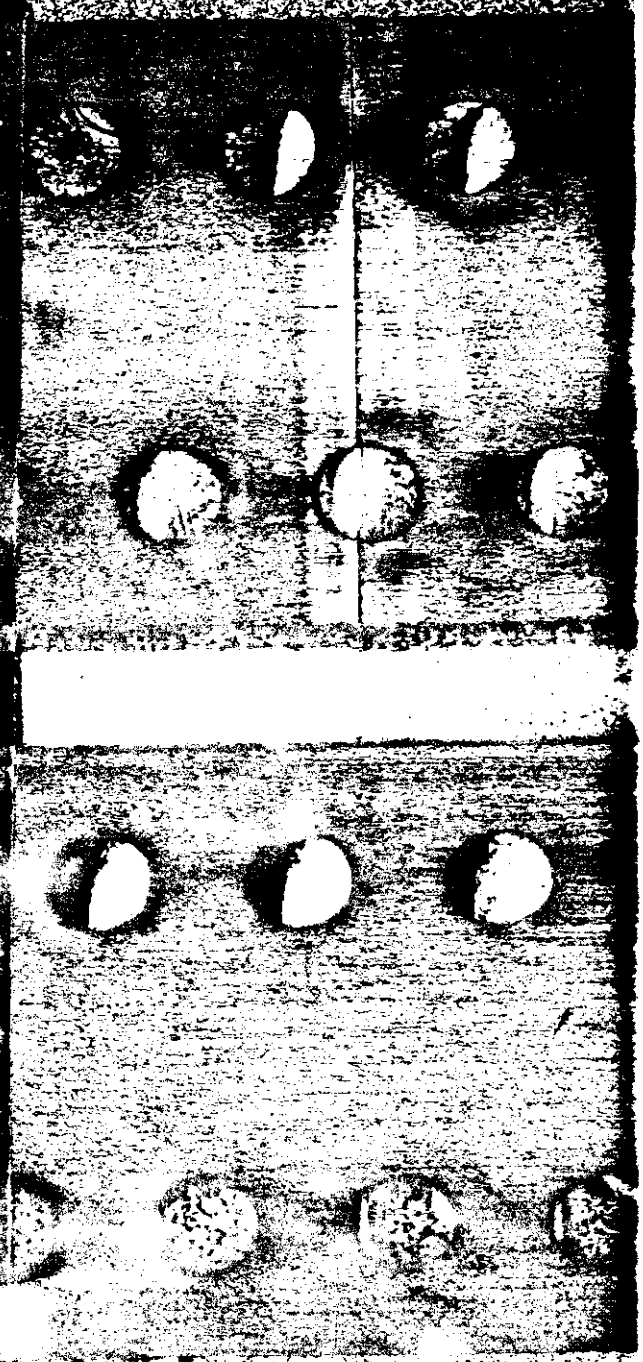
The prospects for rehabilitation are not promising as the miners declare they will never rejoin the union and the mine owners swear they will never again enter into joint wage agreements with it as long as the incumbent president is at its head. Who is responsible for this overwhelming disaster, this criminal wrong against the miners?

His name is John L. Lewis. He will rise in high dudgeon and dramatically proclaim that this exposure of union disaster is the act of a traitor, a union wrecker [illegible] is expected. Recrimination is always the refuge of a scoundrel. The exposure cannot harm the miners any more than they are already harmed. Every mine owner in the country knows the Miners' Union has disintegrated, but many of the miners do not know of the debacle.

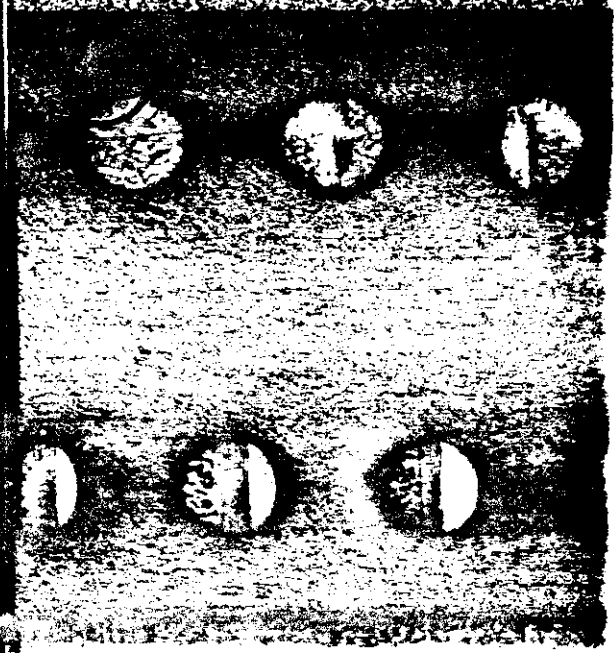
Why the Decent [illegible]

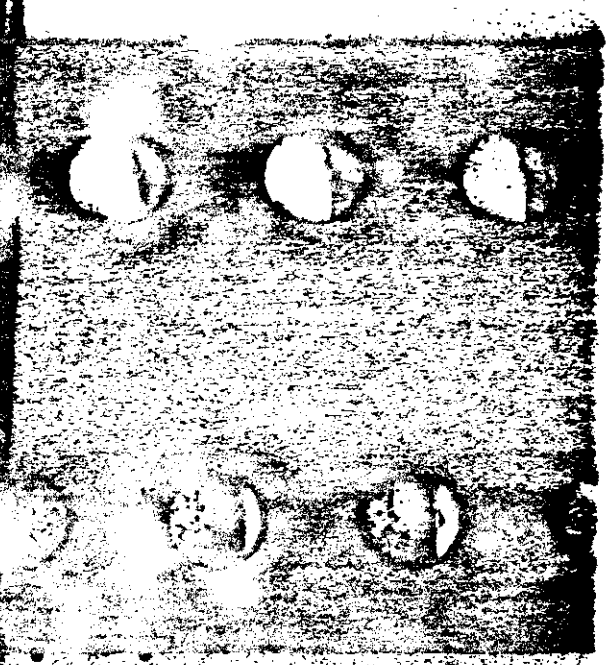
Their isolation and separation, the lack of contact and means of communication with each [illegible], prevent their knowing [illegible] and they have been purposely kept in the dark and deliberately deceived as to the real strength of their Union. In the ultimate the exposure will be [illegible] to the miners. It is imperative that they have [illegible] the scoundrel [illegible] the full truth [illegible] they will begin to reassemble and rebuild their [illegible]

Why does Lewis practice [illegible] the Miners' Union and why [illegible] exposure [illegible] weakness? Is it because of a [illegible] shield the miners from harm? Not at all. Instead [illegible] because the veil [illegible] his makes [illegible] from the consequences [illegible] the miners realize the magnitude of the [illegible] he has do[illegible]



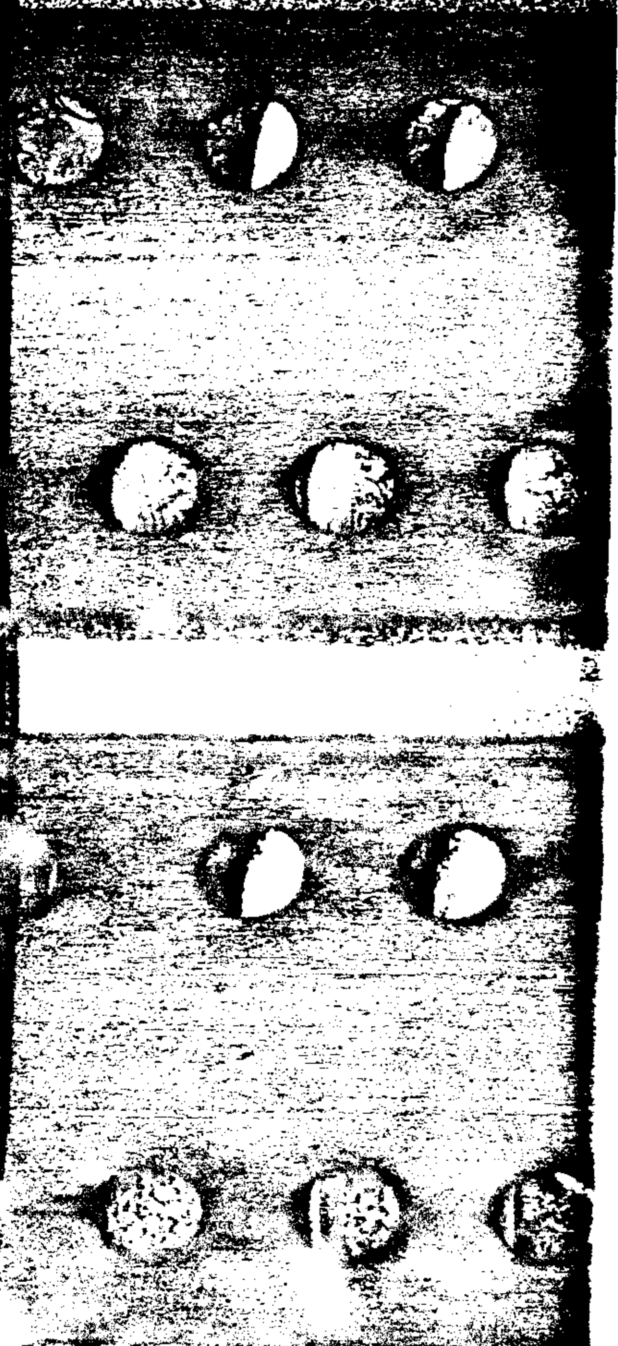
them, and because the Union would lose its value as a political asset for personal aggrandizement were the truth known to gullible politicians who have favors to disburse and who think he still represents a Union of half a million men. Lewis still grandiloquently prates of the Miners' Union as though it possessed its former numerical strength and thus he receives much consideration and many personal political favors from the uninformed that he does not deserve, and that he would not receive if they knew the truth. As long as he is able to continue the deception he can continue to reap personal benefits and the Union [illegible] his purpose just [illegible] effectively as though it were [illegible] a million strong. [illegible] the "fellow" still hopes to sit [illegible] the President's feet. He is consumed [illegible] pitiful [illegible] born yearning to supplant Secretary of [illegible] Davis as a member of the President's Cabinet. [illegible] he is prone to [illegible] over [illegible] reveal the [illegible]





nomic trend that would not be denied, that no human agency could ignore with impunity, and that no sane leader would have disregarded, unless actuated by some ulterior motive. He arrayed the miners in battle against an unwilling foe, one that wanted to be friendly and that constantly sued for peace. He called the miners the shock troops of the American Labor Movement, and they were worthy of the name, but their general was a vainglorious, egotistical, perverse,—what? Scoundrel, coward or fool?—who stupidly ignored the insurmountable obstacles against his troops and who stubbornly held them in the battle lines until they were sh[illegible] into smithereens and [illegible] into helpless [illegible]

There was no need for the slaughter. [illegible] obtainable [illegible] the loss of a single [illegible] quarter of a ce[illegible] same foe—the mine owners—[illegible] negotiated successive peace pacts on friendly terms and they urged continuation of that practice. One [illegible] the conferen[illegible] [illegible]



recover lost ground and more. But the miners were held to the fray until they w[illegible] exhaust[illegible] prostrated, demoralized, and defeated by [illegible]onomic [illegible] that no human power could overcome. Then their retreat was a rout, a veritable debacle that left them a defenseless, sorry lot without power of resistance and compelled to accept whatever terms the mine owners were willing to offer.

Both miners and mine owners had lived through three miserable years under the Jacksonville Agreement, during which the tonnage gradually shifted from the Union to the non-union fields. Of [illegible] union miners [illegible] favored few had scant work during [illegible]ure, but ten[illegible] of thousands had no work at all. The tonnage was 75 per cent union mined when this agreement was fir[illegible]. W[illegible] the date of termination arrived, only 2[illegible] [illegible] union mi[illegible] scores of thousands of m[illegible] unable to longer stand the rigors of [illegible] had left the union to work for lower wages. During the three [illegible] tenure of this agreement, many new mines were op[illegible] the non-union field[illegible] thereby [illegible]vading [illegible] already [illegible] tonnage. The mine own[illegible] in the union field[illegible] to install mechanical labor-savin[illegible] [illegible] tem[illegible] pro[illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible]ompetition [illegible] union [illegible] prove [illegible]

[illegible] against [illegible]

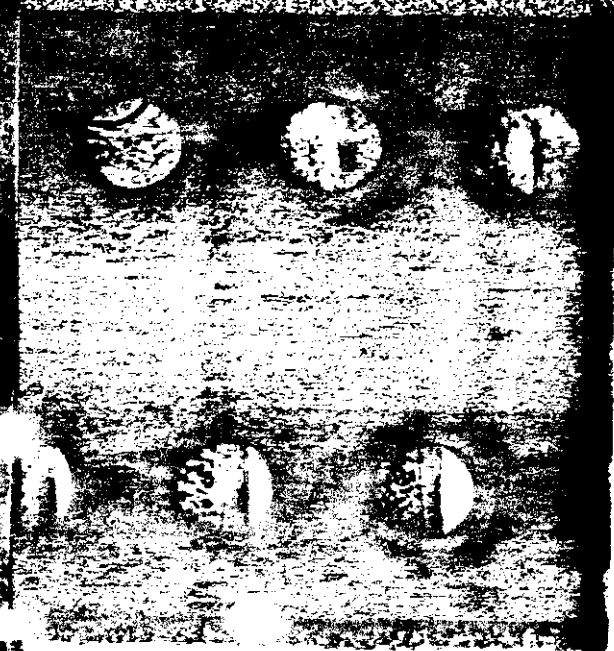
[illegible] human end[illegible] [illegible] dan[illegible]

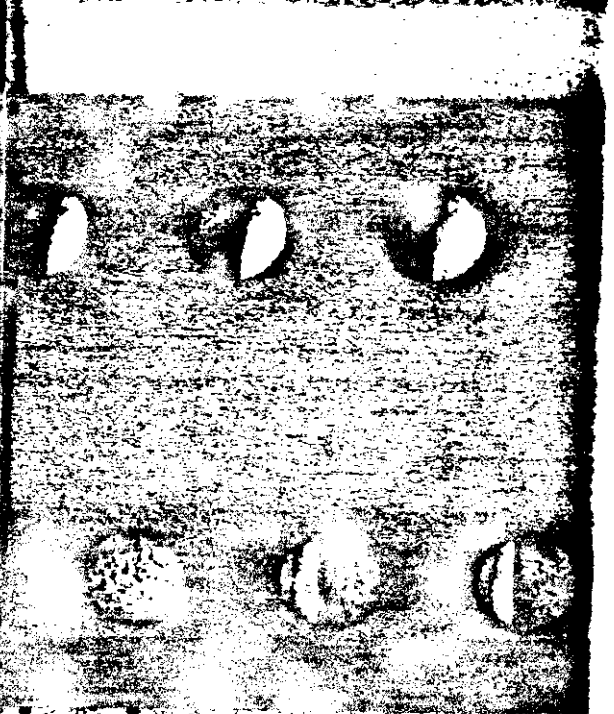
[illegible] to retreat to a more tenable position and for reorganization of his terribly depleted army. But appalling though it was the condition held no adverse meaning for Lewis. He continued to defy the lightning and to blatantly [illegible] that "the miners would take no backward step" and [illegible] the rudimentary army into battle to fight for renewal of the Jacksonville Agreement.

Held To Impossible Task

[illegible] a year and more prior to its expiration Illinois and Indiana were the only districts in the country where the mine owners were complying with the requirements of the Jacksonville Agreement. It had been discarded by mine owners elsewhere and the men employed by them had [illegible] part of the Union and were working for wages ranging [illegible] $5.40 to $6.00 per day as against $7.50 provided for in the Jacksonville Agreement. Notwithstanding the fact that [illegible] of thousands of members had already stepped back to the [illegible] of [illegible] reduction ranging from $2.50 to $4.10 per day [illegible] continued to insist there would be no backward step. Had not his action been so fraught with tragic consequences it would have been a scene [illegible] worthy of the most comical clown.

While [illegible] posed as the champion of high wages disintegration was eating into the Union and by the subtle insidious means [illegible] it was being destroyed. The miners were assured that it was impossible for drummers like them to hold [illegible] miners beyond [illegible] could stand no more. [illegible] the mine owners could not continue the Jacksonville [illegible] wage and sell their coal in market [illegible] the miners [illegible] could have [illegible] but [illegible] them [illegible] the world [illegible] only [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] the [illegible]





coal fields from disintegration, forced him to abandon his destructive position.

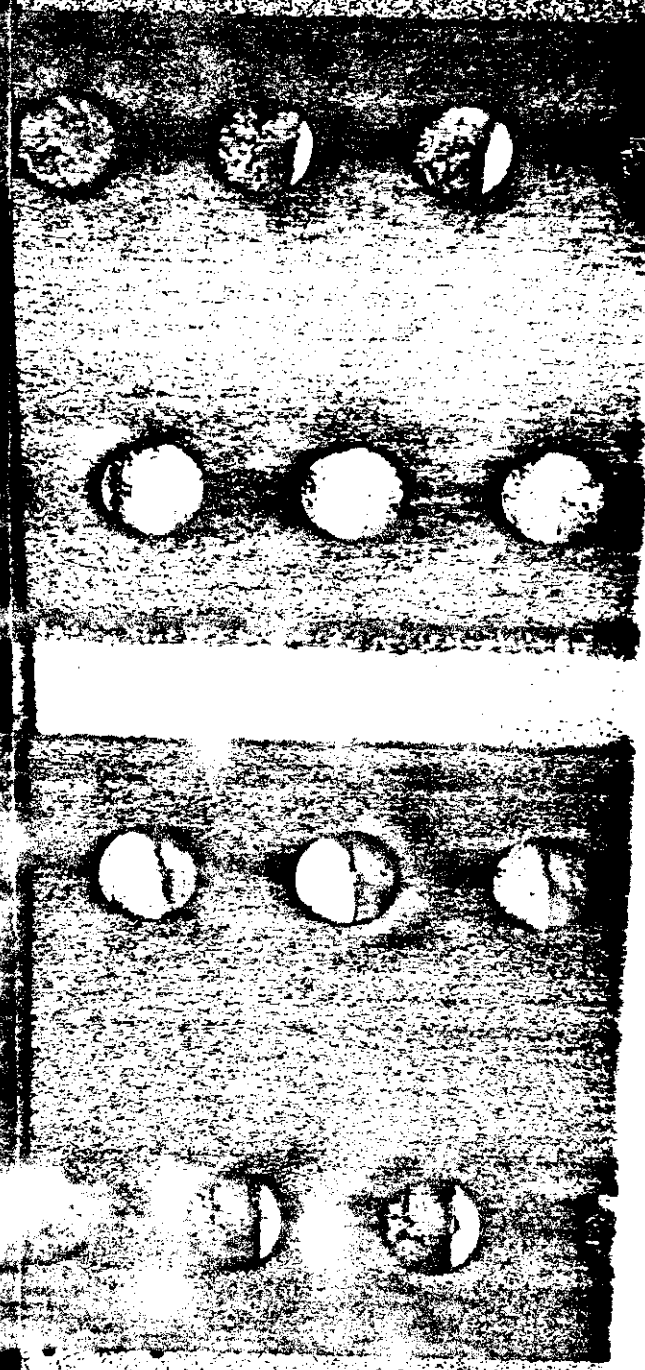
By this time the Union was so badly infected with disintegration and so weakened as an effective force that Illinois was the only district able to secure a tentative renewal of the Jacksonville Agreement, and being alone successful the agreement was a decided disadvantage to the Illinois miners as there was little work under its terms, and stress of circumstances demanded modification, but not until after [illegible] stood alone, in ability to attain, did Illinois seek authority to deviate.

$5 Scale in Ohio and Southwest

Finally Illinois asked for and received authority to modify. A reduced wage scale was necessary to help meet non-union competition which by now abounded on [illegible] sides. Wages were reduced from $7.50 to $[illegible] per day and an agreement was closed on that basis and the Illinois district was held 100 per cent intact. Time will prove the wisdom of this action. Orderly retreat [illegible] forces 100 per cent intact was certainly preferable to drifting into disintegration and then being forced to accept whatever wage the mine owners were willing to pay as occurred in every other district. The wisdom of the [illegible] is proven by the fact that no other district has been able to secure an [illegible] as good.

A pitiable handful of m[illegible] in Ohio and the Southwestern districts [illegible] on a $5.00 per day [illegible] with Lewis' approv[illegible] the great majority of the [illegible] in these districts are working for less [illegible] recently [illegible] big companies in Ohio that are operating independent of the Union cut wages to $4.50 per day. This is true of other districts [illegible] is wiped out. Even Indiana [illegible] [illegible] a few members on the $6.10 [illegible]

Proof that the Union was [illegible] ity to modify was sought in fo[illegible] documents [illegible] Lewis and his two associat[illegible] of the International Union and [illegible] them [illegible] was finally decided [illegible]



abandon the Jacksonville Agreement and a[illegible] new policy. In part they said:

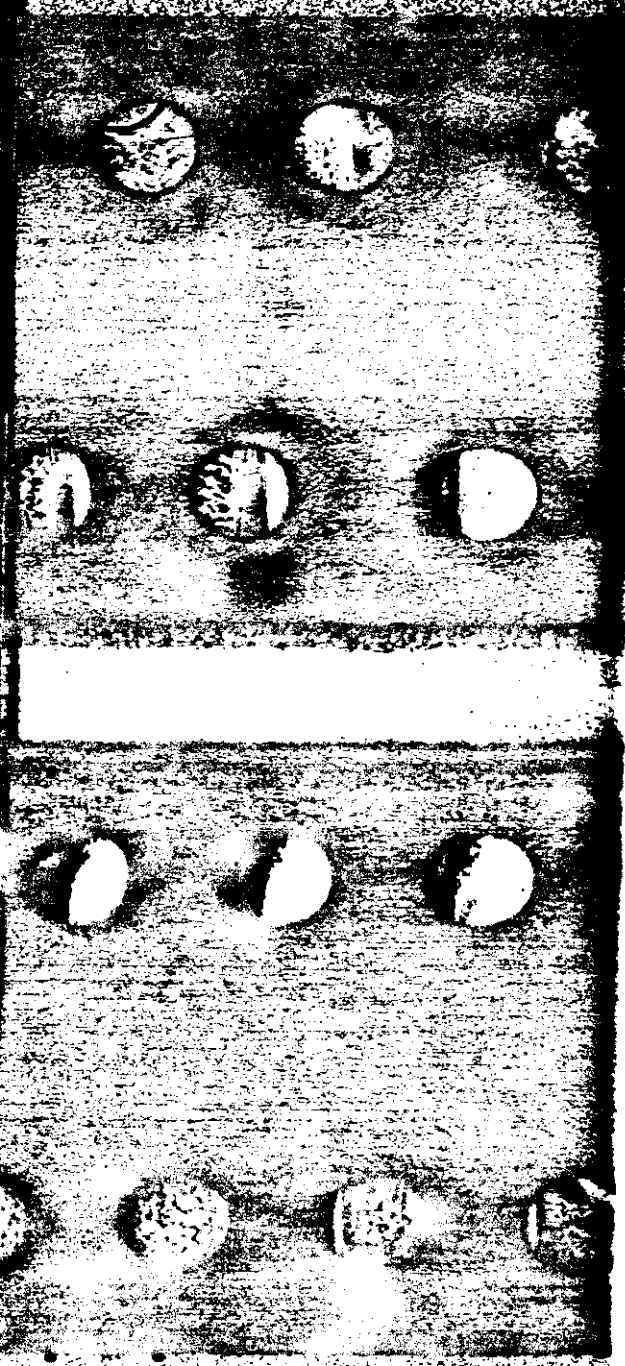
"The thought and the hope is expressed that through the active co-operation of our officers and members in the bituminous districts affected, the policy adopted may be the means to rehabilitate our forces, bring about mutually satisfactory agreements, restore the stability of our organization and lay the basis for future advancement of our organization and its membership."

The changed policy did not [illegible]bilitate the Union, nor re[illegible]e its stability. Lewis had [illegible] things [illegible] too long — the disaster [illegible] too great — [illegible] had things too well in hand [illegible] that time [illegible] damage was irreparable. The men were broken and discouraged by a crushing defeat that they should not have been forced to suffer, and had lost confidence in their leader. The Union was so weakened that the mine owners could [illegible] and they did, with the exception [illegible] Illinois.

Lewis' Poison Propaganda

From [illegible] Illinois Agreement [illegible] of Lewis [illegible] approved [illegible] ment and complimen[illegible] it, but it was hardly more tha[illegible] pointees [illegible] International [illegible] proselyting amo[illegible] the Illinois [illegible] discount and discredit the [illegible] telling the [illegible] Lewis [illegible] proposed to [illegible] there was [illegible] the Illi[illegible] reduction [illegible] they [illegible] the poisoned propag[illegible] [illegible] is threatening to [illegible] Miners [illegible]

[illegible]



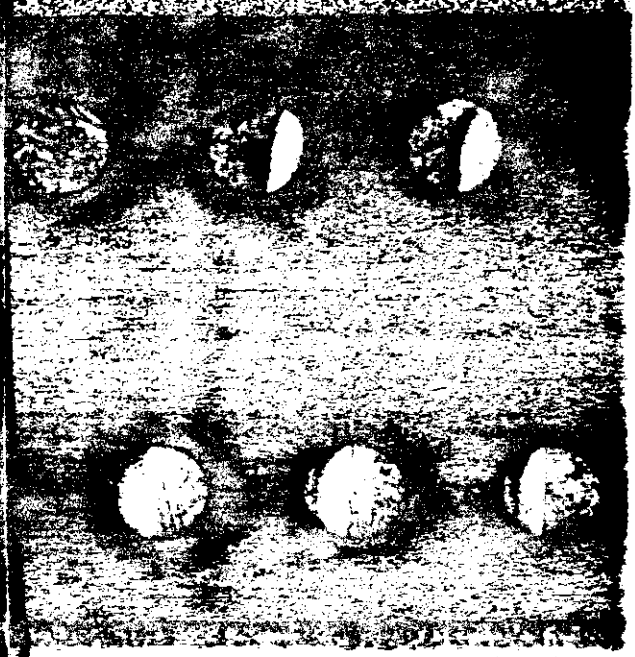
seems rather strange that he would approve of agreements made on a $5.00 per day basis and applicable to a handful of members in Ohio and Southwest, and then allow his boot-licking lackeys to discredit an agreement that provides for the payment of $5.15 per day.

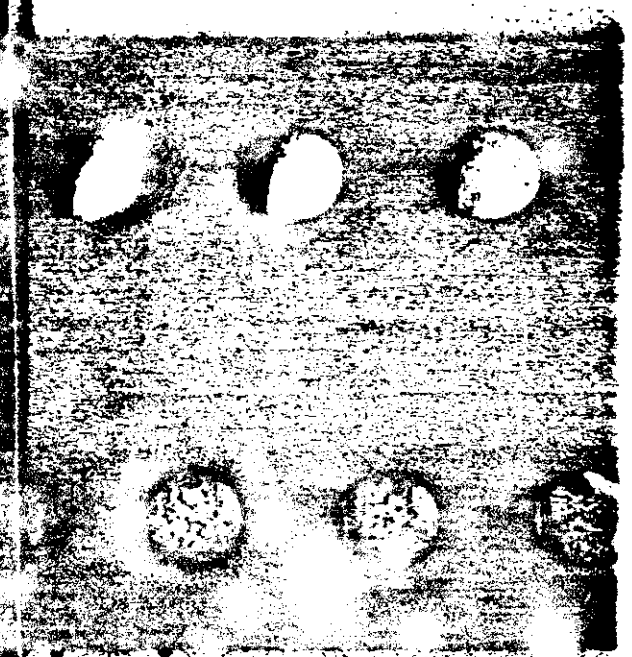
But Lewis is a "fellow" of many strange whims. When the Illinois Miners and Operators were in Joint Wage Scale Conference and his officers were striving with might and main to get the best possible agreement for the Illinois Miners, Lewis authorized the Ohio officers to sign up with a few small operators in Ohio for a wage scale of $5.00 per day, thus greatly embarrassing the Illinois officers. Every rule of diplomacy and strategy demanded that Ohio hold back and allow Illinois to fix the standard, as always had been done, but his reprehensible action indicates that Lewis wanted Ohio to set the pace.

Ruthless and Cold Blooded

To understand how he could wreck a Union of half a million men, one must know the character of this "fellow" Lewis. He is an egregious egotist, a bombastic, pansophical, obstinate "fellow," who regards the opinions of others with patronizing indulgence and who views everybody who disagrees with him as an enemy or a trickster. Ruthless and cold blooded as a fish he is inconsiderate of the rights of others and things everybody must be watched lest they be up to some trick. He constantly resorts to affectation that often borders on the comic and can weep as readily and [illegible] as any "Weeping Bertha" to prove his sincerity. He is supersensitive and superstitious. When accused of wrong doing he [illegible] to recrimination and sentimental by-play and has [illegible] with many a prize by crying "stop thief" at his accuser and by employing sentiment at gush. He is of a swaggering, [illegible] and overbearing nature [illegible] filling station [illegible] never known to [illegible] of battle [illegible] equal [illegible]

He is a brazen, malicious and precocious [illegible] [illegible] some one in [illegible]



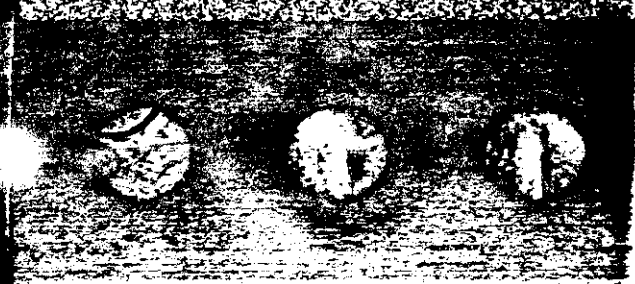


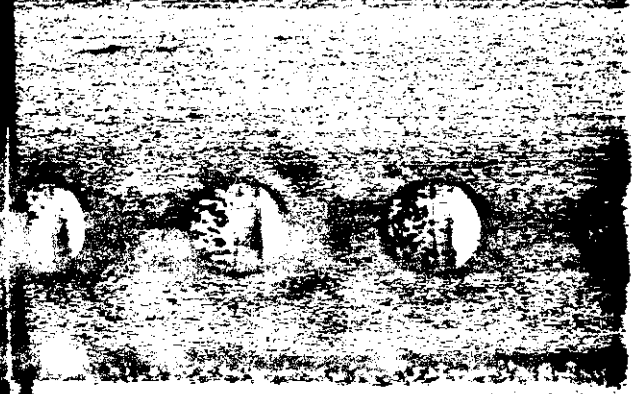
can whisper into their ear some vile injurious lie about an opponent. He affects great dignity but his mind is mostly in the muck. He is adept at chicanery and contemptible intrigue and is ever plotting to get his opponents in a compromising position so as to make them subservient to his will. He is a base, selfish ingrate, destitute of honor and without appreciation of friendships. Gompers, when alive, Hays and Walker and many others who have befriended him, have felt the hurt and the harm of his ingratitude. He is insincere, disloyal and dishonest, a consummate sh[illegible] and an unscrupulous "fellow."

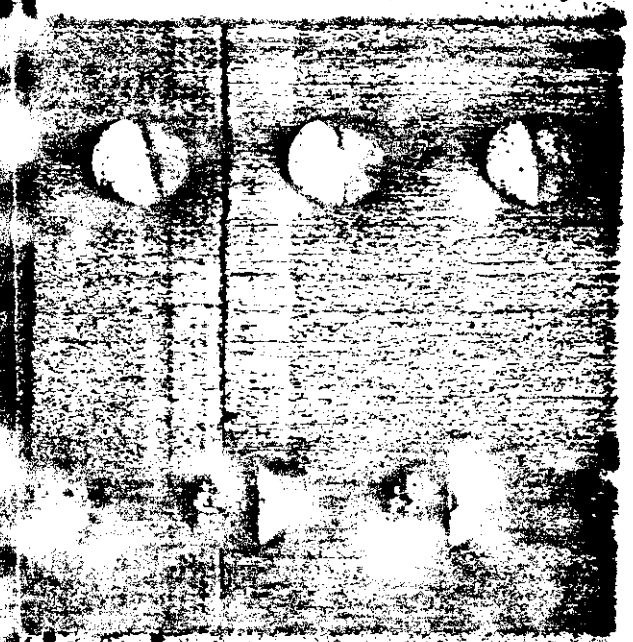
An Insufferable Braggart

He is greedy for money and so tight he would not bet a dime. He is alive unless he had a doctor's certificate [illegible]tifying to the fact. He is pompous and vainglorious and consumed with an inordinate desire for publicity and fame. He is vicious, spiteful and vindictive, intolerant of criticism and thrives on blandishments that would be repugnant to a self-respecting man. He is an insufferable braggart and a lover of things sensational and theatrical and goes to great lengths to make a Roman Holiday out of tri[illegible]. [illegible] dependable and distrustful he has few friends or admirers other than his mercurial and venal followers. Surrounded by a coterie of mediocre horn-blowing jackeys [illegible] [illegible]phantical camp-followers, he has ruled the Union [illegible] though it were his personal possess[illegible] [illegible]d created for his personal aggrandizem[illegible].

His induction into office meant the advent of a new [illegible] of things and procedure in the Miners' Union. The old prop[illegible] assembled conventions [illegible] free and frank discussion [illegible] policies and principles [illegible] practice, where majority rule prevailed and democratic action obtained, were displaced by packed conventions and strong [illegible] methods. [illegible] speech was stifled and delegates who had the courag[illegible] [illegible] convictions [illegible] for [illegible] cent [illegible] down by the [illegible] camp follo[illegible] the Convention [illegible] rushed





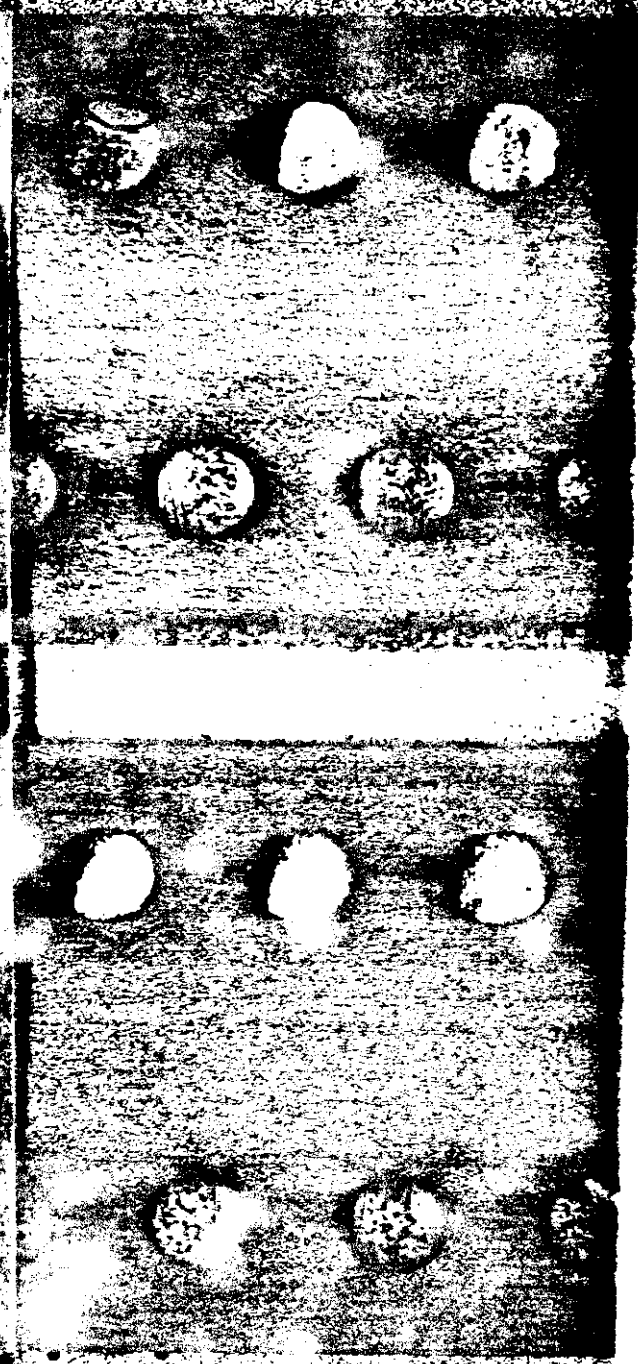


[illegible] outside by some [illegible] brought there for the [illegible] and the [illegible] only when Lewis wants them to run. Conventions that once were deliberative and orderly and that attracted the admiration of the country and from which [illegible] policies that were the result of the most thoughtful consideration and the experience of the best minds in the [illegible] Union and that [illegible] for the [illegible] of the country, were degraded into [illegible] protests that stirred to [illegible] indignation by outrageous gaves [illegible] and from which came nothing but policies calculated to [illegible] firmly entrench Lewis and give him a stronger grip on the Union.

God Bless the Miners!

Lewis is now supreme. The constitution is flouted and distorted to meet just what he wants it to mean. Records are padded as to the number of members, elections are corrupted with [illegible], his [illegible] officers are subservient to his will. Organizers are [illegible] not to organize [illegible] the [illegible] who oppose him. The officer journal is used for the same purpose as the army of camp-followers, [illegible] and sycophants are at hand to [illegible] scurrilous [illegible] to destroy the influence of those who oppose him. The [illegible] of members that are [illegible] bewildered as to what to do and should one be able to [illegible] himself heard above the rabble, he can always be killed off by crying "communist" or "Union wrecker."

With Lewis all is serene, but with the miners God help them! The old axiom, "Unless we stand, divided we fall," is as true today as the day it was coined, and deplorable though things be, the miners are lost if they fail to stick close to the United Mine Workers of America.



The Havoc of Lewis' Leadership

Since [illegible] a previous article telling of the destruction of the United Mine Workers of America under [illegible] of John L. Lewis, the semi-annual financial [illegible] of Secretary-Treasurer Kennedy has come to [illegible].

It covers the period beginning December 1st, 1928, and ended June 1st, 1929.

This report tells an authenticated, an indisputable story and nothing could be more reliable upon which to [illegible] a statement as to the present membership of the [illegible].

This document [illegible] the story of the wanton [illegible] which was once the greatest labor union in the [illegible] the [illegible] skeleton of a once titanic [illegible] of the [illegible] and [illegible] men, women and children [illegible] quarter of a century of travail and [illegible] by the devastating action of [illegible].

According to this report the average paid-up membership of the Union for the [illegible] months ended last June 1st, in the [illegible] districts totaled 98,040 members.

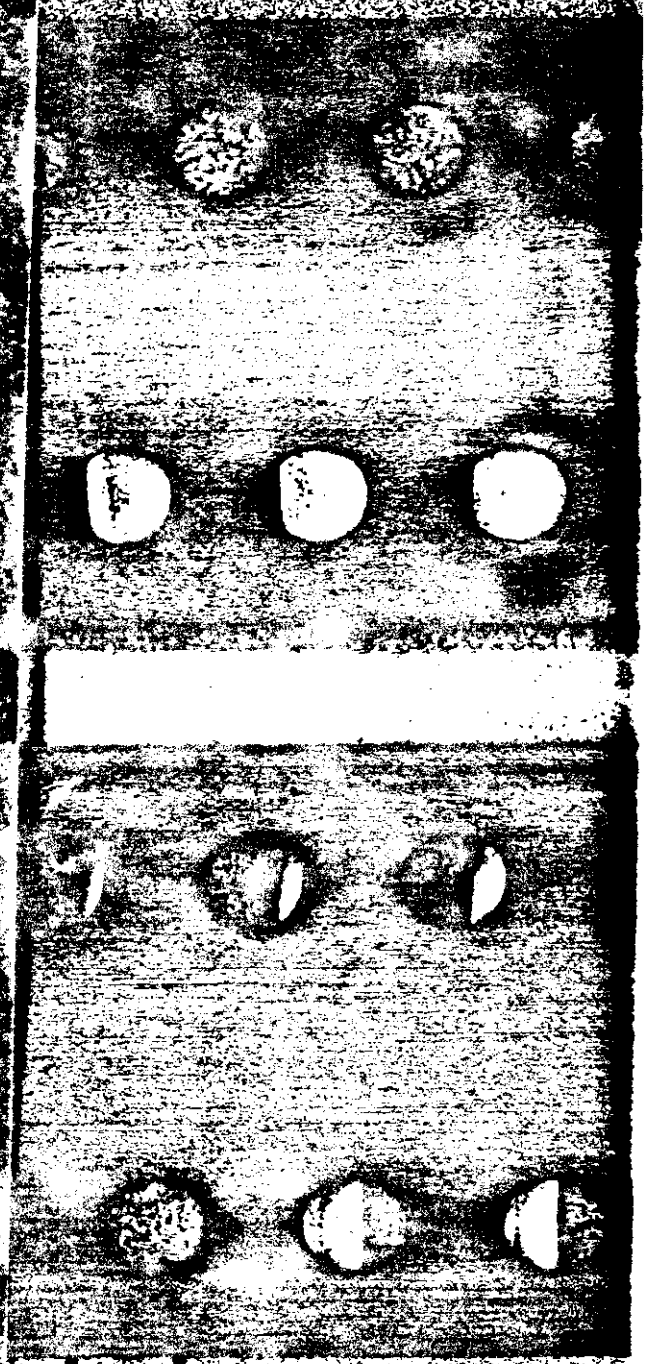
[illegible] of these were in Illinois.

[illegible] in the Canadian provinces, leaving only [illegible] in all the other [illegible] coal districts in the country [illegible].

[illegible] Scale Highest

Illinois gained some 8,000 dues paying members since the present wage agreement was consummated.

The membership in the soft coal districts, other than Illinois, and exclusive of Canada, is [illegible]



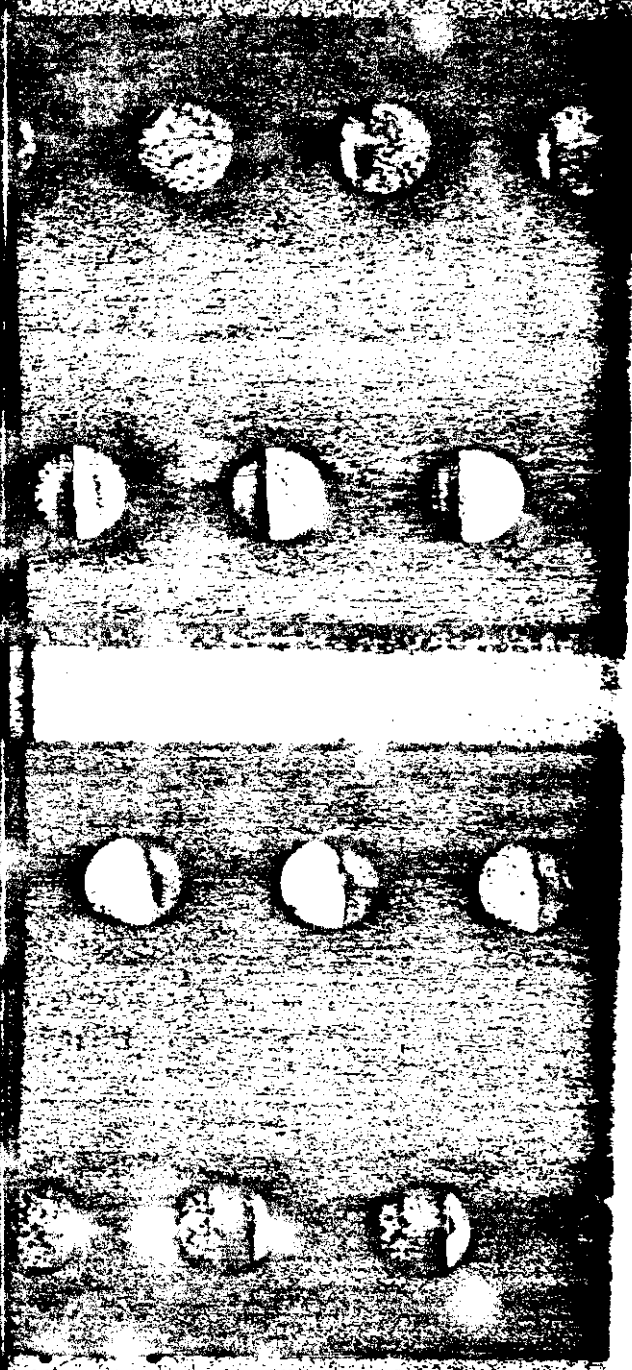
vided as follows: Washing[illegible] 1,294 members; Montana, 1,811; Wyoming, 4,568; Utah, 16; Colorado, 700; Kansas, 3,120; Oklahoma, 43; Arkansas, 1; Texas, none; Michigan, 902; Indiana, 10,609; Ohio, 1,061; Iowa, 4,977; Missouri, 388; Kentucky, 16; Tennessee, 349; Alabama, 2; West Virginia, 77, and Pennsylvania, 1,374, making a grand total of 31,308 members.

This makes it manifest that there is not a single district union left in the soft coal fields outside of Illinois!

When Lewis was appointed President every one of these districts, with the exception of Utah, Colorado, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, West Virginia and [illegible]yania were 100 per cent organized and [illegible] the pro[illegible]tion of joint [illegible] agreements.

Kentucky had 45,000 members, Tennesse[illegible] Kanawha and New River sections of West Virginia [illegible] 55,000 and 12,000 memb[illegible] Central [illegible] Western Pennsylvania [illegible] wage ag[illegible] and [illegible] quar[illegible] had [illegible] wage agreement [illegible] were the [illegible] shop wage agreement [illegible] is uniform in [illegible] the [illegible] Wyoming [illegible] to but a [illegible] mild [illegible]

[illegible] Office Go[illegible] [illegible] composed of [illegible]



homa, Arkansas and Texas, had a 100 [illegible] cent Union of 20,000 members and was one of the most powerful districts in the Miners' Union.

Ohio and the Pittsburgh District of Western Pennsylvania and Central Pennsylvania, were among the premier districts—militant, forceful and effective with an aggregate membership of 120,000.

Today the combined membership of all these districts [illegible] could not make more than a fair-sized Local Union. [illegible] the mine workers employed in these various districts [illegible] defenseless and obliged to accept whatever wages the mine owners are willing to pay.

According to reports submitted by the Fede[illegible] of [illegible] 153,8[illegible] mine workers [illegible] employed [illegible] coal [illegible] of Pennsylvania, 119,[illegible] in West [illegible] [illegible] tucky, 2[illegible] in Indiana and [illegible] in Ohio, [illegible] Union has [illegible] dues-pay[illegible] members in Pennsy[illegible] [illegible] in Ind[illegible] [illegible] Ohio.

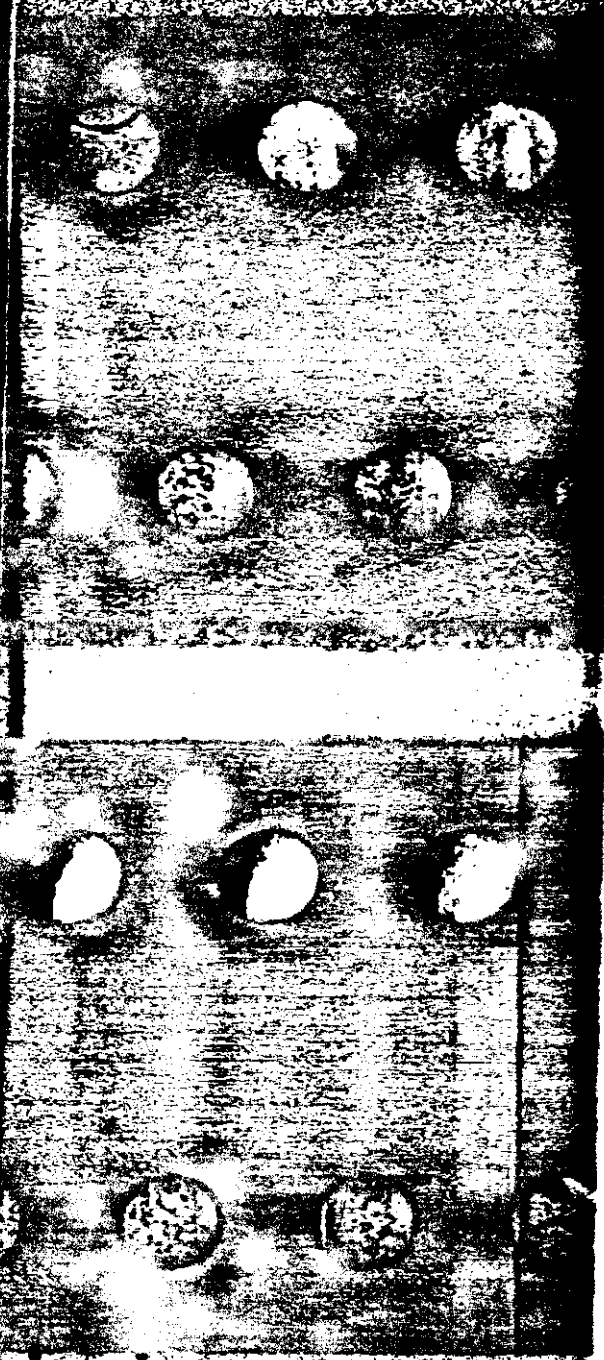
This pro[illegible] there is [illegible] undanc[illegible] organiz[illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] enough [illegible] the tim[illegible] organiz[illegible] [illegible] ernational [illegible] desp[illegible] [illegible] need, Lewis [illegible] organizers and [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

What [illegible] [illegible]

No ho[illegible] leader would [illegible]

Is it that he is determi[illegible] [illegible] ing unit of the [illegible] Unio[illegible] [illegible] field.

These [illegible] keys are doing [illegible] work in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and dilige[illegible] [illegible] create dissension [illegible] among the Illinois mi[illegible]



Seeking To Discredit Illinois

When an enemy cannot destroy a Union, the next best [illegible] to do is to create discord and division and thus [illegible] its power for good.

Is that what Lewis is trying to do?

In the interest of [illegible] preservation the Illinois miners should demand that the Illinois bomb-squad be assigned to Ohio where their service is desperately needed and should this demand fail of result they should be shunned, just as any enemy would be.

The Illinois Miners will pay dearly if they [illegible] [illegible] themselves to be deluded by their evil propo[illegible] [illegible].

These unscrupulous lackeys are working subtly and [illegible] to discredit the officers of the Illinois Miners' Union, and to win favor for Lewis and aided by him they are disseminating infamous lies about the present wage agreement, district elections and the administration of district affairs, past and present, and by their vicious activities they are doing every foul thing possible to cause turmoil and ill-feeling against the district officers.

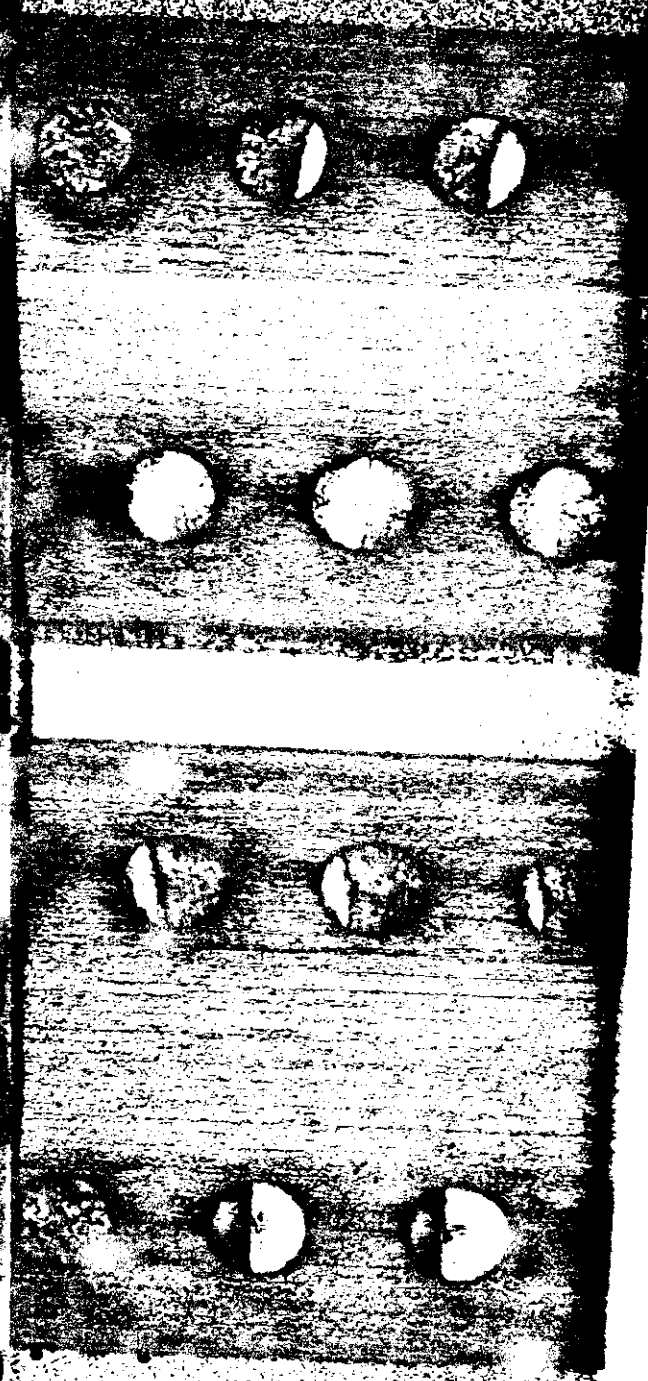
In another article more will be told about these international disruptionists, the motive behind their activities and something about contested elections. The story will not be about Illinois elections, but it will be predicated upon the records, so all may see the evidence of corruption if they choose to look.

Those who are disgruntled over the terms of the Illinois Wage Agreement should turn to Ohio and learn what has happened to the Ohio miners since their Union is wrecked.

Recently one of the largest coal companies in Ohio posted notices saying that effective as of June 1st, 1929, the wages paid at the mines of that company would be as follows:

Inside Day Labor

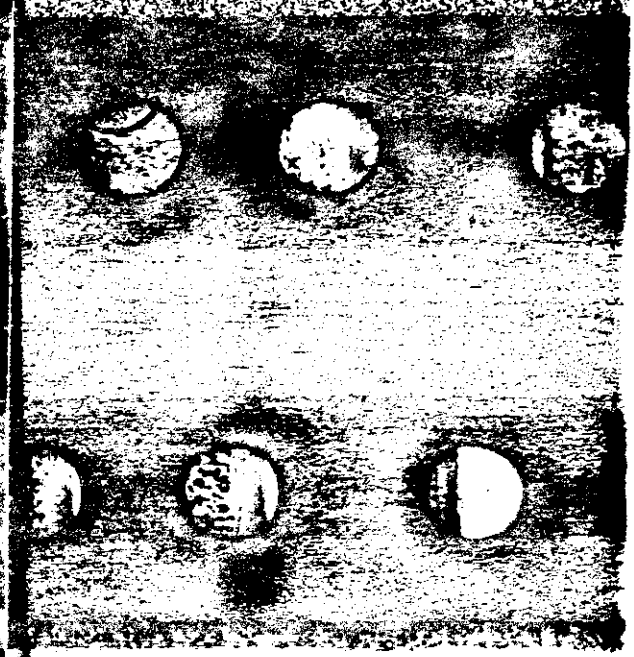
Motorman $4.00

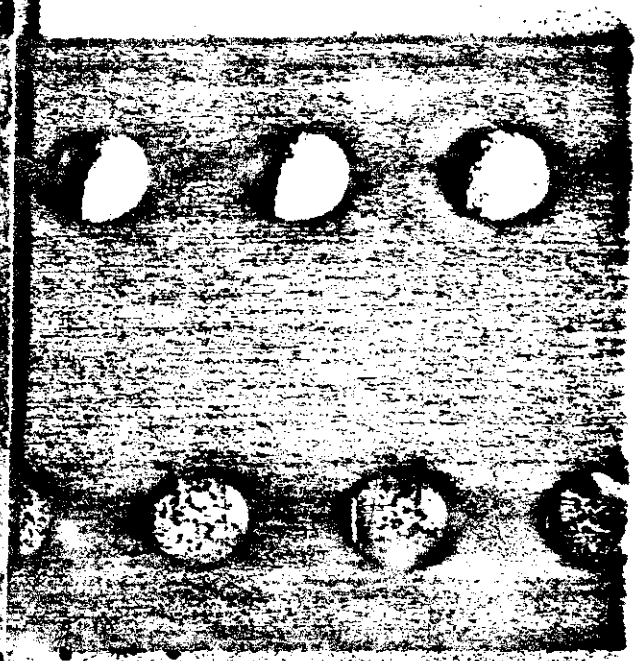


Drivers	4.00
Bottom Cagers	4.00
Track Layers	4.00
Timbermen	4.00
Seatmen on Crab Gathering Locomotives	4.00
Trip Riders on Haulage Locomotives	3.80
Motor Haulers	3.80
Machine Haulers	3.80
Track Layers' Helpers	3.80
Timbermen's Helpers	3.80
Bratticemen	2.80
Trappers	2.40
Couplers and Greasers	2.40
All other inside day labor	3.60
Machine cutting, by the day	4.00
Outside Day Labor	
Pilot Blacksmiths	$4.20
Second Blacksmiths	4.00
Blacksmith Helpers	3.80
Mine Carpenters	3.80
Chambers (Drain Diamers)	3.80
Dumpers	3.60
Trimmers on R. R. Cars—Lump Oals	3.40
Main Pickers (On table or cars)	3.20
Couplers and Greasers	2.20
Watchmen	3.00
All other outside day labor (except boys)	3.20
Cutting and Loading	
Cutting in rooms (any type shortwall)	$ .05
Cutting in entries as above and extra, per yard	.10
Hand drilling, shooting and loading in rooms	.45
Hand drilling, shooting and loading in entries, 8 feet wide, as above, and extra per yard	.60
Hand drilling, shooting and loading in entries, 10 feet wide, as above, and extra, per yard	.53

All work over 10 feet considered rooms.

The management of the mines, the direction of the





working force and the right to hire and discharge are vested exclusively in the operator.

The above is the wage scale generally paid in Ohio, with the exception of a few small companies, employing a handful of men who were signed up on a $5.00 per day basis with Lewis' full knowledge and approval.

In addition to the niggardly wages paid, the Ohio Mine Owners are now forcing applicants for employment to submit to physical examination and only the strong and alert [illegible] employed.

A[illegible] Warning of Danger

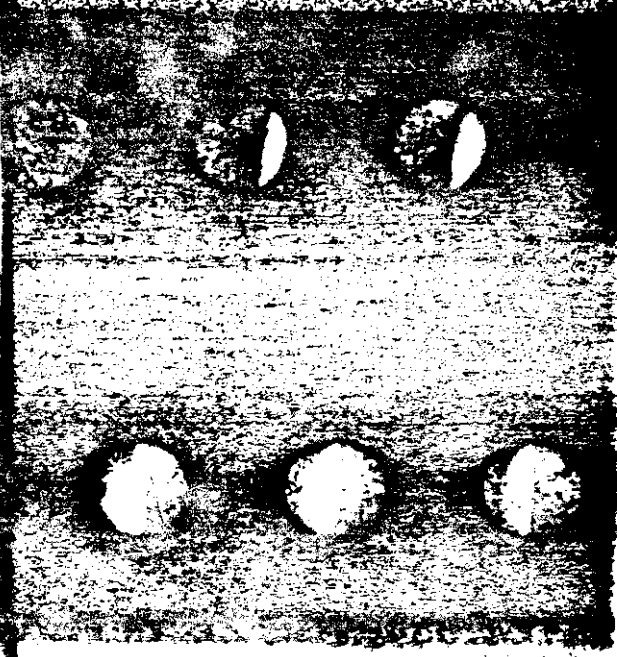
For thirty years this company operated under Union conditions and paid exactly the same wages as were paid in Illinois, but Lewis' obstinate basis [illegible] craven action forced the Ohio Mine Owners to operate non-union with the result shown.

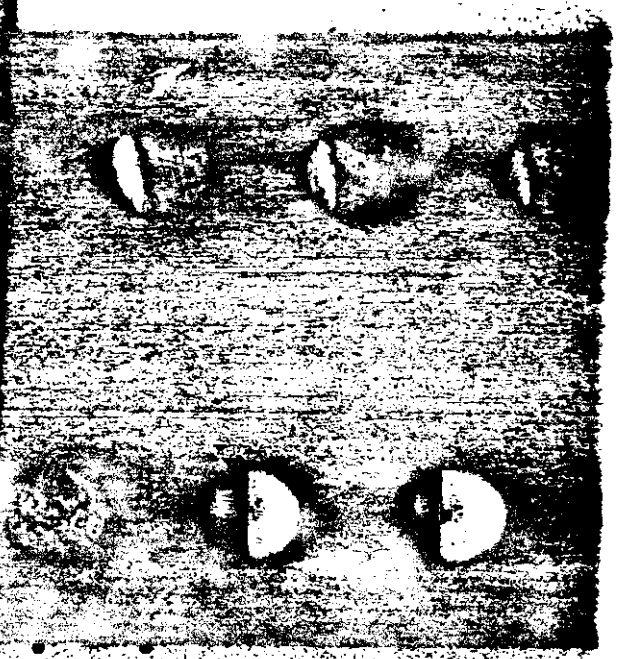
Sincere and courageous [illegible]ship could have [illegible] this and would have s[illegible] the Ohio Miners' Union and spared them their present degradation.

Lewis had [illegible] warning of the danger. [illegible] to the ex[illegible]tion of the Jacksonville Agre[illegible] he was told by the [illegible] officers that not a single mine owner [illegible] Ohio w[illegible] pa[illegible] Jacksonville [illegible] and [illegible] mine owners were constantly [illegible] for terms that [illegible] them to continue op[illegible]ing on a union basis.

But, no! [illegible]s would take no ba[illegible] step, and he stubbo[illegible] stupidly held them to an impossible position until they were bowled over backward, head[illegible] heels, by economic forces th[illegible] no human agenc[illegible] overcome, and now with th[illegible] Union wrecked the Ohio miners are obliged to accept whatever wa[illegible] the mine owners choose to pay.

For downright blundering, mad, unreasoning, stupid, destructive and disloyal leadership, Lewis' [illegible] never [illegible] equaled by any leader in [illegible] of Am[illegible]





now paying a terrible price for his reprehensible stupidity and destructive leadership and they will continue to do so for many long years after he has passed out of the picture.

The Illinois Miners will do well not to forget that it is not long since the Ohio miners were just as solidly and strongly organized as they now are, and they will also do well to guard themselves against the one who wrecked the Ohio Miners' Union as it is not impossible to do the same thing in Illinois.

Moreover, those who are displeased with the Illinois wage agreement should compare it with the wages paid in Western Kentucky where the outside day wage scale is $2.56 and the [illegible] wages range [illegible] $3.17 to $3.49 per [illegible]

When Lewis was first [illegible] appointment [illegible] the President of the Miners' Union, Western Kentucky had a District Union of 45,000 members, who were working under standard union wages [illegible] conditions and honest, competent leadership [illegible] have meant a continuation of that condition.

A Trail of Wreckage and Misery

It is of record that the President of the Kentucky Miners beseeched Lewis to allow a policy that would have saved this district from destruction and he was publicly branded as a traitor by Lewis and his henchmen.

Lewis had his way and now the Kentucky Miners have a Union of 16 members and a wage scale that is a crime against decent standards.

Thus it has been throughout the entire jurisdiction of what was once the matchless Miners' Union, with the exception of Illinois, and Lewis is now working insidiously to make inroads [illegible] that District [illegible]

No [illegible] however [illegible] force has brought [illegible] much harm [illegible] the miners and the [illegible] movement of America as [illegible]

[illegible] has left a trail [illegible] wreckage, havoc,

chaos, misery and woe and poverty. Distress and despair is sure to follow and be the lot of millions of defenseless men, women and children.

Some may ask what is the motive behind this expose of the havoc caused by Lewis.

There is no motive other than a desire to warn the Illinois Miners to be on their guard against the one who caused the havoc and who is now trying to win their favor by false pretension and who, by [illegible] slinking means is trying to regain the lost confidence of the Illinois Miners by destroying their confidence in others who are earnestly working to protect their interest and save their Union from the deadly influence that has destroyed every other District in the soft coal fields of the country.

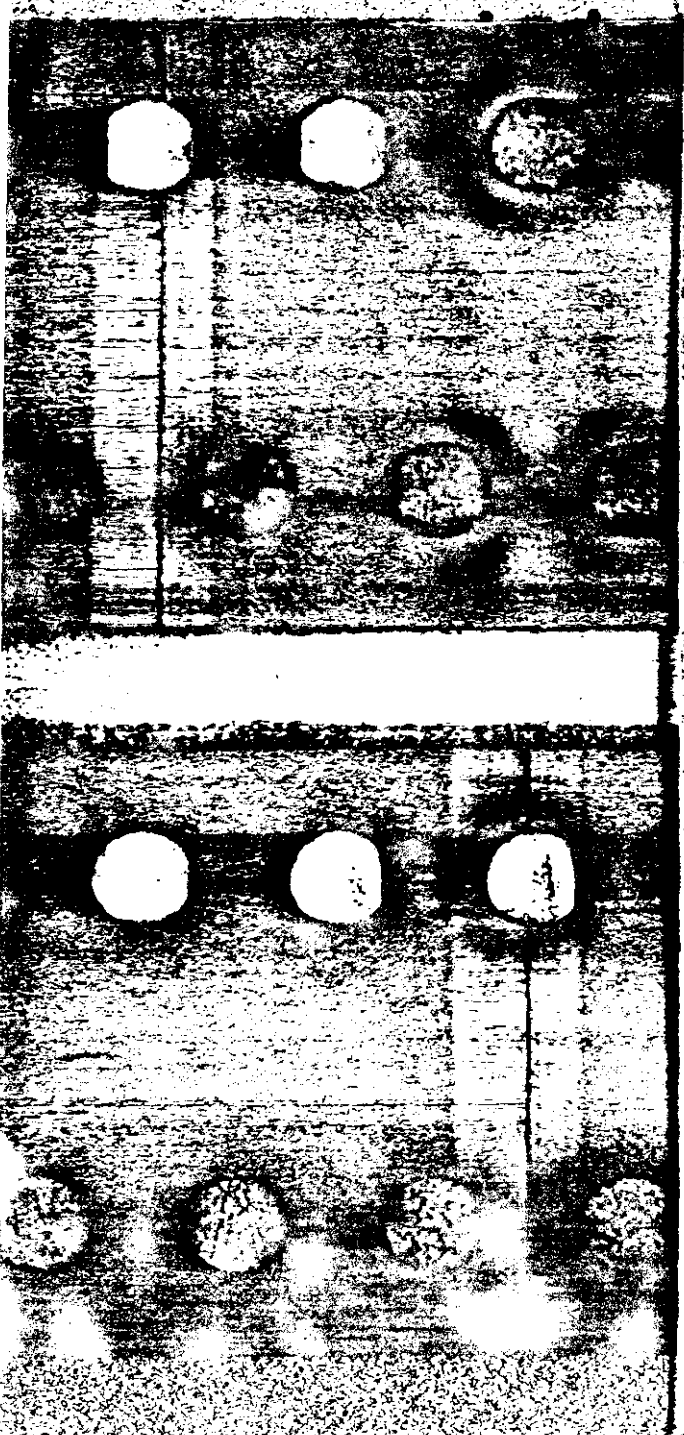
No matter how bad others may be, surely there is nothing in this mountebank's record that should commend him to any one but a union-wrecking agency, and if the Illinois Miners allow themselves to be duped by his [illegible] they certainly will pay grand opera prices for their folly.

True to their usual practice Lewis and his sycophantic henchmen will try to discount and discredit this recital of his devastating leadership by spewing a lot of vomit on the author, but that will be aside from the question and will be answered when they do; but the Illinois miners should not allow anyone to divert their attention nor to delude them by drawing a red herring over the trail.

The question is: did Lewis wreck the United Mine Workers of America?

The records and the deplorable plight of the mine workers of the country prove he did and [illegible] this facts will stand and live [illegible] of [illegible] regardless of what the character of the [illegible] the facts may be.

To prove the author to be a [illegible] Lewis' offense against the miners [illegible] Union and the [illegible] the [illegible] The Illinois Miners should be on their guard against [illegible]



"Illinois Miners Be On Your Guard"

MY ATTENTION is directed to the fact that certain organizers representing the International Union of the United Mine Workers of America are diligently working among the Illinois miners, and particularly those in Franklin County, in an endeavor to discredit the district officers and to win favor for John L. Lewis.

This poison bomb squad is using my name in connection with their evil propaganda and is resorting to the circulation of foul, malicious lies in order to cause distrust and division.

They are telling evil, fantastic stories that have no basis in fact about my activities with regard to securing the present wage agreement, about contested district elections and about the conduct of the district affairs, past and present.

Considering that they have connected my name with their destructive activities, I feel it is my right to speak out against them and that it is my duty to do what I can to warn the Illinois miners to be on their guard.

They can not [illegible] but it is possible for them to harm the Illinois Miners' Union, if their malicious lies are allowed to go [illegible].

[illegible]

Trade Union Movement, than have all other causes combined.

That is the purpose of those who are now proselyting among the Illinois Miners and to make their work effective they are trying to cover up their own wrongdoing by charging others with transgressions.

That will be their mode of procedure. They will try to discount and discredit my words of [illegible] by trying to discredit [illegible]

They will tell [illegible] retraction signed by me in 1910; but Lewis will not tell that [illegible] first steadfastly refused to sign the retraction, and that it was only upon the earnest solicitation of he, Lewis, and other supposed-to-be-friends, that I finally agreed to do [illegible]

Then, too, they [illegible] certain to bring forth for the attention of the Illinois Miners a letter written by me to the president of the Peabody Coal Company with reference to my contract with that company.

I am surprised that Lewis has not sent out photographic copies of it before now.

I shall relieve him of the necessity for doing so by now making known the substance [illegible]

I do not have the letter before me.

By some [illegible] me [illegible] as yet unknown to me, [illegible] into Lewis' hands [illegible] assume it is still there. [illegible] memory, but [illegible] the language that Lewis [illegible] as having [illegible] purp[illegible]

The letter was written [illegible] the pres[illegible] Peabody Coal Company [illegible]

Meaning [illegible] Distortion

In it [illegible] the obligation of [illegible] with the requirements [illegible] the terms of the three [illegible] with that [illegible] and [illegible] president [illegible]

Illinois Miners, and that I could do the Illinois Operators more good by continuing as president of the miners, than I could if I went to work for the Peabody Coal Company, and I told him I would rather be at home fighting for the miners than to be over there among the Frogs and Wops.

Lewis made much ado over this letter when it got into his hands and he placed an interpretation upon it that in his heart he knew was not intended, and made it appear that during the years I served as president of the Illinois Miners, I was acting as a stool-pigeon and spy for the Illinois operators.

In his craven heart he knew that when I said "I could do the operators more good by continuing as president of the Miners," that I meant that by continuing in that position I could do more toward bringing about a workable wage agreement that would enable the operators to sell their coal in competition with non-union coal, and thereby give the miners some work, than I could if I went to work for the Peabody Coal Company.

If while acting as president of the Illinois Miners, I was playing the part of a spy for the operators, Peabody would not have paid me $35,000.00 per year for three years to get me out of that position. Instead, if that were the case, he would have paid me the amount stated to continue as president as my usefulness as a spy would end when I gave up the presidency. Any simpl[illegible] ought to be able to see that.

There is another angle to this matter that requires some explanation from L[illegible]

How Did Lewis Get Letter?

How did he get the letter?

Peabody would not and has not told me.

He told me Lewis rifled his office files and got it, but that is not the truth.

That story is too flimsy for even an idiot to believe.

How did Lewis get the letter?

Surely it must dawn on those who stop to think that there must have been an intimate relationship between Lewis and Peabody and a rather conspiracy between the two to get rid of me as president of the Illinois Miners' Union, or did Lewis could not have secured the letter from Peabody.

Stop and figure it out for yourself.

How did Lewis get the letter if Peabody did not give it to him?

If I was a spy for Peabody why did he conspire with Lewis to get me out as president of the Illinois Miners?

Who were the operators afraid of—Lewis or me?

My record as president of the Illinois Miners stands without a blemish.

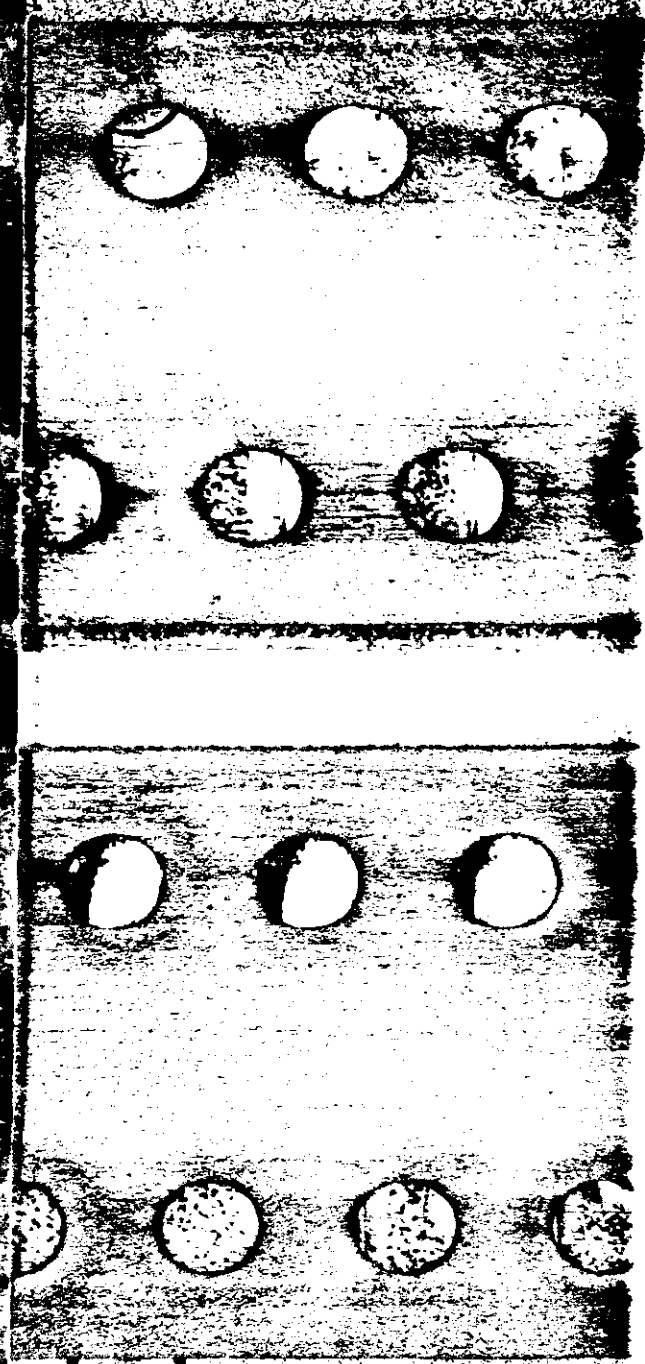
The accomplishment of my administration and the institution created during twelve years of my supervision, still stand as a monument to my efforts.

Why Organizers in Illinois?

I did the work that was mine as faithfully and as well as I knew how, and I did it myself, and I fought my own fights as best I could, notwithstanding pugmouthings to the contrary, and the institution created latterly and largely under my supervision, is the only one of many others to withstand the havoc of Lewis' leadership, and there are none of the weaknesses or frailties of treachery in its construction. Had there been it would have fallen with the rest.

Illinois has no service for an International Organizer to perform. Other districts need their service badly. There are hundreds of thousands of disorganized miners elsewhere, but none in Illinois.

Why are organizers assigned to work in Illinois when other districts are neglected?



Why are they telling the Illinois Miners that the [illegible] wage agreement was fixed up by Farrington and [illegible] and that Lewis was opposed to a wage reduction?

Why are they saying district elections are corrupted?

Why are they saying your district officials are crooked and that everything connected with the administration of district affairs is rotten?

Why are they saying Lewis is going to clean house for the Illinois Miners?

And why did Lewis recently issue a public statement saying that the wholesale buying of votes and the corruption of district elections must be stopped?

Why is Lewis whispering around that there was something grossly wrong with the defense of the men who were indicted and arrested over the trouble at the Lester Strip Mine several years ago?

"Shows Pure Champion of Right"

And why are his boot-licking lackeys muttering and [illegible] about that affair?

The reason is obvious.

Six months ago Lewis was bitterly despised and right-[illegible] by fully 95 per cent of the Illinois Mine [illegible].

Something must be done to win their favor and re-[illegible] their confidence in him.

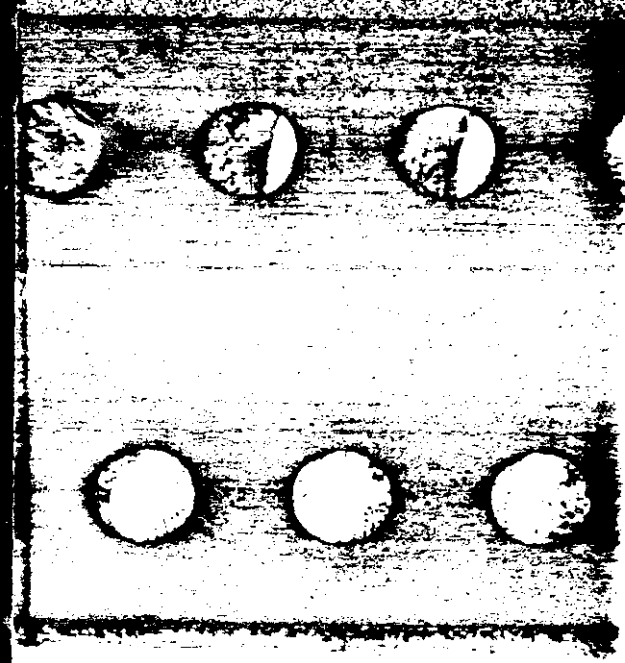
His [illegible] was one of destruction. There was nothing [illegible] that would commend him to them [illegible] to rally to his support.

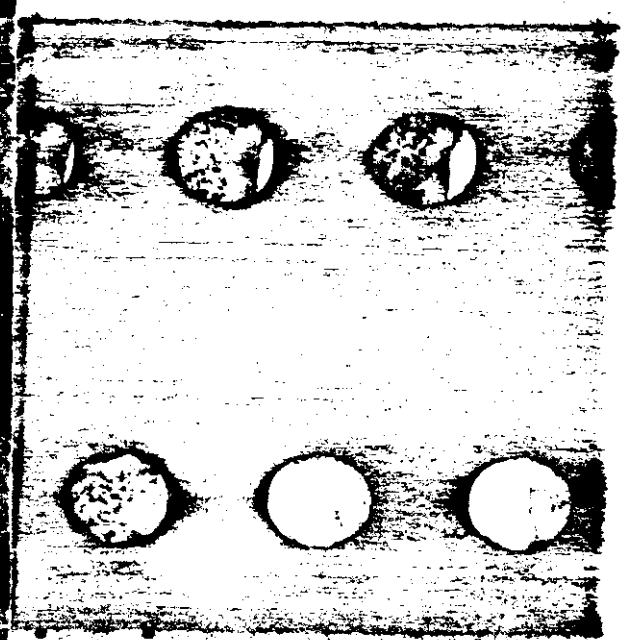
[illegible] was but one thing to do.

[illegible] must be pulled down so he could be built up.

[illegible] organizers start out to do the pulling down.

The object is to discredit the district officials by making the members believe the officers are stealing elections, [illegible] district moneys, looting the district treasury and





betraying the membership in every possible way and then at the opportune time, or when enough members have been deceived by the poison bomb squad, Lewis will appear as the Simon Pure Champion of Right, the relentless Nemesis of all evil-doers, and the one, and the only one, who will protect the membership against the vicious assaults of their district officials and when that time arrives the Illinois Miners will have many reasons to regret their folly.

Lewis, himself, is peddling a grotesque lie about some gross transgression that occurred in connection with the defense of the men who were indicted for alleged participation in the trouble at the Lester Strip Mine, several years ago, and about what a terrible exposure he is going to make in that connection.

The story he is telling is but a vicious and preposterous lie that is easily susceptible of being disproved by records on file in the district office, but that makes no difference to Lewis.

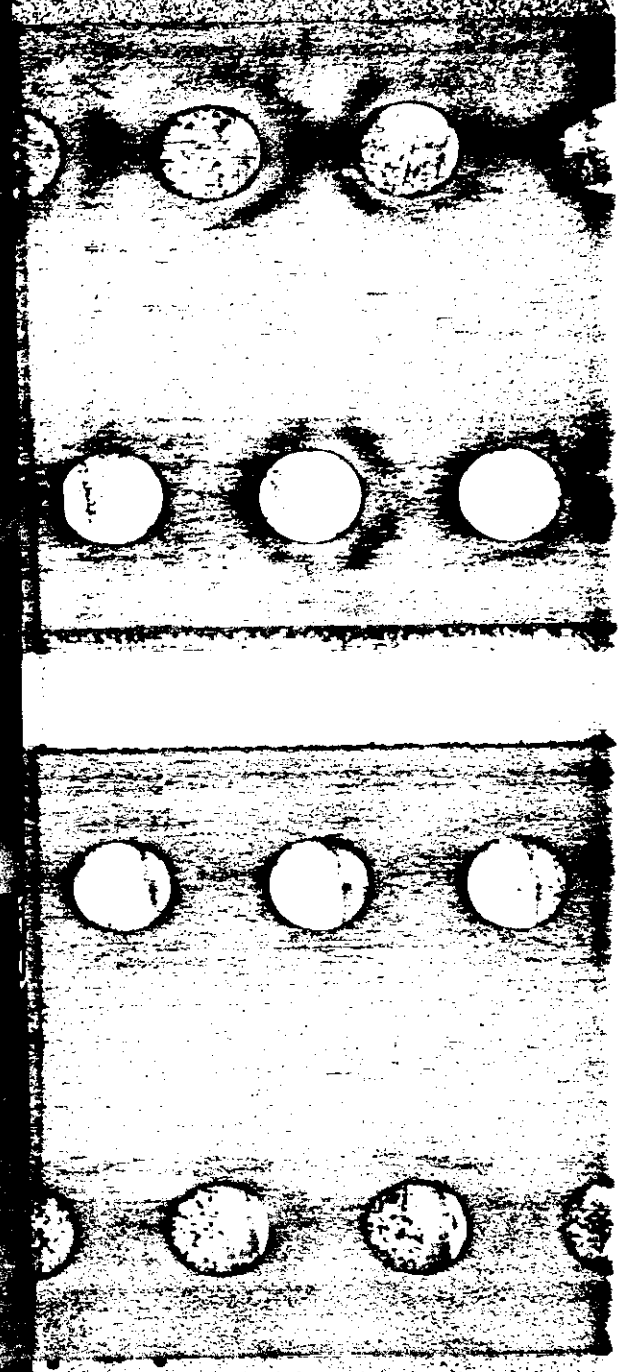
Criticism Springs from Envy

When told to the uninformed, the story is harmful to those involved and creates more or less [illegible] the minds of most of those who hear it, [illegible] in the minds of those who do not know Lewis and his penchant for telling lies and [illegible] of course, is his motive.

In truth, the story is the result of [illegible] envious nature.

The success [illegible] Organization in defending these men, without his aid [illegible] manner whatever, was an achievement so much [illegible] anything he has ever [illegible] for the Miners' Union that [illegible] can not bear to [illegible] victory stand without doing [illegible] he can to [illegible]

Organized Labor never [illegible] victory [illegible] when the complete acquittal of the [illegible] was [illegible] leader [illegible] the Organized Labor [illegible]



through a more nerve-racking ordeal than did the one who sponsored their defense.

I truly believe Lewis would rather some of these men had been imprisoned for life or hanged, rather than have victory as the outcome, and there are some who think that the reason he is now circulating his vicious and preposterous lies, is because of the hope that he may yet be able to bring that about.

Chief of the poison bomb squad is one Hefferly, erstwhile vice president of the Illinois Miners' Union under this author, until he decided to run for president.

When overwhelmingly defeated in the election, true to form, he charged fraud, but never in the courts of the Union where he could be made to answer his charge.

Following this, Lewis tied a feed-bag on his nose by appointing him as an International Organizer, for no reason other than because he was opposed to this author.

No Part In Wage [illegible]

While acting as vice president and under the decent influence of his official associates Hefferly showed signs of develop[illegible] into a man, but [illegible] truly said that "You [illegible]t make a si[illegible] purse [illegible] of [illegible] ear," nor can you make a [illegible] out of a skunk. So it was not long un[illegible] fell back into his old natural trouble-makin[illegible] wa[illegible] he made an ideal organize[illegible]

If you do not believ[illegible] is a sk[illegible] him to let you smell his breat[illegible] will be [illegible]ly convinced, unle[illegible] you we[illegible] a ge[illegible] kill the [illegible]

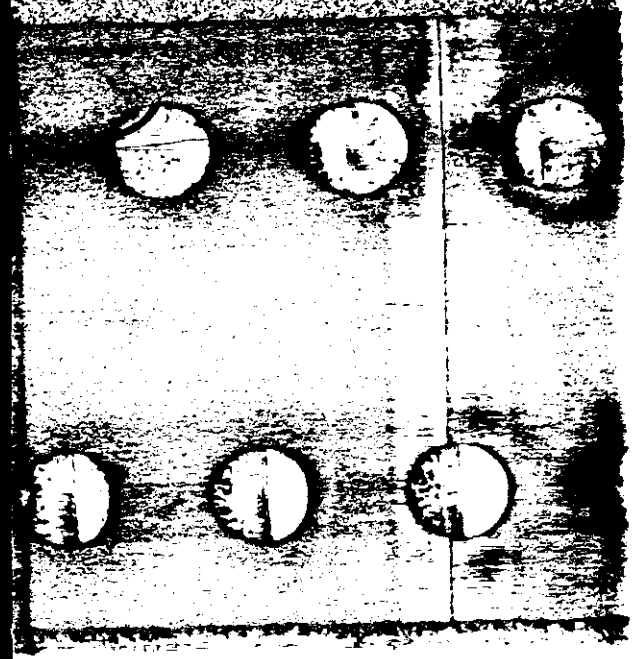
As fo[illegible] stor[illegible] these corruptio[illegible]

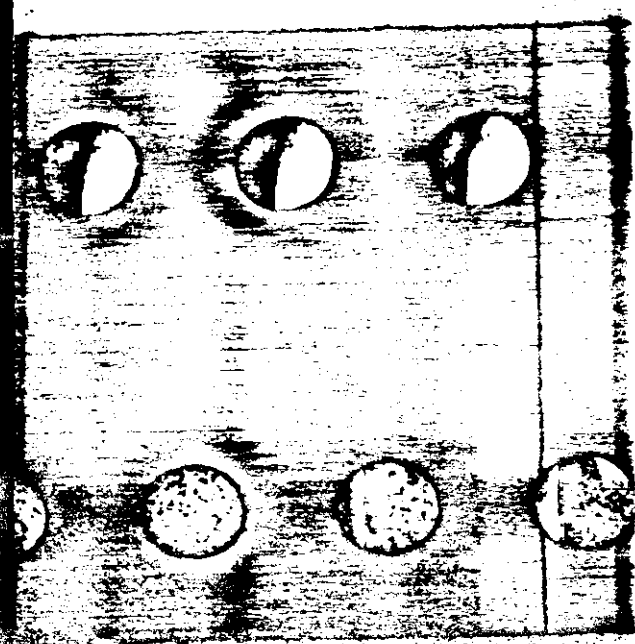
—the part I had in ma[illegible] the presen[illegible] agr[illegible]

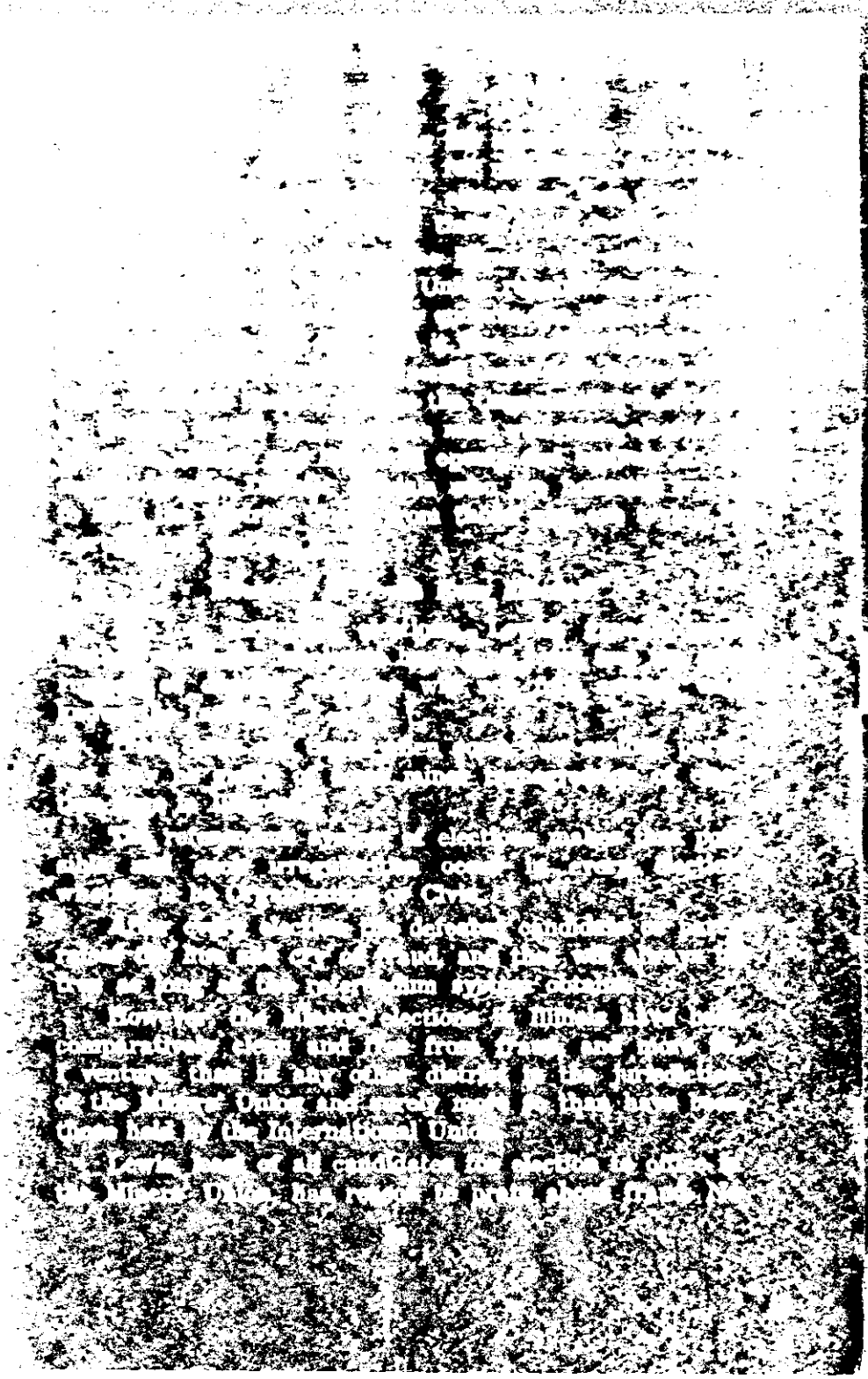
—there is not a word [illegible] story.

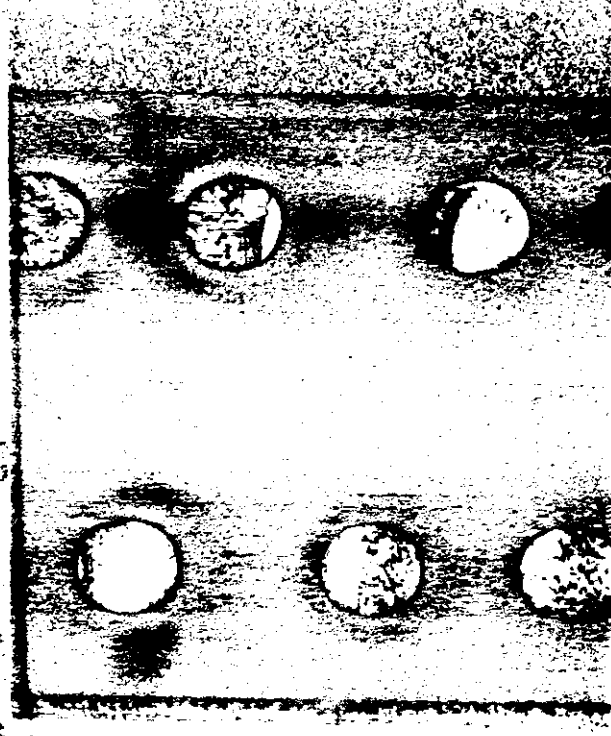
I [illegible] nothing whatever [illegible] matt[illegible]

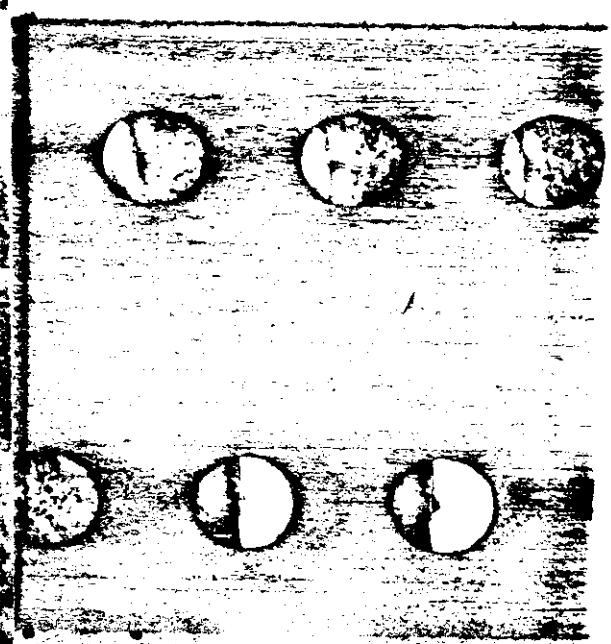
Th[illegible] know [illegible] and th[illegible] that Lewis [illegible]ed the agreemen[illegible] that he praised the members of the Miners' Sc[illegible] for makin[illegible] told them there wa[illegible] thin[illegible] [illegible]

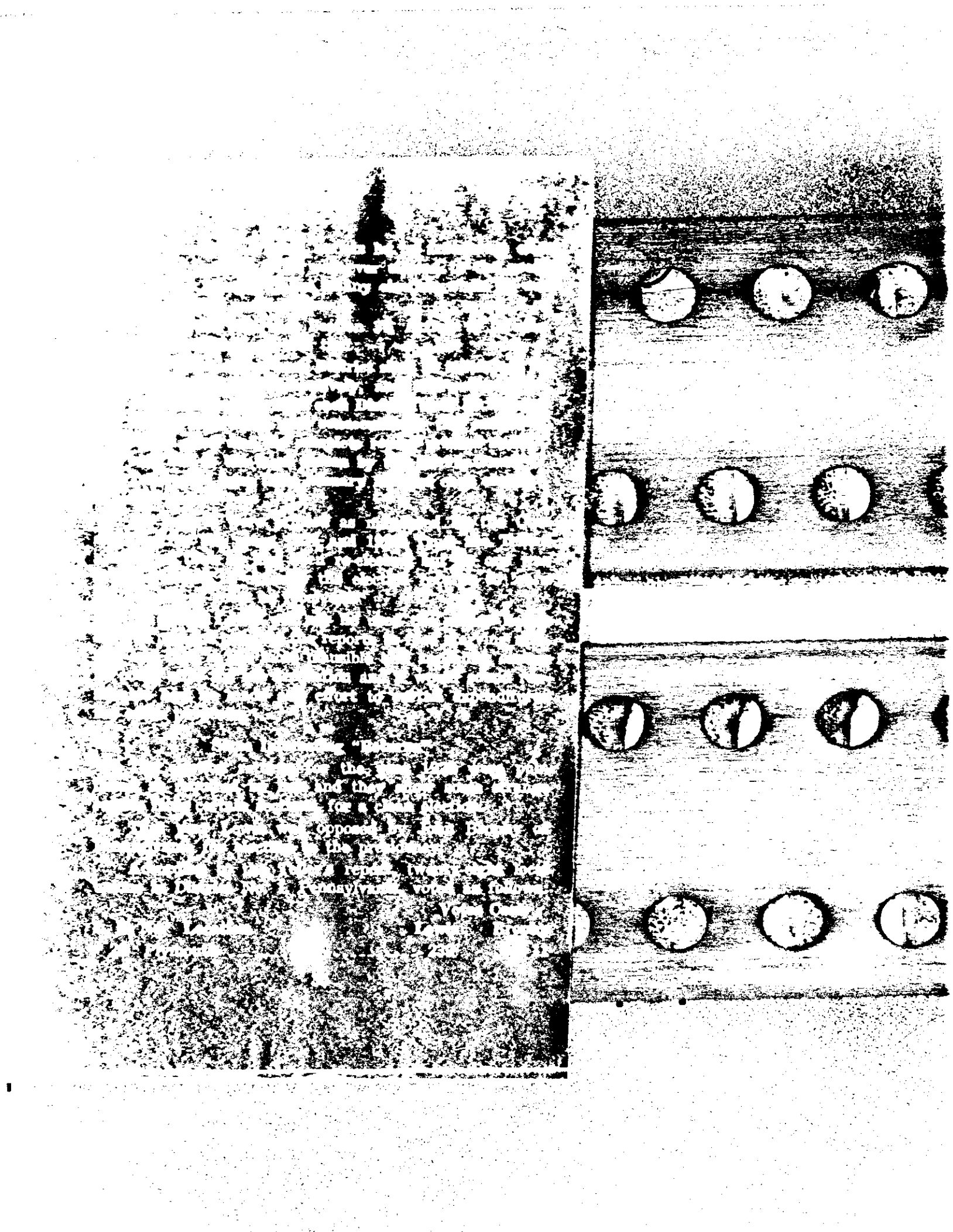








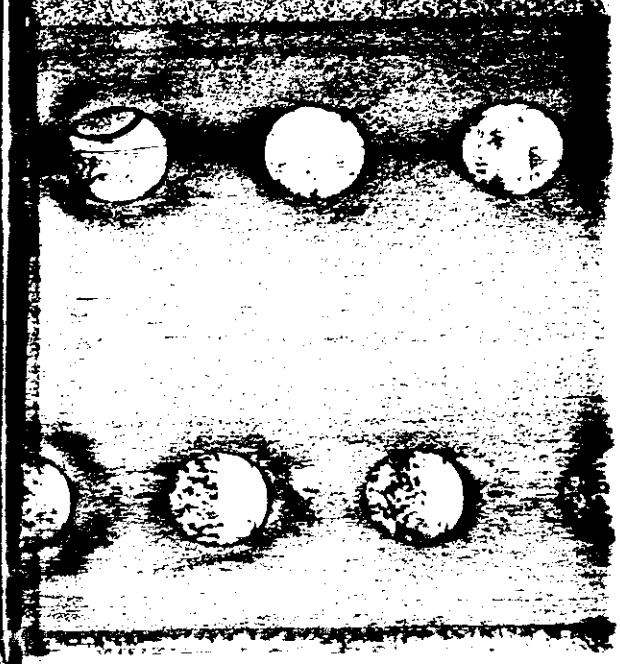


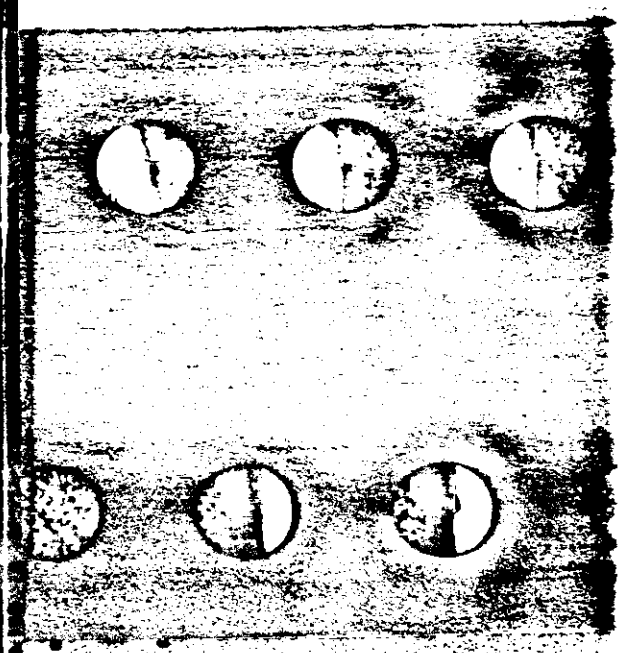


36	Simpson	242	2
61	Forrest City	287	7
131	Old Forge	225	
213	Scranton	685	13
2[illegible]	Dupont	1134	3
311	Plymouth	25[illegible]	2
400	Wanamie	890	—
490	Shickshinny	376	—
623	Wilkesbarre	362	—
727	Wilkesbarre	451	37
838	Nanticoke	27[illegible]	1
844	Carbondale	650	43
870	Plymouth	[illegible]	7
877	Carbondale	3[illegible]	2
879	Dinmore	391	1
989	Nanticoke	83[illegible]	[illegible]
901	Taylor	750	[illegible]
957	Glen Lyon	425	
996	Wilkesbarre	39[illegible]	[illegible]
1005	Jessup	40[illegible]	[illegible]
1025	Jermyn	67[illegible]	3[illegible]
1036	Minooka	514	2[illegible]
11[illegible]	East Plymouth	93[illegible]	[illegible]
1581	Extra Boro Pittston	104[illegible]	4[illegible]
1649	Scranton	49[illegible]	[illegible]
1682	Archibald	780	[illegible]
2439	Peely	1155	9

Twenty local unions in District No. 5, Pennsylvania, voted as follows:

L. U. No.	Location	Votes Cast Lewis	Votes Cast Brophy
73	Library	[illegible]	
62[illegible]	Versailles	[illegible]	
7[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
797	[illegible]	270	
8[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
8[illegible]	Stur[illegible]	170	

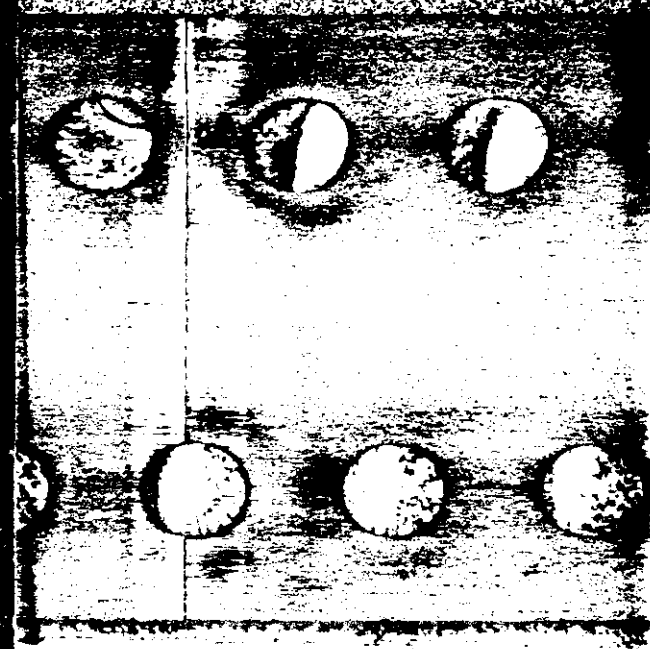


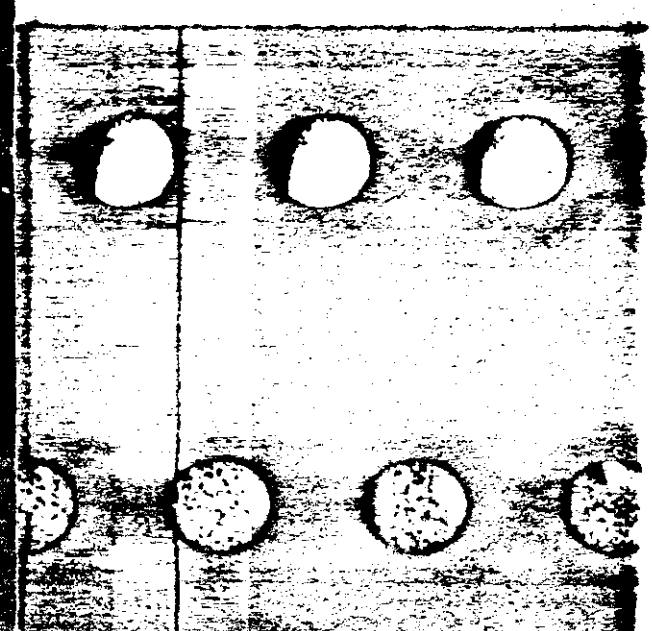


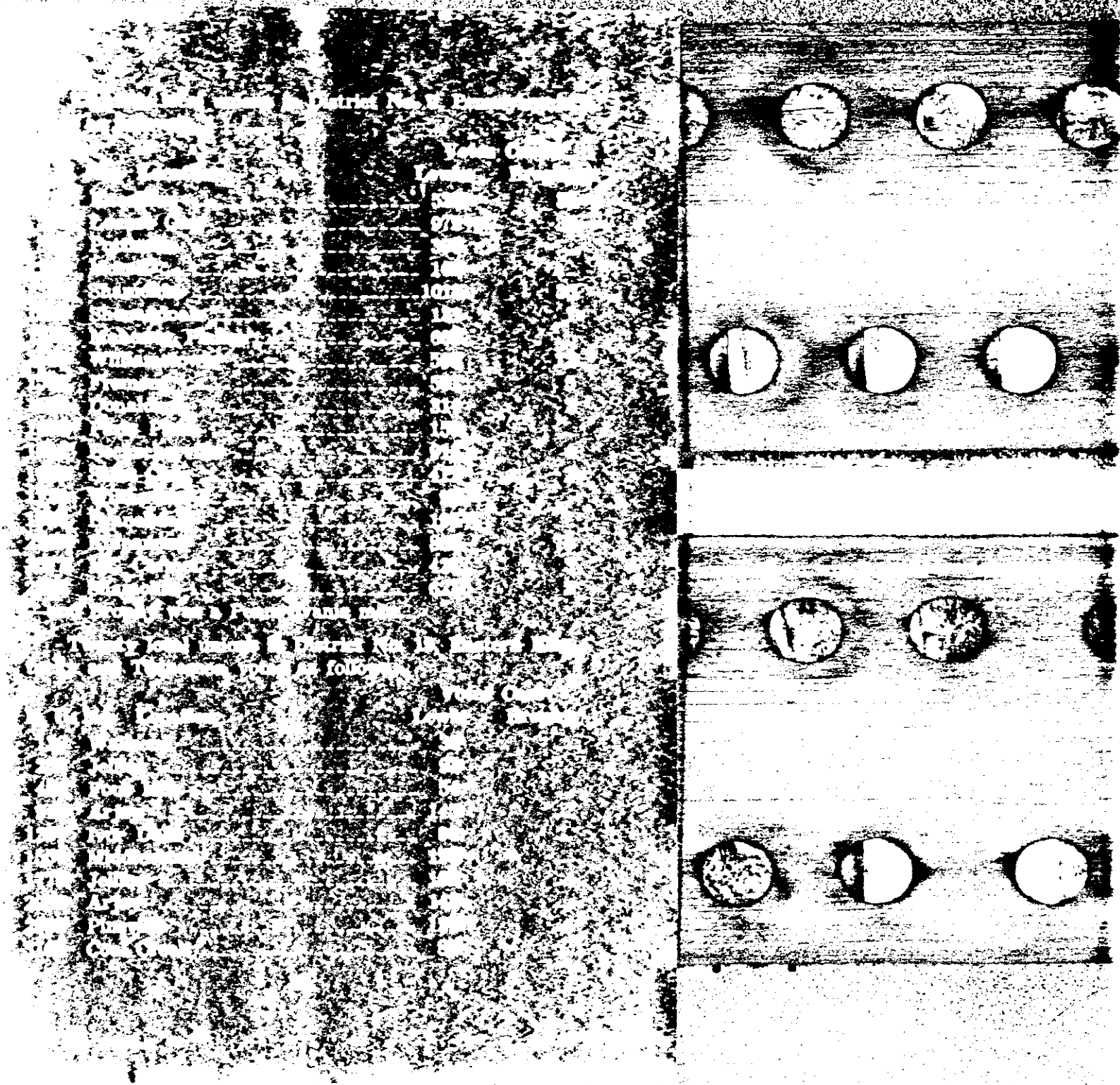
87[illegible]	Broughton	19[illegible]	6
11[illegible]	Ellsworth	107	1
11[illegible]	Lawrence	58	—
1722	Carrick	40	—
2035	Jacobs Creek	149	3
210[illegible]	Presto	290	3
214[illegible]	Elizabeth	130	1
2147	Morgan	23[illegible]	5
2149	Bellevernon	15[illegible]	3
2363	Castle Shannon	458	19
2563	Cuddy	643	—
3606	Russellton	491	8
3715	Indianola	375	5
5683	Imperial	60	1

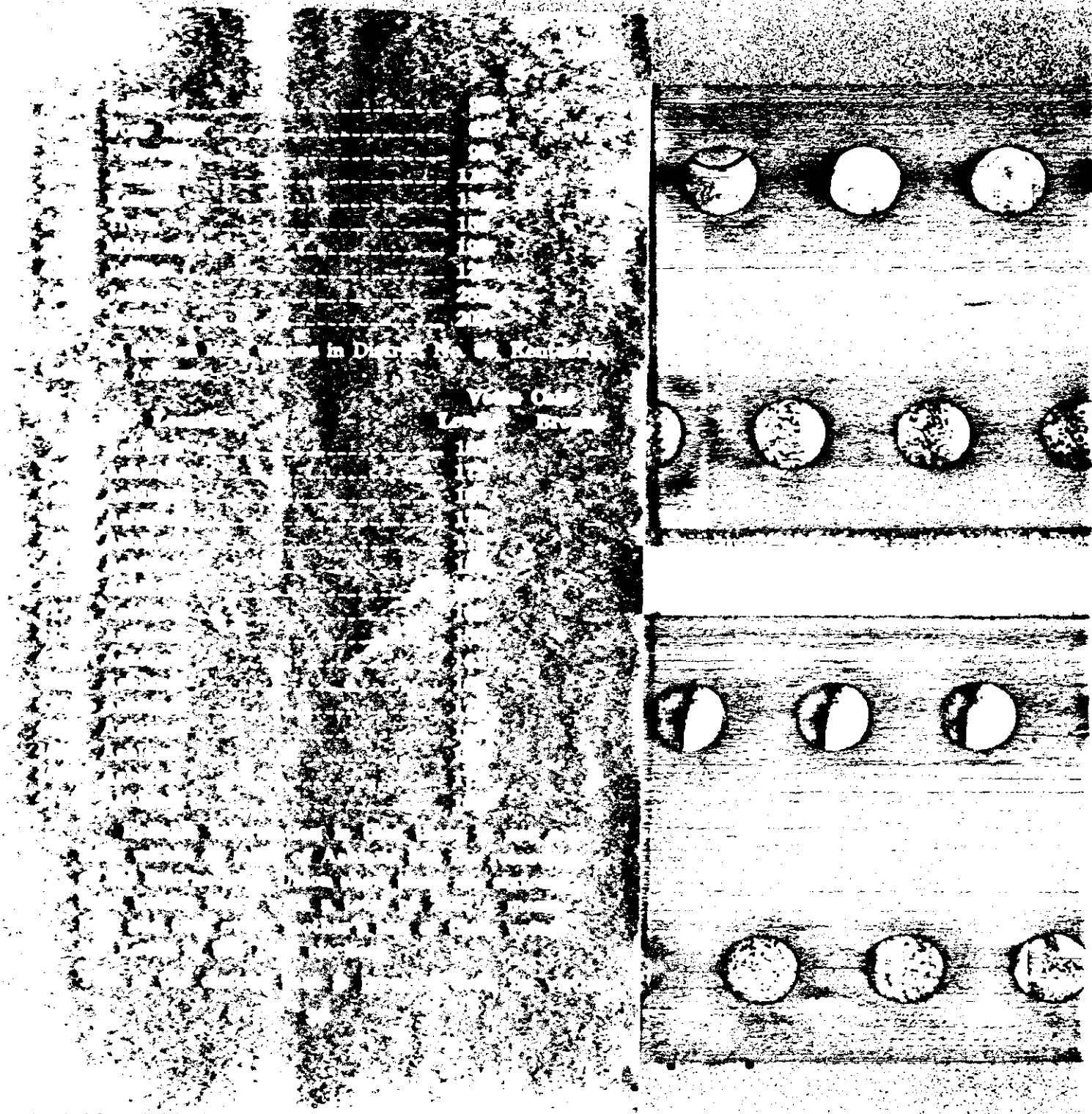
Twenty local unions in District No. 7, Pennsylvania voted as follows:

		Votes Cast	
R. U. No.	Location	Lewis	Brophy
[illegible]	Freeland	70	—
[illegible]	Hazelton	275	—
14[illegible]	West Hazelton	119	2
14[illegible]	Hazelton	30[illegible]	—
1507	Eckly	401	2
1518	Jeddo	5[illegible]	41
1518	Freeland	631	14
1521	Upper Lehigh	247	—
1527	Sheptown	210	—
153[illegible]	Coaldale	521	3
1571	Tamaqua	1020	—
1572	Lansford	700	7
1652	Freeland	1[illegible]	—
1719	Lansford	3[illegible]	—
1738	Lansford	40[illegible]	—
1998	Beaver Meadow	500	—
2477	Jeddo	34[illegible]	1
5623	Fern Glen	3[illegible]	—
2857	Freeland	12[illegible]	—
4004	Coaldale	5[illegible]	—









of appointment by Lewis, by the world-renowned, military genius and champion vote-getter of the world, Colonel Samuel Pascoe of Illinois, who in return for favors extended and to make the feed-bag secure, turns in a rousing vote for Lewis each election year.

The Colonel's Arduous Duties

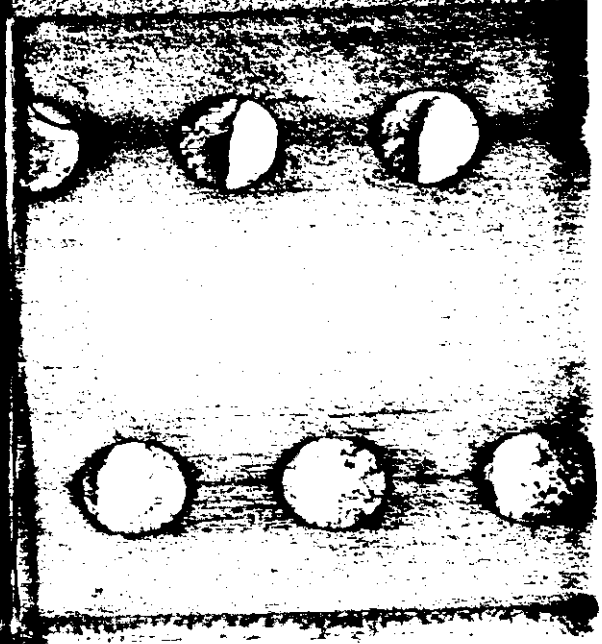
The Colonel's duties are arduous, indeed, as must be the duties of one who is obliged to vote for 2687½ dead men every two years. One of less rugged constitution than his, would surely succumb to the rigors of his many duties, but being of a self-sacrificing disposition the Colonel has consented, due to the instructions of his superior, to leave his multiplicity of duties long enough to tell the Illinois Miners how badly they are cheated in their district elections, and he is now so engaged. But the Ashland miners may rest assured that he will return to his regular post in ample time to cast their votes in the next International election, should they be needed to overcome the vote of some presumptuous person who has the temerity to aspire [illegible] his superior's position, as president of the Miners' Uni[illegible]

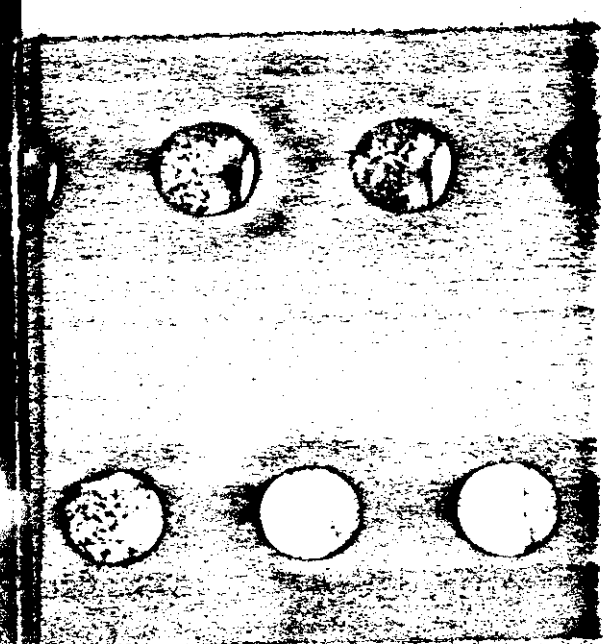
Just a glance at the votes as shown above and as taken from the records of the International Union shou[illegible] suffice to co[illegible]nce t[illegible] Illinois Miners who [illegible] is th[illegible] guilty of corrupting elections, as [illegible] as serving to s[illegible] how utterly impossible [illegible] to dete[illegible] Lewis for the pr[illegible]dency of their Union[illegible]

Voting A[illegible] Lo[illegible]

These votes were recorded by Internation[illegible] [illegible]izers and sent into International Headquarters by them [illegible] there are hundre[illegible] of abandoned local union[illegible] [illegible] be used in just [illegible] way.

[illegible] candidate were as pure as Chr[illegible] and as [illegible] as [illegible] and Lewis [illegible] not that kind the miner[illegible] [illegible] not [illegible] him with [illegible] unanimity the [illegible] [illegible] show [illegible] for Lewis and any aspirant for





office who would be the beneficiary of such palpable fraud and then babble about clean elections, is a cheat and a mountebank of the wor[illegible]nd.

Any man worthy of the presidency of the Miners' Union or any man of probity or that is worthy of the miners' confidence would spurn an election accomplished by such means, and any union that condones such things is bound to perish of its own corruption.

The time is present for the Illinois Miners to act in defense of their Union.

It is the only protection they have against niggardly wages and degraded working conditions and Lewis' unscrupulous agents are creating dissension and division in their ranks and placing their Union in jeopardy. Its solidarity is endangered and its power for good is being weakened by their vicious activities.

This is not a condition to be lightly regarded by the Illinois Miners, as it means that they, their homes and their dependents are threatened with disaster.

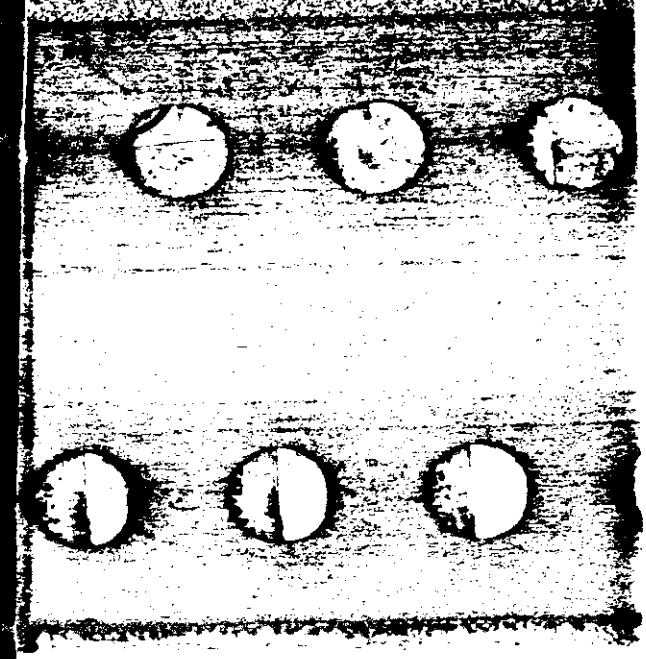
Act Before Too Late

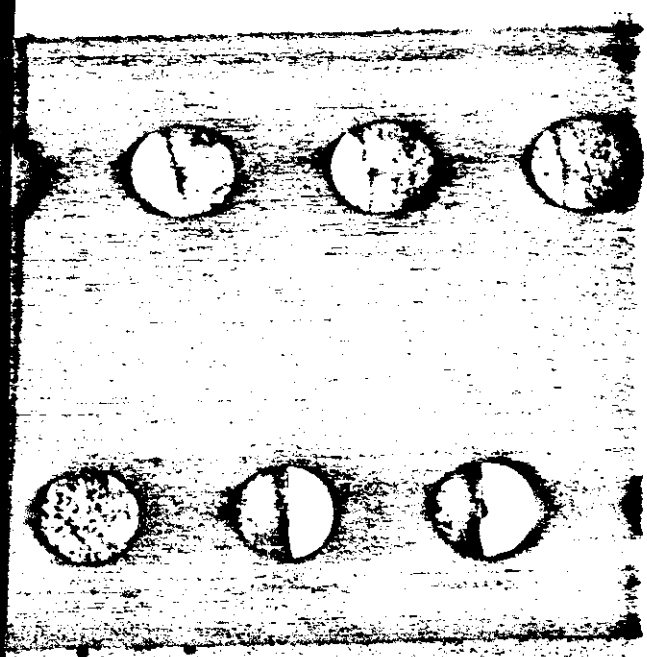
In the interest of their homes and their dependents they should act before it is to[illegible] overtaken with the same [illegible] disaster [illegible] overtaken the miners in Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania, and [illegible] South and the Southwest, where the Union has d[illegible] and perished [illegible] deadly leadership.

This is no time fo[illegible]

Every loyal memb[illegible] is and thin[illegible] himse[illegible] remember [illegible] of today is [illegible] same Lew[illegible] six months [illegible] loyal [illegible] should remember th[illegible] prove [illegible] else to [illegible] scamp, does not make [illegible] man [illegible] Lewis.

Do not be deceived by the evil [illegible] ing me[illegible] Support your district off[illegible] is [illegible] your district union [illegible] other [illegible] allowed to disinteg[illegible]

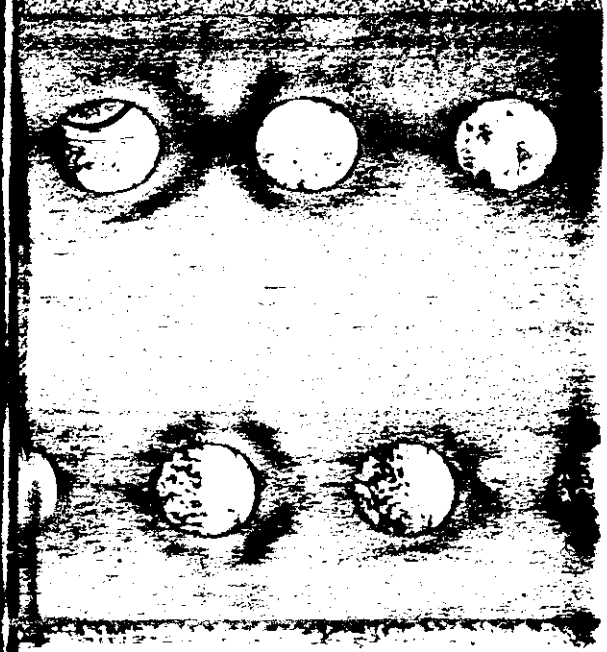


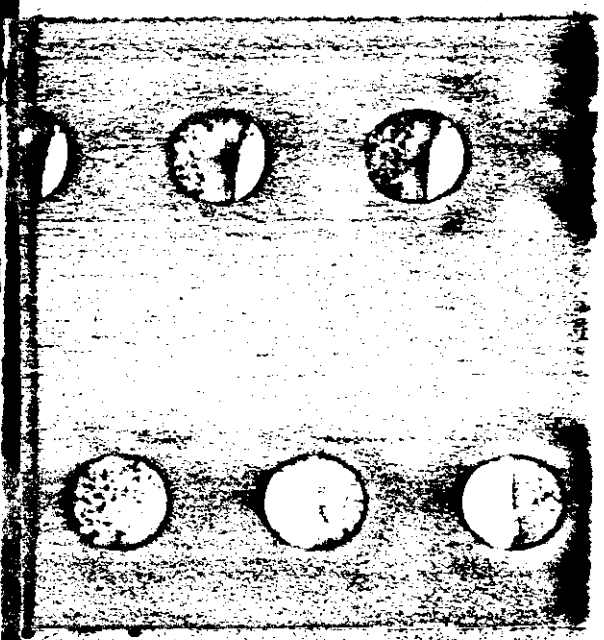


Help to hold up their hands; aid them in their work; drive out the trouble-makers; hold your Union intact; do not allow anyone to use it for a political football, nor to satisfy selfish purposes!

Remember that in your Union is your only hope for a better home and a happier life for you, and those who are dear to you, and that without it, or if it is weakened by dissension and division, you and they will surely sink to the depth of poverty and despair.

—Your duty is a solemn one, neglect it and you perish with the rest who just yesterday was as strong as you are today.





Autocratic Power Over Miners' Union

THE incumbent President of the United Mine Workers of America has arrogated the power of an autocrat.

No feudal lord ever ruled his vassals with less consideration for their welfare than Lewis has ruled the Miners' Union and that once peerless institution is now writhing in the throes of death because of his despotic rule.

No institution of freemen could survive the havoc of his tyrannical conduct. Every semblance of constitutional rule is arrogantly brushed aside if needs be to enable him to reach his objective. It is his practice to ruthlessly sweep aside all those who oppose his [illegible]

One of his [illegible] weapons is to strike down constitutional government as created by the miners for their protection [illegible] to [illegible] "provisional government" is [illegible]

By this means he is able to [illegible] and frustrate every officer that speaks out against [illegible] and properly elected [illegible] officers [illegible] courage to oppose [illegible] official [illegible] personal selection [illegible] who are [illegible] to his [illegible] by him, appointed to function in [illegible]

[illegible] autocrat [illegible]

It is inevitable that [illegible] would [illegible] great harm to the Union [illegible] control the climax is bound to be autocracy instead of democracy.

With the knowledge in their hearts [illegible] constant fear that Lewis [illegible] sweep them [illegible] office on

some trumped up charge of his own fabrication, as he has done, and appoint "provisional officers" in their places and set up a "provisional government" in their respective districts if they oppose his will, men cannot be free to express their honest opinions on matters of Union policy if their opinions be opposed to his.

There could be no more harmful, evil condition than this: Through the exercise of this arrogant autocratic power, instead of being free agents with opinions of their own and the courage to express what to them is the best policy for the Union to adopt to protect the interests of [illegible] membership, the Executive Officers are made to be [illegible] lot of cringing, fearful figureheads, who with servile alacrity, defer to Lewis' opinions because of the dread that he will remove them from office if they oppose him and [illegible] sequence to this condition, the [illegible] prived of the benefit [illegible] blending of the wisdom and opinions of all the executive officers [illegible] forced to accept the [illegible] policies have wrecked [illegible]

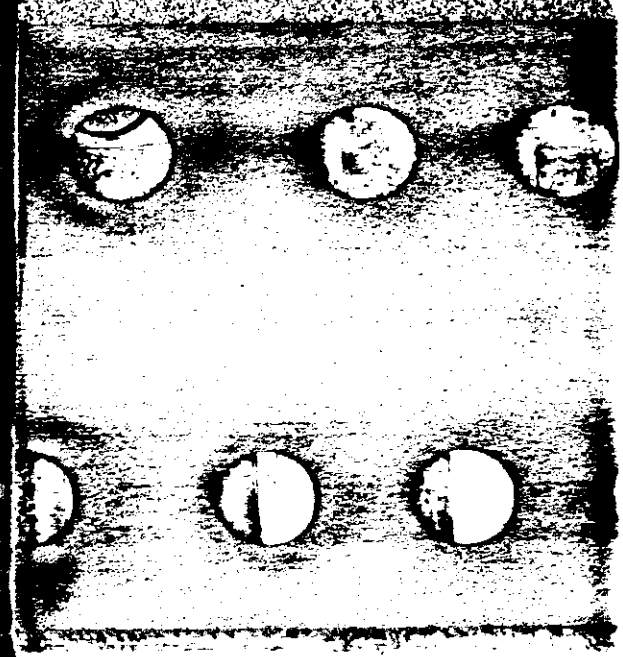
[illegible] Kansas [illegible] Provisional [illegible]

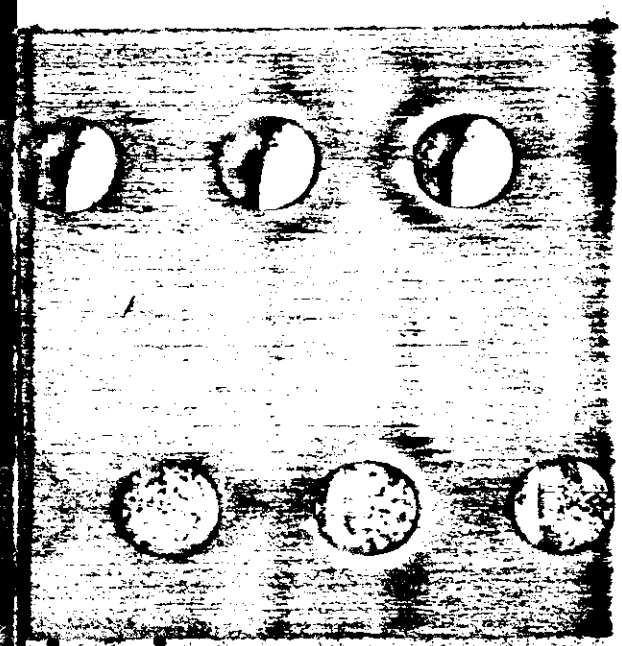
To contend that the mine[illegible] in [illegible] ment [illegible] their [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] work [illegible] [illegible] anything [illegible]

Lewis [illegible] in establishing [illegible] [illegible] and so-[illegible] provisional governm[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] President [illegible] district [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] to the [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] was [illegible] turmoil and [illegible] within the district [illegible] which condition some of [illegible] mine [illegible] ners [illegible] to lower the wages





and degrade the working conditions of the Kansas miners. To this day the Kansas miners have not recovered from the effect of Lewis' action.

His next exploit of this kind was in Sub-District No. 9 of District No. 12.

In this venture the Gods of Fortune seem to have played into his hands in that since a "provisional government" was arrogantly established in that Sub-District, it is alleged that it has been discovered that three of the many deposed officers are guilty of misappropriating union moneys but this was not the basis for Lewis' first action against them.

I have no word to say in their defe[illegible] one can condone such betrayal of confidence. If these men are guilty as alleged they should be made to pay the full [illegible]alty for their misconduct, but that is a matter aside from the principle involved and the miners should not allow themselves to be deceived by the blaring of trumpets that is sure to occur over the discovery of the alleged miscon[illegible] of these [illegible] Sub-District offic[illegible]

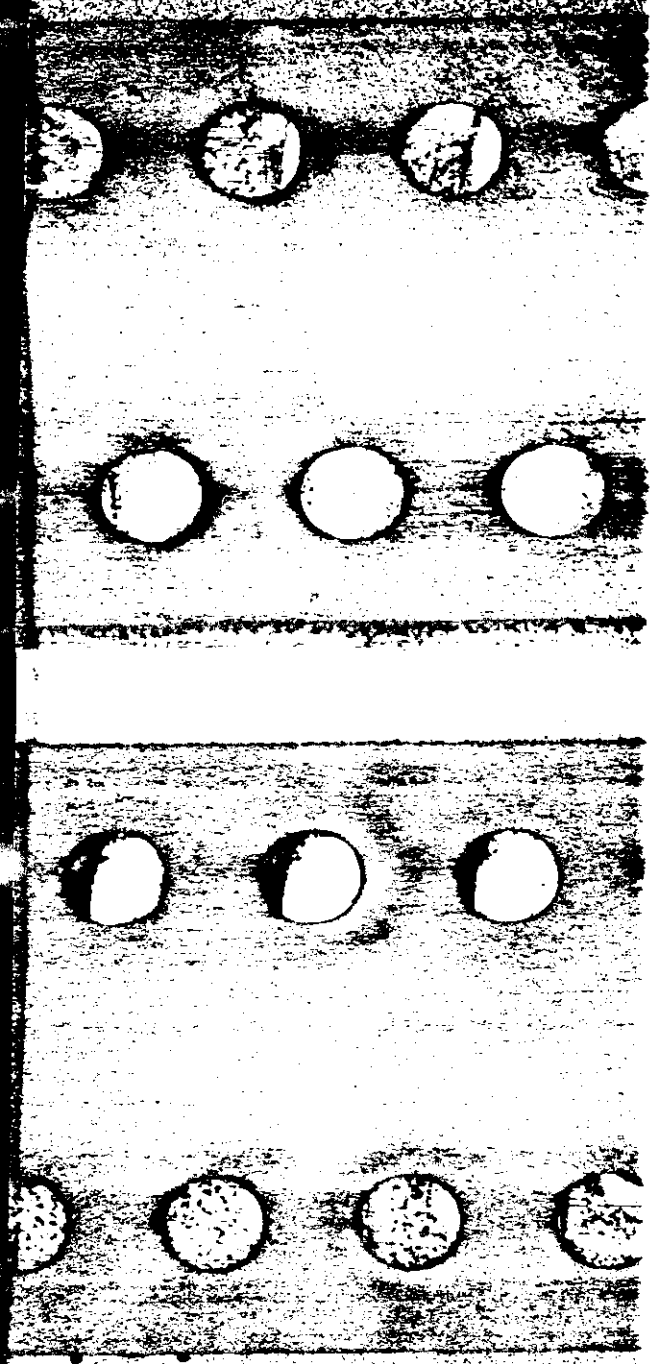
Others [illegible] were not involved in the wrongdoing were equally [illegible] by Lewis' high handed[illegible]

The International Union has paid [illegible] millions of dollars for strike rel[illegible] it ma[illegible] Lewis' experience in knowing how [illegible] that enabled [illegible] to uncove[illegible]

Crim[illegible] Lewis Gr[illegible]

[illegible] mon[illegible] ld go to [illegible] and childre[illegible] thing [illegible] would do [illegible] unworthy of the confide[illegible] fellow[illegible]

Ho[illegible] mil[illegible] me[illegible] only [illegible] have against [illegible] stands between millio[illegible] wo[illegible] and c[illegible] ger and want is also [illegible] to [illegible]



[illegible] Lewis must answer for while the three Sub-District officers answer for their transgression.

> Therefore, it is to be hoped that the miners will think things out for themselves and that they will not be duped by the fanfare about how Lewis hunts down the crooks and perhaps because of their deception, place their confidence where it does not belong.

The miners should not be deceived or tricked by the drivel and false mouthings of the paid agents of Lewis, nor by Lewis himself, but they should search for the truth and then think and think long and soberly, and then act in a way that will protect their union and thus their homes and those whom they cherish, and then they should place their confidence with those whom their sober judgment tells them are doing the very best they can to protect their interest; and the miners should co-operate openly and actively with those whom they believe are doing that to the end that their Union may be solidified and made strong against the trouble makers and those who seek to divide it with internal dissension and harmful strife.

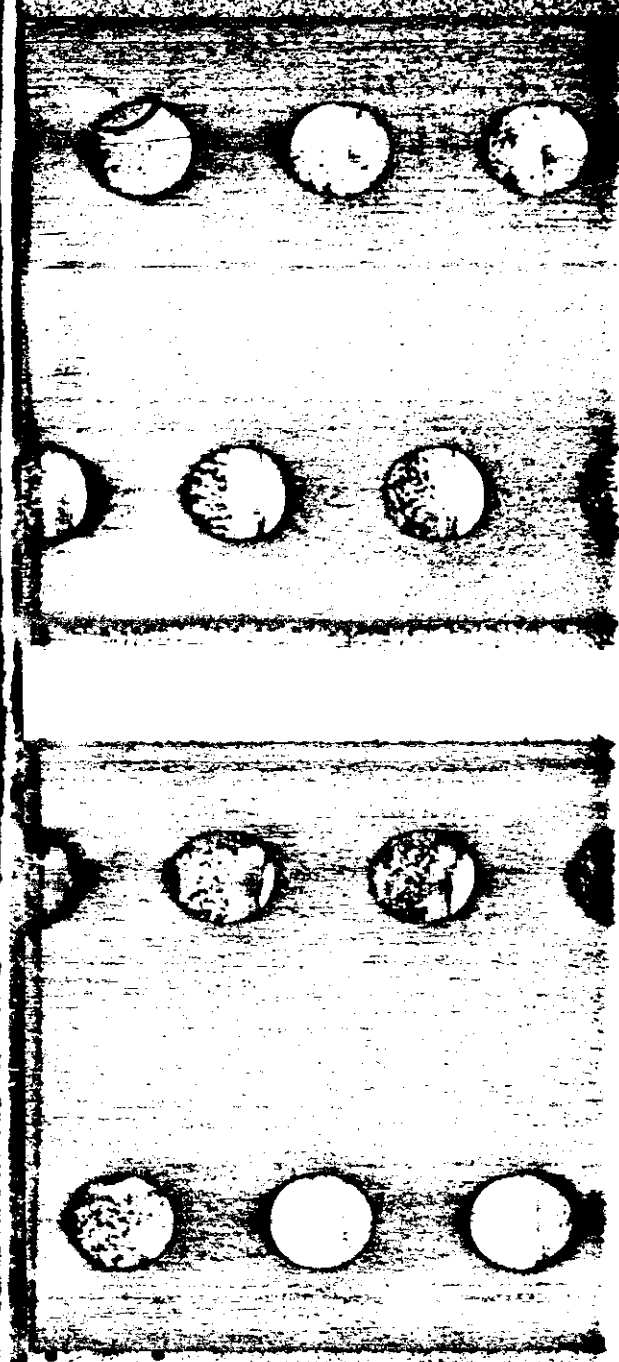
> The Illinois Miners' Union is very close to disaster and upon the Illinois miners depend whether or not it goes over the knuckle into the [illegible] along with the rest of the district unions in the soft coal fields of continue strong and indissoluble against all assailants.

Lewis was without any constitutional authority to strike at Sub-District No. 9 in the manner he did.

What his motive is, only he knows, but the miners should be on their guard.

Section No. 2, Article No. 3, of the Constitution of the International Union, United Mine Workers of America reads as follows:

> "*All districts, sub-districts and local unions*



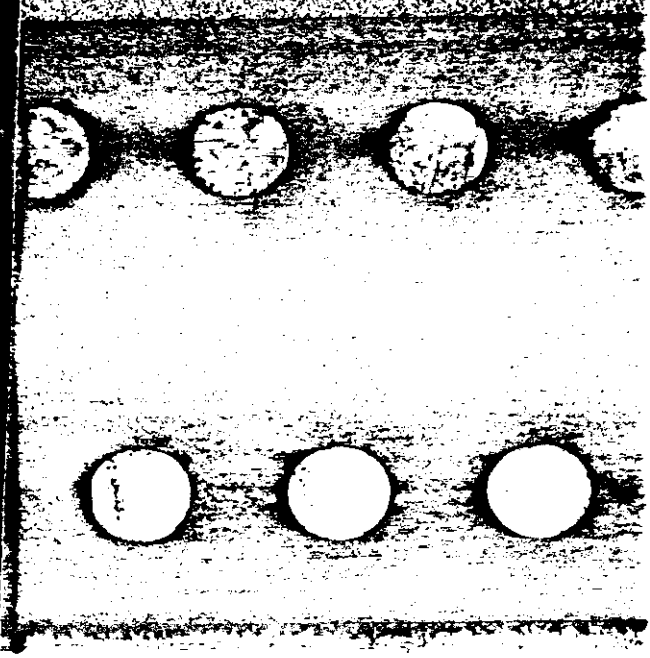
must be chartered by and shall be under the jurisdiction of and subject to the laws of the International Union and rulings of the International Executive Board. Charters can be revoked only by the International President, whose action shall be subject to approval by the International Executive Board."

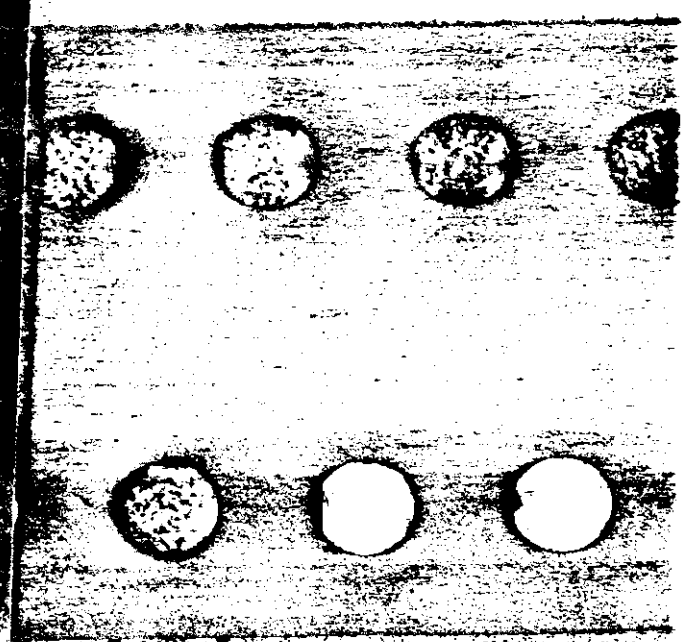
To say the above quoted section of the International Constitution vests in the International President the power to revoke district or sub-district charters and create self-constituted "provisional governments" in self-supporting districts or subdistricts and thereby automatically remove from their official positions men who have been duly elected by the rank and file in the respective divisions and to then appoint men of his personal choice to function in their stead, is to read into the law language that is not there, and is to disregard and to flout other sections of the same constitution and which provide for the reverse of what is attempted.

When other sections of the International Constitution are considered one must indeed distort Section No. 2, Article No. 3 to find warrant for the exercise of such autocratic action and must, by distortion, breathe into said section, plenary power that is not therein recorded and that was not intended by the framers of the [illegible] and that would be foreign to the principles of democracy and abhorrent to those in whom rests the right of self-government.

It would be aberrant reasoning not to differentiate between newly and sparsely organized, in[illegible] districts or sub-districts without the means to properly function, and long organized, self-supporting and properly functioning districts or sub-districts in trying to arrive at a just determination of this controversy.

Though substantial reasons may be advanced in support of such dictatorial action where a district or a sub-district is still in the initial stages of formation, of small





membership and still dependent on the financial support of the International Union, no valid reason can be adduced in support of such action where these branches are perfectly organized, self-supporting and independent of outside aid from any source.

To take such action in the latter instance is to arrogate power not granted and that in fact is denied and is a high-handed and unconstitutional attempt to gain, by circumvention and illegal practice some desired end that cannot be attained by adherence to other specific and regulative provisions of the International Constitution.

Admitting that the aforesaid Section No. 2, Article No. 3, does vest in the International President the right to revoke district and sub-district charters, certainly said section does not, either by written word or by implication, empower him to go beyond the act of revocation and also tear down properly constituted governments, unceremoniously remove duly elected officers, [illegible] set up self-created [illegible] governments [illegible] to appoint self-selected officers to preside over th[illegible]

There is no reason why the International President should have such wide autocratic power and the existing International Convention never intended [illegible] have such powe[illegible]

In fact the International Convention [illegible] law-making body of the International Union [illegible] defined the authority and power of the International President as to his right to remove or suspend from office and as to his right to appoint in Sections No[illegible] and 10 of Article No. 9, International Constit[illegible]

Said sections read as follo[illegible]

Section 8. "He may suspend or re[illegible] any International Officer [illegible] appointee em[illegible] for insubordination or just and sufficient cause."

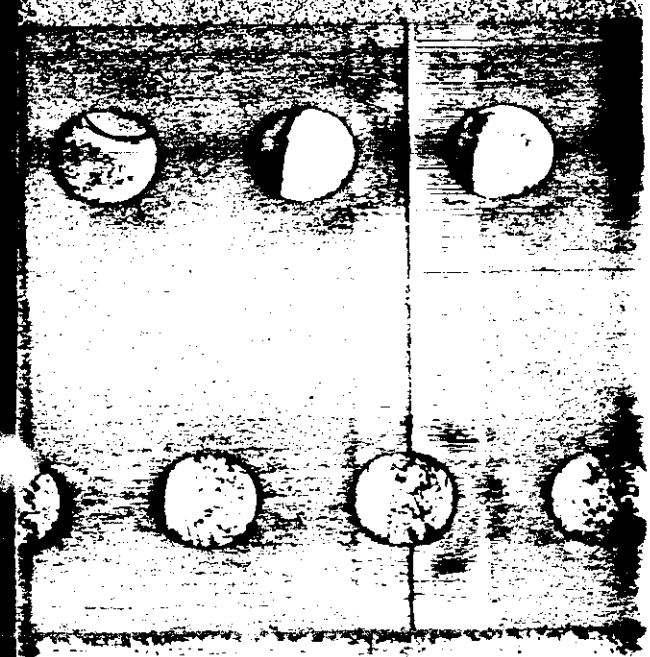
Section 10. "He may appoint a mem[illegible]

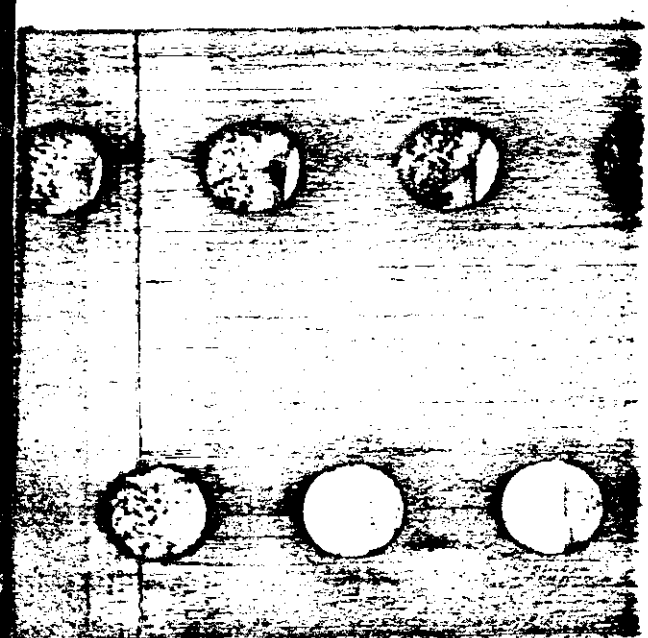
whose duty shall be to collect and compile statistics on the production, distribution and consumption of coal and coke, freight rates, market conditions and any other matter that may be of benefit to the Organization. Said statistician shall make a report to the regular convention."

Section No. 8. "He may appoint such organizers, field and office workers as may be necessary to conduct the affairs of the International Union."

Section No. 9. "He shall appoint from among properly elected delegates the committees necessary to transact the work of International Conventions, and instruct the Resolutions, Constitution and Grievance Committees to meet at headquarters sufficiently early to enable them to be prepared to render at least a partial report on the first day the Convention convenes, but if a Convention is to consider charges regularly filed, against the President, the Grievance Committee shall be elected by the Convention."

Section No. 10. "He shall appoint, subject to the approval of the International Executive Board, one or more competent Traveling Auditors, said appointees to be agreed [illegible] by the Districts and International Union. Said Traveling Auditors shall examine the accounts of all local unions at least once every year and assist in establishing a uniform system of bookkeeping in the local unions. Should such audits develop any irregularities, those responsible for the same shall be penalized as hereinafter provided. The Traveling Auditors so appointed shall submit a correct report of their finances to the International, District and Sub-District officers, and shall also furnish a copy of [illegible]





the local unions where the accounts have been audited."

The above sections are not ambiguous or confusing but clear and concise and make it obvious that the authority of the International President to remove, suspend and appoint is confined to officers and appointed employes of the International Union.

Hence, for him to attempt to remove the officers of self-supporting districts or sub-districts and to appoint others of his choice to function in their stead, or for him to commit an act from which eventuates the same result, is for him to go outside his constituted authority and by circumvention enlarge the power vested in him by sections Nos. 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10 of Article No. 8.

To do this is a flagrant usurpation of authority not granted by said sections and is a gross invasion of the Constitutional prerogative of others.

In addition to the sections of the International Constitution just above quoted and which designates the authority of the International President and limit his power to remove, suspend and appoint to officers and employes of the International Union, there is a well grounded and long established tradition to the effect that the International President, nay, even an International Convention, the highest authority in the Miners' Union, shall not have the authority to remove or suspend officers of the subordinate branches of the Union.

X. Mitchell's Position Directly Opposite

I refer particularly to the case of Patrick Dolan, who in 1916, while acting as President of the Pittsburgh District Miners, and who, when attending a Joint Interstate Wage Scale Conference of miners and operators, voted with the operators in favor of a reduction in wages.

He did this in positive violation of the instructions of the Pittsburgh District miners and in opposition to the position of the miners' officials from Illinois, Indiana and

Ohio. Dolan's action was no less than treachery to the mine workers of the country and was the most serious offense any one could commit. His case was considered by an International Convention of mine workers.

John Mitchell, the miners' peerless leader, ruled that the Convention was without authority to remove Dolan from office.

Mitchell held that Dolan was elected, employed and paid by the Pittsburgh District miners, and that in them, and them only rested the power of removal, and that the only thing the International Convention could do with the case was to refer it back to the Pittsburgh District for action and disposition.

The convention sustained this position and the Pittsburgh District miners finally removed Dolan as their President.

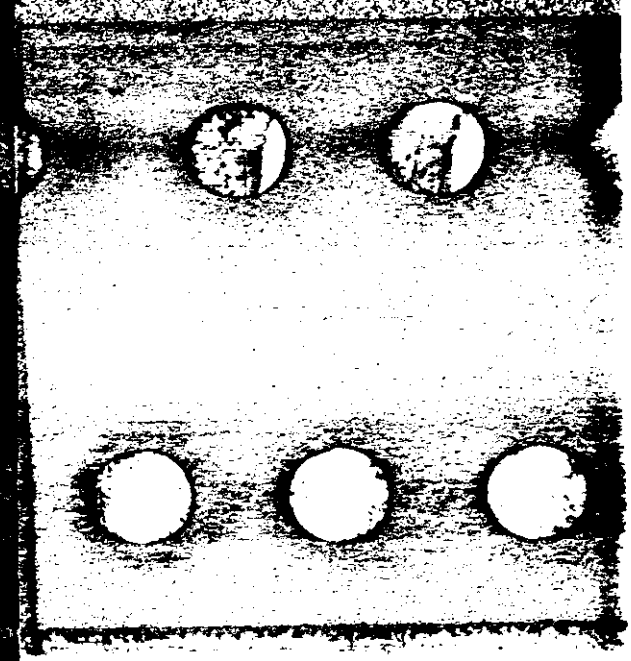
I cite another case in which an International President attempted to remove the President of the Indiana miners for alleged insubordination. This case also reached an International Convention and that body, upon motion of the incumbent International President, then serving as a delegate, ruled that the International President had exceeded his authority. I refer to these cases merely to emphasize the fact that the miners have always denied unto the International President the right to remove or suspend officers of the subordinate branches and to show that they have always carefully guarded and reserved unto themselves the right to elect, remove, suspend and select their district and sub-district officers without interference from the International President or any authority other than themselves. In further support of the contention that the International President is devoid of power to remove officers other than those employed by the International Union and as proof that the members have specifically denied him that [illegible] Section No. 3, Article No. 1[illegible] from the Constitution [illegible] District No. 12 (Illinois) is cited and follows:

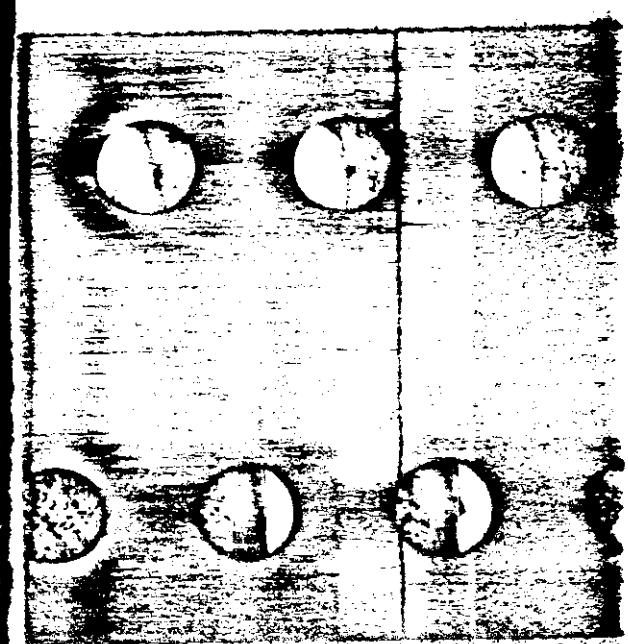
"Considering that the officers of this district are elected by and accountable to the members of this district, no authority outside of that provided in this constitution shall be allowed to suspend or remove them from office or hinder them in the performance of their duties as defined in this constitution."

From the above it is clear that when the International President attempts to read into Section No. 2, Article No. 3, International Constitution language that vests in him the right to remove district and sub-district officers, he strays beyond his jurisdiction and arrogantly invades the autonomous rights of others and defiantly disregards rules the members have enacted to protect their right of franchise.

That it was never intended or implied that Section No. 2, Article No. 3, should be used for punitive purposes or to bring offenders to account for alleged or real transgression is made plain by the fact that the enacting convention created trial machinery and specifically provided the course to be followed in cases where officers are charged with an alleged official offense against the organization or any of its members by the adoption of Section No. 1, Article No. 11, International Constitution and which reads as follows:

"When any officer of the Organization, other than local is charged with an alleged official offense against the Organization or any of its members, the charge must be lodged with the Executive Board of the branch of which he is an officer and the decision of said Executive Board shall close the case insofar as such tribunal is concerned, but should the accused or his accuser be dissatisfied with the decision of the tribunal first trying the case, either shall have the right of appeal to the next highest tribunal in authority and so on until a final decision is reached as





provided in Section No. [illegible] Article III, except as otherwise provided in the constitution."

The officers of Sub-District No. 9 were charged with insubordination. Surely insubordination would be an "official offense" and that being true, redress must be had under Section No. 1, Article No. 18, and not under Section No. 2, Article No. [illegible]

Certainly it is manifest that to remove one from office and to appoint another in his stead by means of charter revocation is to disregard Section No. 1, Article No. 18. In this case there was no reason for revoking the charter of sub-district No. 9 other than that the International President alleged the officers were guilty of insubordination.

> If they were, the Constitution makes it mandatory that they be tried as provided for by Section No. 1, Article No. 18 to determine their guilt.

The mere allegation of guilt by the International President is not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of said section.

But why was the charter revoked?

The membership of Sub-District No. 9, to whom the charter applied, were not guilty of any offense, nor were they charged with any guilt whatever, but still their charter was revoked, so it is said, but why was it revoked?

[illegible] Pretext

Always charters of every class are revoked only because the membership are in rebellion against constituted authority, or because they are guilty of some great and serious transgression that they stubbornly refuse to correct; and the charter is revoked only as a last resort to bring them to obedience and only after every conciliatory means has failed.

Nothing of the kind was prevalent in Sub-District [illegible]

[illegible] Things were as tranquil as usual and the machine was functioning in the ordinary manner.

But still the charter was revoked. Why?

There is only one answer.

The International President made a pantomime gesture at revocation so as to furnish a pretext that he [illegible] would enable him to do something he had [illegible] right to do.

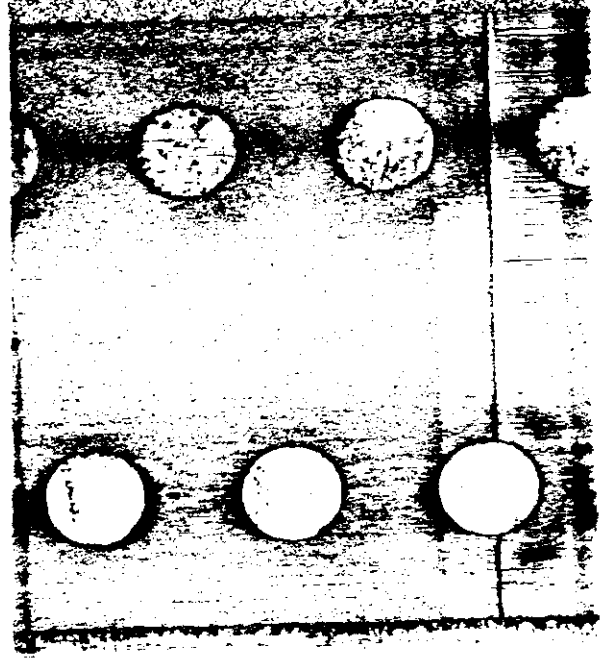
Or in other words he struck at the officers over the shoulders of the membership because he could not reach the officers if he adhered to the requirements of the constitution.

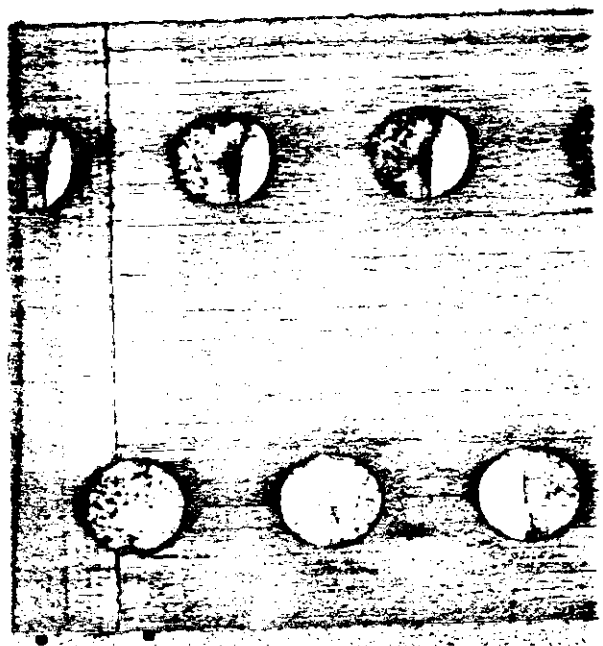
In reality the charter was not disturbed in any manner, whatever. There was no formality of taking up the old charter and granting a new one as would occur if the charter were really revoked.

The act of alleged revocation was only a [illegible] a shabby pretext calculated to open the way for the International President to remove the officers and to enable him to appoint [illegible] of his choice to their places and whereby he hoped to and did evade the requirements of Section No. 1, Article 18.

He had no constitutional grant to either remove or appoint as is clearly shown by sections Nos. 3, 4, 5, 9 and [illegible] of Article No. 9, International Constitution.

But he did illegally remove and appoint and he did worse than that; he pre-judged the officers involved and [illegible] them with the stigma of guilt without giving them the opportunity of trial as provided for by Section [illegible] Article No. 18, and when he did that his irregularities threw the constitutional machinery out of gear and made it impossible for it to function as it was designed to function and thereby again exposed the fallacy and [illegible] of his action. Why?





Right of Appeal Lost

Because when he robbed these officers of their official positions he, by the same action, robbed them of their right of appeal from the illegal action.

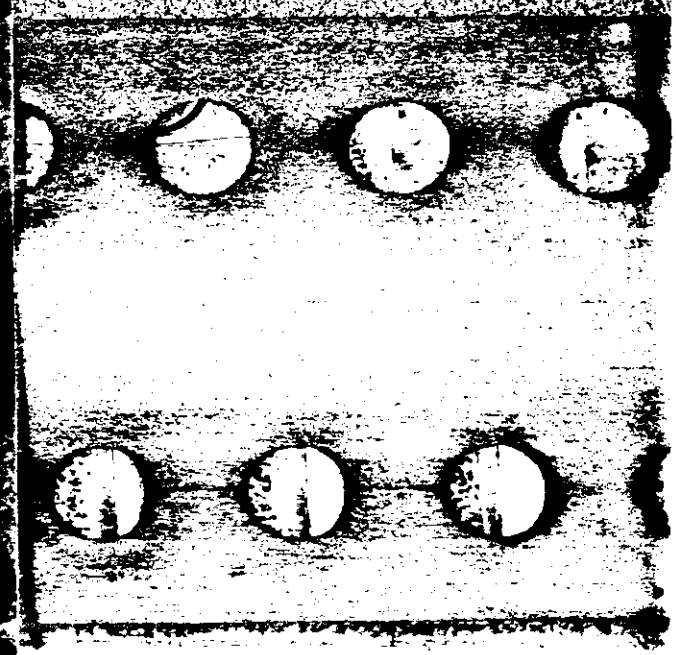
How so?

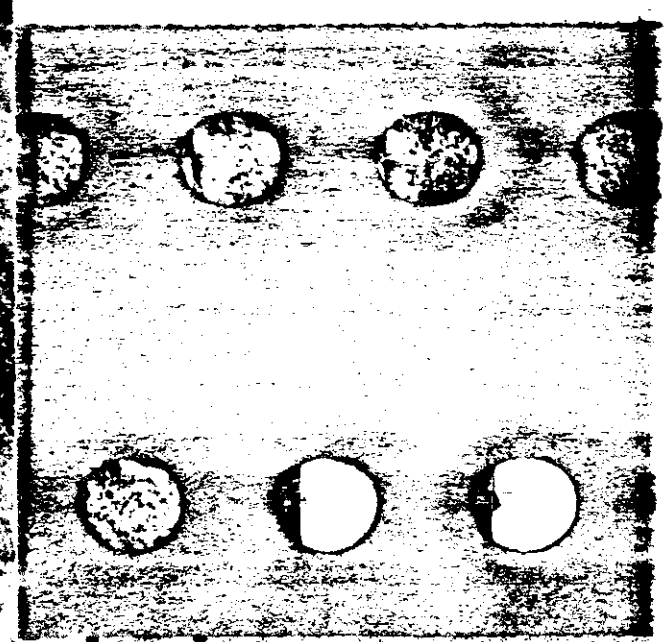
Because Section No. 3, Article No. 3, International Constitution provides as follows:

> "In all questions of dispute, appeals and grievances unless restricted by joint agreement the right of appeal of an individual member shall end with the District Executive Board, and the right of appeal of any branch of the organization shall end with the International Executive Board. This shall not prevent individuals whose membership is at stake from appealing to the International Executive Board, which body's decision shall be final and binding unless reversed by the International Convention. When an appeal is taken, the defendants must be furnished a copy of the appeal if asked, thus to prepare their case. In all cases the decision of the [illegible] tribunal must be complied with before the appellant's right of appeal shall be recognized. However, the appellant shall have the right of appeal provided bond satisfactory to the court of appeal covering the amount of money involved is furnished."

The membership of the men involved is not in controversy. Therefore, when the International President robbed them of their official status, he left them in the status of individual members and the last above quoted section clearly appeals that unless his membership is at stake, the right of appeal of an individual member shall end with the District Executive Board.

Considering that the District is subordinate to the International, it would be a silly waste of time and of no avail to appeal to a body that is without authority to be.





Consequently these men are left with no constitutional means of redress.

Hence it is obvious that the irregular action of the International President did throw the constitutional machinery out of gear, and plainly shows he is trying to go ahead with the machinery in reverse motion.

This in itself should be sufficient to prove that the International President acted without constitutional warrant and in defiance of the plainly written, unequivocal provisions of the International Constitution.

It may be said he would grant them the right of appeal. It would not be within his province to do that were he so disposed. The Miners' Union is not dependent upon the whim or shifting will of any one person for its government. Instead it has a soberly considered, carefully written code of regulative rules that no one is granted the privilege to distort or to misapply.

That code of regulative rules provides no means for the creation of "provisional governments" and grants no one the power to so create. It designates the extent to which the International President shall have the power to remove, suspend and appoint, and provides how trials shall be held and the courses to follow to bring to account those who transgress against the Union or any of its members, and breathes the spirit of democracy and vests in no one the power of autocracy.

Moreover considerable significance attaches to the fact that when Section No. 2 Article No. 3 was incorporated into the International Constitution, the enacting Convention did not arrange for any procedure to be followed in instances where District or Sub-District charters might be revoked, but the convention did stipulate the procedure to be followed when local charters are revoked. To wit: Section No. 12, Article No. 20, International Constitution provides that:

"When a local charter is revoked [illegible]

bers thereof shall be required to pay an initiation fee of $10.00 before they can again secure membership in the United Mine Workers of America, excepting those who have complied with the laws of the organization and joint agreements."

It is reasonable to assume that had it been intended that Section No. 2, Article No. 3, would vest in the International President the plenary power he attempts to exercise with reference to the revocation of district and sub-district charters, that the convention would have incorporated in the constitution some corollary stipulation as to what would follow, as was done when local charters are revoked; but the constitution is silent in that particular, thus leaving room for the contention that the intention of the convention was to convey the power to issue only and not to revoke.

But be that as it may, the fact is outstanding that there is not one iota of language nor the slightest implication in Section No. 2, Article No. 3 that vests in the International President the authority to create "provisional governments" nor to remove, suspend and appoint district or sub-district officers.

[illegible] for a period of 31 years, during which the Miners' Union had its greatest numerical strength and power for good, or from 189[illegible] when the Union was founded to 192[illegible] when the incumbent International President brought the innovation into play for the first time, despite the naughty protests of the membership, the term "provisional government" was unheard of and unknown in the affairs of the United Mine Workers of America, and down to this day no warrant for this abortion will be found in the constitution of the International Union.

The case in point is of paramount importance. It embraces more than the removal of a few sub-district officers; it is more far reaching than that.

Can Go As Far As He Will

There is no constitutional warrant for the creation of "provisional governments" in the Miners' Union, nor are there any constitutional rules to govern or to regulate them once they are established by arrogated power. Neither is there any constitutional mandate as to how long a "provisional government" shall live, or as to what steps must be taken to have constitutional government restored once a "provisional government" has been established.

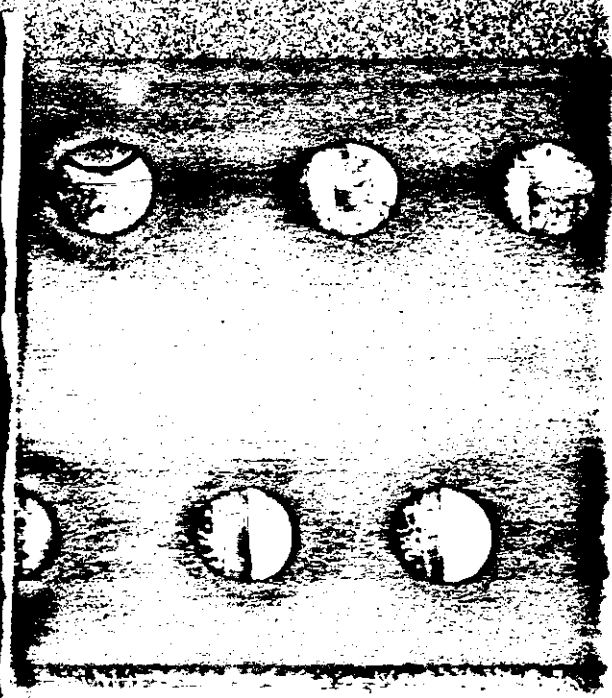
As things now stand, everything is dependent upon the caprice and will of the International President, and he is without constitutional limit or restraint of any kind.

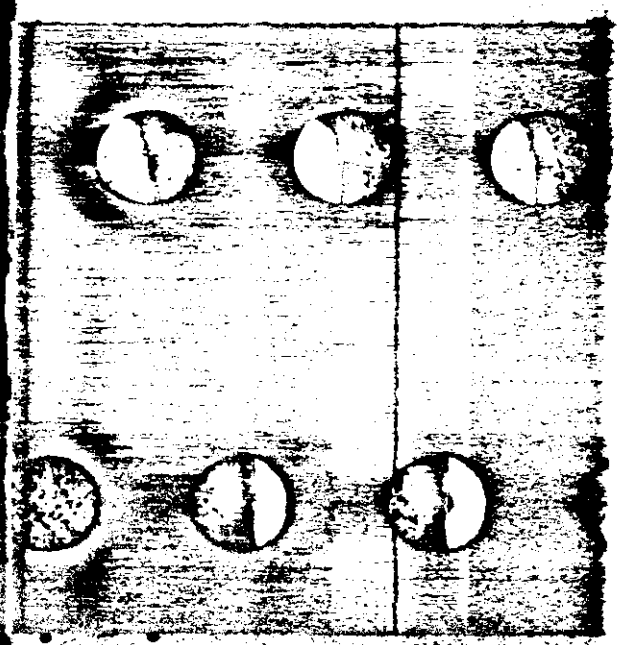
He can go as far as he likes.

If by taking Section No. 2, Article No. 3, International Constitution as a basis for his action, he can declare charters revoked and follow the gesture with the creation of "provisional governments" and use that as his authority to remove, suspend and appoint officers at will, or upon his mere assertion that they are guilty of insubordination, he can, by the same means invalidate any or all other sections of the constitution and establish himself as a dictator. [illegible] can do this [illegible] Sub-District No. 9, he can do the same in other sub-districts, districts and local unions [illegible] in all of them if he so wills [illegible] there is no rule, law or power to stay his hand, [illegible] say when the tenure of "provisional government" [illegible] end.

It would, indeed, be within his province to wipe out all semblance of constitutional government and to destroy every section of the constitution [illegible] No. [illegible] No. 3, [illegible] the power that would [illegible] the Miners' Union and endanger public [illegible]

The magnitude of the power he would [illegible] he could do would [illegible] great that [illegible] would be enough to convince all who think that [illegible]





of sane men would allow the laws of their organization to be so carelessly designed as to allow anyone to wield such autocratic power over them, or to exercise such plenary authority as the International President seeks to employ.

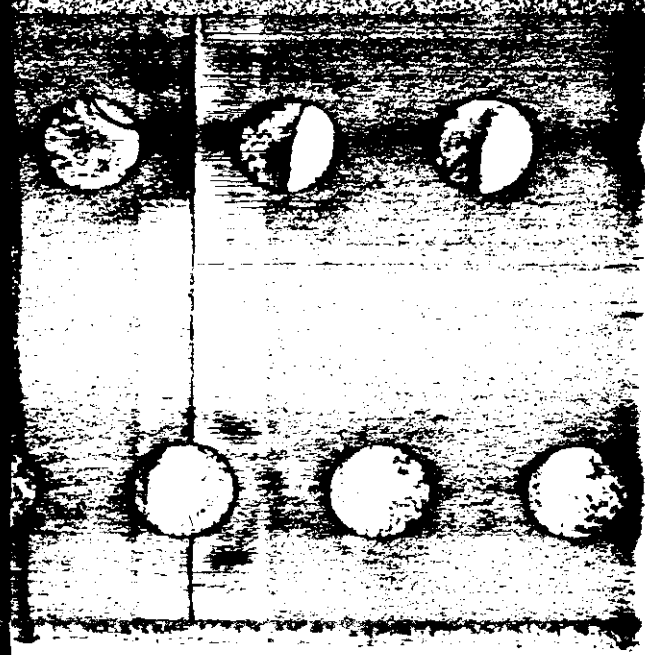
The practice of establishing "provisional governments" and ousting properly elected officers from office is fraught with so many sinister possibilities and rank injustices as to be repugnant to all those who believe in a square deal and proper procedure.

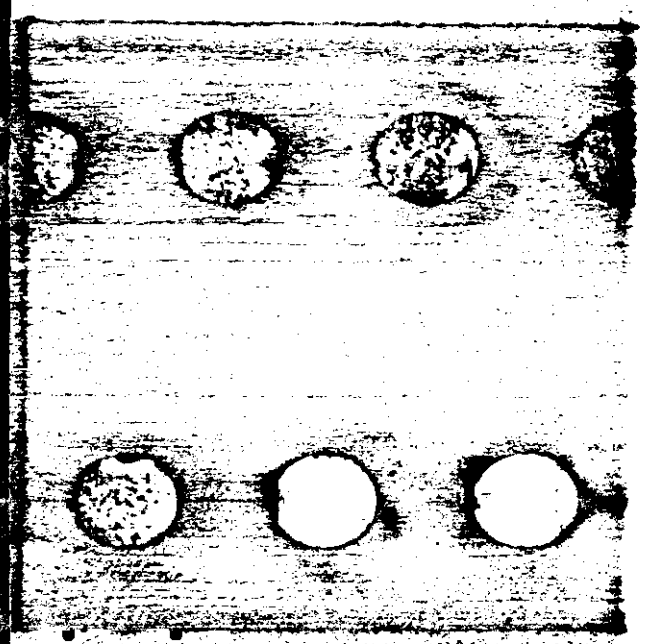
By this practice, men are adjudged as being guilty without trial and the fundamental American principle that all men are innocent until proven guilty is reversed and men are pre-judged and punishment inflicted without the opportunity of being heard in their own defense as provided for by Section No. 1, Article No. 18, International Constitution, and those so prejudged must mingle with their fellowmen bearing the stigma of guilt though as yet untried and enduring the humiliation of suspected dishonor and guilt until they are able to find some means whereby they may prove their innocence.

No one but a person drunk with self-importance and actuated by an insane desire for power would attempt to exercise such plenary power; and to vest such power in the type of man [illegible] actually [illegible] for it would indeed be m[illegible] would militate against the best interest of [illegible] its members.

[illegible] the charge [illegible] he wrecked the Miners' Union, true to my [illegible]diction, Lewis [illegible]rying to cover up his own wrongdoing by attem[illegible] m[illegible]

Press reports [illegible] him [illegible] said that I was ejected [illegible] the [illegible] Union [illegible] I am a traitor to the Union and that I [illegible] in the employ of the operators and one [illegible] Searle, [illegible] carrier for Lewis, has said that [illegible] cannot acce[illegible] my stories about Lewis because I [illegible] not belong to the Miners' Union.





If not to belong to the Union disqualifies one to recite facts, Searls would be disqualified as he does not belong to the Union either, although he has reaped bountifully of its benefits for many years.

He has not paid as much as a ten-cent piece into the Union and it ill-behooves him to blather about someone who does not belong to the Union.

These statements have no foundation in fact.

I was not ejected from the Miners' Union.

I resigned from my position as President of the Illinois Miners and the records in the District office will so show, and I did this because of the hope that if I quietly stepped aside, Lewis would do something to save the Miners' Union from destruction.

In this, I was mistaken.

Let Him Answer Charge

As for my being a traitor to the Union, my record speaks for itself, and the institution that is largely the work of my administration, is a living indestructible monument that disproves the charge of treachery on my part.

In truth, during my administration of its affairs, the Illinois Miners' Union became so thoroughly solidified and so firmly anchored that not even Lewis could destroy it and today it stands intact and alone and [illegible] only district union in the [illegible] coal fields of the [illegible] that has been able to [illegible] Lewis' destructive policies. His charge of treachery on my part is a brazen lie and is disproved in a hundred different ways and the falsity of the charge is discernible on all sides and apparent to all those who care to look for the evidence.

But again, I say this is aside from the question in controversy.

Lewis in charge will have [illegible] the Miners' [illegible]

Let him answer to that instead of hurling charges of treachery at me as his action in doing so will not disprove the charge that he wrecked the United Mine Workers of America.

Granting that everything he says about me is true, although not a single word of what he says is true, that would not vindicate Lewis for the terrible wrong he has done to the miners of the country.

4-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b3 b7c with no segregable material available for release to you.

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☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

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FBI/DOJ

WENDELL BERG
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice
Washington

August 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" Case - Alleged Violations of Section 51, Title 18, U. S. Code.

This supplements my memorandum to the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943, outlining the scope of the investigation.

In that memorandum, at pages four to six, I set out, as one of twelve "areas of investigation", a breakdown of alleged unfair labor practices by subject Elshoff. It was noted, however, (bottom of page six) that the files of the Labor Board had not then been fully analyzed, and that a supplemental memorandum would be furnished.

This memorandum sets out a more refined analysis of the allegations of unfair labor practices by Elshoff, identifies the evidence now available to us, and indicates certain desired inquiries in connection with each allegation. These specifications are not intended, however, to restrict the scope of the investigation. The Bureau will feel free, and is requested, to investigate in this, as in other areas of investigation, to the limit of the factual issues involved.

Attached to this memorandum are photostatic copies of many documents selected from the files of the National Labor Relations Board. These photostats have been numbered on the back, and in connection with each unfair labor practice, reference is made to photostats containing supporting evidence.

In appraising the allegations and evidence filed with the Labor Board by the Progressives, it must be remembered

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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that the fact of collusive payments from U.M.W. officials to Elshoff was not then known. That fact is now established, and, as a consequence, the Progressives' allegations, conjectures, and suspicions appear in a more respectable light.

Chronologically, the alleged unfair labor practices fall into four groups:

A. Unfair labor practices prior to the closing of the mine on May 12, 1937, -- the incubation of the conspiracy.

B. Unfair labor practices between May 12, 1937, and January 4, 1938, -- attempts to effect a U.M.W. coup d'etat.

C. Unfair labor practices from January 4, 1938, to November 7, 1939, -- the period of siege and starvation.

D. Unfair labor practices from November 7, 1939, until March, 1941, -- favoritism in the struggle for membership.

Proof that Elshoff was actually guilty of unfair labor practices during the period of the conspiracy is vital if prosecution is to be undertaken. Overt acts are not an essential element of a Section 51 violation. It is theoretically sufficient to prove merely that subjects conspired with a guilty intent, but proof of intent, in the absence of admissions, is necessarily circumstantial, and, therefore, as a practical matter in case of prosecution, it would be essential to prove that Elshoff actually did impose unfair labor practices, as -- it would be alleged -- he was paid to do.

A. THE UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES PRIOR TO THE CLOSING OF THE MINE ON MAY 21, 1937, - THE INCUBATION OF THE CONSPIRACY

No specific allegations of unfair labor practices during the period prior to May 12, 1937, were made by the Progressives, and at present we have no direct evidence to establish any such practices. It is established that during April, 1937, and perhaps prior thereto, the United Mine Workers were paying several Progressive members to campaign for the United Mine Workers. The details of this activity, however, are not known and, therefore, it is requested the full scope of these activities be ascertained. This request is set out in more particulars on page 3 of my memorandum of July 24, 1943.

If it is ascertained that Elshoff knew of these practices and either acquiesced in, or encouraged them, an unfair labor practice would be established.

The substance of the statements of all the subjects in respect to the agreement to make the payments is to the effect that an understanding was not reached until after the mine had closed [redacted]. It is likely, however, that prior to the closing of the mine an understanding had been reached between Elshoff and the U. M. W. officials that they would cooperate to the end that U. M. W. should win over bargaining rights at the mine. We have no tangible evidence to this effect and it is requested that the Bureau direct inquiries to determine whether any evidence of such an understanding prior to May 12, 1937, can be uncovered.

Apparently, during April of 1937, members of the United Mine Workers attempted to cause the Progressives to go on strike by circulating rumors to the effect that an extension contract signed April 2, 1937, between Elshoff and Dan McGill (representing the Progressives) did not contain a retroactive wage scale to April 2, 1937 [redacted]

b3 - Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103.

B. UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES BETWEEN MAY 12, 1937, AND JANUARY 4, 1938, - ATTEMPTS TO EFFECT A U. M. W. COUP d'ETAT

It is believed that during this period Edmundson and Elshoff hoped that they could win the victory for U. M. W. by drastic and immediate measures, such as signing the closed shop contract with U. M. W. on August 13, 1937, and the attempt to reopen the mine on September 27, 1937. These attempts by a coup d'etat were frustrated by the successful efforts of the Progressives to have a Labor Board election, which the Progressives won by the overwhelming vote of 404 to 25. On January 4, 1938, the date the certification of representation was received in Springfield, Elshoff made his third unsuccessful attempt to reopen his mine with members of the U. M. W. Subjects realized then that a coup d'etat was impossible and from that time on the "freezing out" process began in earnest.

(1) Closing Of The Mine On May 12, 1937 - Strike Or Lock-out?

Before May 12, 1937, the Progressives had expelled 12 men from membership in the Progressives apparently for their activities in spreading dissention at the Mine. We understand these men were (1) Joe Albanese, (2) Andrew Schrelevious, (3) Dominic Pasquale, (4) Peter Carter, (5) Frank Austin, (6) Tony Plotch, (7) John Ananias, (8) John Sirtout, (9) George Jacoway, (10) Emory Jacoway, (11) Charles Bohannon, and (12) James Hale. When the Mine was opened the Pit Committee notified Falcetti, the Mine superintendent, that these men were no longer members of the Progressives and should be discharged under the closed shop agreement between Mine B and the Progressives. Falcetti refused to do this. [redacted]. Dan McGill, the Progressive Board member of that area, took the matter up with Elshoff, who first refused to discharge them, stating he did not think he could lawfully do so under the terms of the National Labor Relations Act, but agreed to see his attorney. After seeing his attorney, he again refused, but this time gave as a reason that cars of coal were not being fully loaded and that until that situation was righted he would do nothing. The negotiations between Elshoff and McGill failed and

b3 T26, USC, §6103

the mine went on strike. Subsequent conferences between McGill and Elshoff proved equally fruitless. [redacted]

b3
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All of these individuals should be interviewed and signed statements obtained, if possible. The following inquiries are suggested:

(a) Prior to May 12, 1937, had Elshoff instructed Falcetti not to discharge these men?

(b) Did Falcetti report his refusal to discharge these men to Elshoff?

(c) In the normal course of operations would Falcetti make such reports to Elshoff?

(d) Did Falcetti usually make reports to Elshoff of some nature?

(e) What was the usual form and contents of reports which Falcetti made to Elshoff?

(f) Does prior conduct or do prior statements on the part of Elshoff indicate that he knew he could and should lawfully discharge expelled members of the Progressives under the closed shop contract?

(g) Did Elshoff actually consult his lawyer between the time of his first and second meeting with McGill?

(h) What advice did his lawyer give?

(i) Why did he subsequently state that his refusal to discharge was based on the fact that short cars were being filled?

(j) How did he become aware of the fact that short cars were being filled?

(k) What was Elshoff's attitude regarding the strike in the negotiations between him and McGill?

(l) What reasons did he give in these conversations after the strike was called for his continued refusal to discharge these men?

(m) In his conversations with others was he indifferent towards the strike?

(n) How long did Elshoff contemplate the mine would remain closed? [redacted]

The following NLRB photostat is pertinent in connection with this unfair labor practice: D-29 - memorandum June 1, 1938, from Leonard C. Bajork, Regional Director, 13th Region, to Nathan Witt, Executive Secretary, NLRB.

(2) Elshoff Signed Closed Shop Contract On August 13, 1937, With U. M. W., Knowing It To Be A Minority Union.

[redacted]

The stipulation and agreement entered into on August 10, 1938, between Elshoff, the Progressives and U. M. W., was, in practical effect an admission by Elshoff and U. M. W. that the signing of the contract of August 13, 1937, was an unfair labor practice. However, the Board's order of September 13, 1938, and the decree of the Circuit Court of Appeals on June 17, 1939, were based upon the consent of Elshoff and U. M. W. and there was accordingly no actual adjudication of fact. The order and the decree will not be admissible to prove the unfair labor practice and the stipulation will not amount to an admission, but will probably be admissible as a circumstance to be considered alone with all other relevant facts.

b3 T26, USC, §6103

The crucial inquiry in this connection is whether Elshoff knew that at the time the contract was signed, that U. M. W. had only a dozen or more members at the mine.

The Progressives claimed that on May 26, 1937, 412 employees at Mine B signed a petition that the Progressives Union be their representative. [redacted] There is no question that Elshoff received the petition, but in acknowledging it he stated that he neither recognized the authenticity of the signatures nor regarded it as binding in any way. If it can be shown that Elshoff actually believed that the signatures were legitimate, this fact would seem to be conclusive that his signing of a closed shop contract with U. M. W. a month later was an unfair labor practice unless radical changes took place meanwhile. The following inquiries are suggested:

(a) Were there any circumstances which warranted Elshoff in questioning the authenticity of the signatures?

(b) Did U. M. W. officials know that he was writing his letter of July 12, 1937?

(c) Did he discuss receipt of the petition with U. M. W. officials?

(d) Were there any circumstances between the time of Elshoff's receipt of this petition and August 13, 1937, which would justify him in believing that there had been a radical shift in the loyalty of his employees from the Progressive Union to U. M. W.?

[redacted]

All the circumstances surrounding the formation of this local should be inquired into. The following inquiries are suggested:

b3 - 18 USC, §6103

(a) Had there been discussions between Elshoff and U. M. W. officials concerning formation of this union?

(b) How many members attended the first meeting of this local?

(c) What personal relationship, if any, existed between Elshoff and Falcetti and the officers of the new local?

(d) Were the international officers of U. M. W. aware of the Progressives' petition, carrying 412 names, at the time they granted the charter?

(3) On August 30, 1937, Elshoff Abrogated Check-off Agreement With The Progressives

[redacted] The significance of this incident is not fully understood. How many of the employees on the maintenance crew at the time were Progressives? Did Elshoff's elimination of the check-off operate to the practical disadvantage of the Progressives in any substantial way? Did U. M. W. officials know of or connive in this action?

(4) Elshoff Signed Another Closed Shop Agreement With U. M. W. On September 20, 1937

On September 7, 1937, the Progressives filed a charge with the Labor Boa[redacted] alleging that the company was engaging in unfair labor practices.

Notwithstanding this, Elshoff entered into another closed shop contract with U. M. W. thirteen days later, on September 20, 1937, [redacted].

[redacted]

b3 T26, USC, §6103

[redacted]

The same inquiries should be made in this connection as were requested in connection with the contract of August 13, 1937, set out in (2) above. In addition, the significance should be ascertained of the failure of Elshoff to become a member of the Illinois Coal Operators Association as he was required to do by the contract of August 13, 1937. Also, why did he sever his membership with the Coal Producers Association of Illinois in 1935 ([redacted]

(5) Elshoff On November 23, 1937, Procured An Injunction Against The Progressives

On November 23, 1937, Elshoff filed a bill of complaint asking for an injunction in the United States District Court at Springfield, against the activities of the Progressives [redacted]

Inquiry should be directed to discover to what extent, if any, U. M. W. officials connived with Elshoff in the preparation and filing of this complaint.

(6) Elshoff Attempted On Three Occasions To Reopen The Mine With U. M. W. Members

On three occasions, September 27, December 13, 1937, and January 4, 1938, Elshoff attempted to reopen the mine with U. M. W. members. It is believed that on each occasion Elshoff well knew that U. M. W. had only a score or more employees as members. Moreover, each attempt seemed to be an effort to effect a coup d'etat to offset efforts by the Progressives to establish their collective bargaining rights.

On September 27, 1937, Elshoff attempted to reopen Mine B and notified United to supply the personnel. On the morning of September 27th, Progressives who had worked at the mine on May 12th, showed up for work and Falcetti informed them

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the company had a closed-shop agreement with United and that they would have to join the United if they wished to work there. [redacted]

After Elshoff obtained the injunction, he made an attempt to reopen the mine on December 13, 1937, but apparently only about twelve members of United showed up. The NLRB held an election on December 15, 1937, which resulted in a vote of 404 to 25 in favor of the Progressives and on January 3, 1938, certified the Progressives as the bargaining agent. [redacted]

Again on January 4, 1938, Elshoff made another unsuccessful attempt to reopen the mine still refusing to deal with the Progressives. [redacted]

As to each of these three attempts to reopen, inquiries should be directed to ascertain

(a) Whether Elshoff was impartial in notifying both unions that he planned to reopen.

(b) Whether there was connivance between Elshoff and U. M. W. in setting the date.

b3 7126, U.S.C., §6103

C. UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES FROM JANUARY 4, 1938, TO NOVEMBER 7, 1939, -- THE PERIOD OF SIEGE AND STARVATION.

After his attempt to reopen the mine on January 4, 1938, failed, Elshoff kept his mine closed until November 7, 1939 -- twenty-two months later. During this time, the Progressives claim they were constantly seeking to negotiate a contract with Elshoff pursuant to which the mine could be reopened. Two principal allegations of unfair labor practice, therefore, are suggested during this period:

(1) That Elshoff Continued the Shut-Down in Order to Assist U.M.W.'s Program to Destroy the Progressive Organization.

There is no direct evidence now available which indicates that this was Elshoff's purpose. The circumstantial evidence, however, strongly points that way. It is difficult to understand why Elshoff--assuming he intended to repay the U.M.W. "loans"--was willing to keep the mine closed and thereby incur huge losses. Elshoff's statement suggests that he feared to reopen the mine because of possible violence between the two unions. This suggestion is discounted by the fact that in the fall of 1937 he obtained an injunction against the Progressives on the theory that he wanted to open the mine with the U.M.W. furnishing the employees. Inquiry is requested to ascertain whether there was any basis for Elshoff's excuse. Evidence on this point, of course, must necessarily be of a negative character, but all information bearing on Elshoff's true reason for keeping the mine closed should be obtained.

(2) That Elshoff Refused to Bargain with the Progressive Union, as Required by the Labor Act.

It was the contention of the Progressives that throughout the period when the mine was closed, Elshoff refused to bargain collectively with them. It was asserted that he would fail to appear at meetings, would postpone meetings, and when he did appear to bargain with the Progressives, he would just go through the motions and would not actually bargain in good faith with any real intention of reaching an agreement.

The following National Labor Relations Board photostats have a bearing on the two alleged unfair labor practices set out above:

B-15 Exhibit 6 - Affidavit, dated Jan. 18, 1938, Dillon, Schewe, Crompton, and Schneider, and Stipulation and Agreement, Ex. 7.

D-14 Original letter from A.F.L. (Padway) signed by Kaiser, to J. Warren Madden, Chairman, NLRB, dated Aug. 24, 1939, 3 pages.

D-16 Memorandum from G. L. Patterson to Estelle S. Frankfurter, Administrative Assistant, Mine B Coal Co. C-854, dated July 10, 1939.

D-17 Copy Resolution of Local U. No. 62, Progressive Mine Workers of America, signed by Ben Prosser, Pres., Dan Guritz, Rec. Sec. and Martin Scepek, Jr., Fin. Secy.

D-18 Resolution Local U. No. 3, Progressive Mine Workers of America, Collinsville, Ill., signed by Joseph E. Barkoski, Rec. Sec. and Ben Bergstrom, Pres.

D-19 Original letter from John R. Kane, Progressive Mine Workers of America, to Robert B. Watts, Assoc. Gen. Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, Washington, D. C., dated May 15, 1939.

D-20 Copy of R. B. Watts' memo to Joseph A. Padway, Tower Bldg., Washington, dated May 9, 1939.

D-26 Original memo from L. C. Bajork, 13th Reg. to Mrs. B. M. Stern, Asst. Secy, NLRB, Washington, D. C., re Mine B Coal Co. XIII-C-473, dated Aug. 25, 1938.

D-27 Memo to the File from Beatrice M. Stern in Mine B Coal, dated Aug. 11, 1938.

D-28 WU telegram to George O. Pratt, Chief Trial Examiner, NLRB, Wash., D. C., from I. S. Dorfman, NLRB, 13th Region, re Mine B 13-C-473, dated Aug. 12, 1938.

B-14 Exhibit 5 - Copy of letter, dated Jan. 17, 1938, from Joe Ozanic, Pres. P.M.A. to Carl H. Elshoff, Mine B Coal Co., Springfield, Ill.

D-30 Original memo from Leonard C. Bajork, Reg. Dir., 13th Reg. to Nathan Witt, Exec. Sec., NLRB, Washington, D. C., undated.

D-31 Original memo from Leonard C. Bajork, Reg. Dir., 13th Reg. to Nathan Witt, Exec. Sec., dated May 10, 1938, 2 pages. Mine B XIII-C-473.

D. UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES FROM NOVEMBER 7, 1939, UNTIL MARCH, 1941 -- FAVORITISM IN THE STRUGGLE FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The mine reopened on November 6, 1939, on an open-shop basis, although it is believed the Progressives were still in the majority.

Understanding of the unfair labor practices which followed the reopening of the mine requires consideration of the events which led up to the reopening of the mine.

Pursuant to charges of unfair labor practices made by the Progressives against Mine B, the NLRB issued a complaint on August 1, 1938, [redacted]. The Company answered generally denying the charges [redacted]. However, on August 10, 1938, a stipulation and agreement were entered into between Elshoff, the Progressives, and United [redacted] to the effect that an order could be made by the Board and upon application of the Board, the Circuit Court of Appeals could enter a decree that interference and intimidation of employees attempting to form or join a labor organization of their own choosing was to cease, that Mine B cease from refusing to negotiate with the Progressives, and that the contracts between Mine B and United, made August 18, 1937, and September 20, 1937, were not to be enforced.

The Labor Board entered its order September 19, 1938, [redacted] covering the provisions of the agreement, and on the same day, petitioned the Circuit Court of Appeals for a mandatory injunction. The Company filed an answer to this petition on May 15, 1939, [redacted] stating that the Board's order had not been violated, that the court had no jurisdiction, and that the stipulation did not confer jurisdiction on the court in the absence of a controversy.

On June 17, 1939 the court issued an order against Mine B [redacted] which contained the same provisions as the order of the National Labor Relations Board.

It seems like a double-barrelled inconsistency for Elshoff, who had consistently refused to deal with the Progressives and who had denied all the allegations of the complaints made by them to the NLRB, to enter into a stipulation and agreement two days after

b3 T26, USC, § 6103

filing his denial to the allegations and then having agreed to allow a court to enter a decree, to then attack the jurisdiction of the court. [redacted]

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T26, USC,
§ 6103

Inquiry should be directed to ascertain:

(a) What motivated Elshoff to sign the stipulation in the first place?

(b) Did he intend merely to gain more time for United and postpone any formal order of the board?

(c) Did Elshoff ever intend that the Progressives should benefit by the stipulation?

After the mine reopened, the following unfair labor practices were alleged:

(1) From November 6, 1939, to March, 1941, Elshoff Continued to Refuse to Bargain in Good Faith with the Progressives.

The following NLRB photostats indicate the nature of the Progressives' allegations in this respect:

D-8 Original memo from G. L. Patterson, Director, 13th Reg. to Alexander B. Hawes, Chief Administrative Examiner, dated Oct. 5, 1940, 3 pages.

D-11 Original letter from John R. Kane, Gen. Counsel Dist. No. 1, PMWA to NLRB, 13th Reg., Chicago, re XIII-C-473, dated Dec. 15, 1939.

D-9 Original memo from G. L. Patterson, Director, 13th Reg. to Nathan Witt, Secretary, dated Aug. 2, 1940. 2 pages.

D-10 Copy of letter from Edmundson, Pre. Dis. No. 12 UMWA, to Mr. Avery Leiserson, field examiner, NLRB., 13th Reg. dated Dec. 21, 1939.

D-23 Letter from J. R. Fancher, Vice President, Progressive Mine Workers of America, Dist. No. 1, to Mr. Geo. Smith, Field Examiner, NLRB 13th Region, Chicago, dated (undated).

D-24 Original memo from Leonard C. Bajork to Nathan Witt, Executive Secretary, NLRB, re Mine B Coal C-854, dated October 4, 1938.

Especially pertinent in this regard are the following NLRB photostats:

B-9 Exhibit 8, affidavit of John R. Kane, executed Sept. 13, 1940.

B-10 Exhibit 9, affidavit of John McCann, executed Sept. 30, 1940.

B-16 Two copies of affidavits by John Groh, both executed August 10, 1940. Exhibit 9.

(2) Elshoff permitted U.M.W. to intimidate Progressives on mine property.

Additional investigation is necessary in connection with the charges of the Progressives that Elshoff and Falcetti permitted U.M.W. to intimidate Progressives on mine property. Especially pertinent in this respect are the following NLRB photostats:

C-5 Affidavit (joint) of Keck, Wm. Schewe, John McCann, and John Groh, executed September 12, 1940.

B-5 Affidavits of John Groh, John Schneider (2), all dated January 7, 1941, together with MEMORANDUM signed by John R. Kane.

B-1 Carbon copy of charge by P.M.W. of A., Local U. #54, together with carbon copy of transmittal letter of Feb. 5, 1941, to Reg. Dir., 13th Reg.

A-8 Original typewritten letter from John R. Kane, Progressive Mine Workers of America to Regional Director of 13th Region, NLRB, dated Feb. 5, 1941.

A-7 Original memo from Joseph C. Gedman to Mine B Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., dated Feb. 5, 1941.

A-5 Undated carbon copy of memo to Mine B Coal Company.

A-3 3 original typewritten reports of Examiner, dated February 12, 1941, from M. S. Ryder to File.

C-8 Carbon copy of affidavit of Mike Willen, unexecuted.

C-9 Carbon copy of affidavit of Paul Wilcauskis, unsigned, dated August 6, 1940.

C-10 Carbon copy of affidavit of Anton Waultkwioz, unexecuted.

C-11 Carbon copy of affidavit of Jake Vonhof, executed August 7, 1940.

C-12 Carbon copy of affidavit of Vincent J. Shadus, unsigned, dated August 6, 1940.

C-14 Carbon copy of affidavit of August Meglin, unexecuted.

C-15 Carbon copy of affidavit of Pete Manuele, signed, but undated.

C-17 Carbon copy of affidavit of Rudolph Kerar, executed August 7, 1940.

C-18 Carbon copy of affidavit of Tom Grady, unsigned and undated.

C-19 Carbon copy of affidavit of Joseph Gedman, unsigned and undated.

C-20 Carbon copy of affidavit of Joe Gedman, unsigned and undated.

C-21 Carbon copy of affidavit of Rossi Console, unsigned and undated.

C-22 Carbon copy of affidavit of Rossi Console, unsigned and undated.

C-23 Original "Memo", initialled "JCC" - Field Examiner interview of Salvatore Catalomi.

C-24 Carbon copy of affidavit of William Bryant, unsigned, dated August 7, 1940.

C-25 Carbon copy of affidavit of George Buckstitis, unsigned, dated August 7, 1940.

D-3 Affidavit of William Schewe, executed Aug. 8, 1940 (Joint with Santani and Badock). Ex. 14A.

D-4 Affidavits (Exhibits 16 to 16G inclusive)- Salvatore Catalomi, executed Aug. 6, 1940; Statement of Salvatore Catalomi (16A) (16B); Peter Kloga; executed Aug. 7, 1940; Joe Gedman, executed Aug. 7, 1940; Peter Kolbokus, executed Aug. 6, 1940; Anthony Guiffetelli, executed Sept. 25, 1940; William Schewe, executed Aug. 6, 194 ; Exhibit 17, affidavit of William Koleski, executed Aug. 8, 1940; Exhibit 18, statement of Vincent Matejka; Exhibit 19, affidavit of Lester Wilkerson, executed Aug. 9, 1940; Exhibit 20, affidavit of Nicolas Heck, executed Aug. 26, 1940.

(3) Elshoff Permitted U.M.W. to Organize on Company Property.

(4) Elshoff Refused to Write Up Settlements of Grievances with Progressives in Accordance with Contract and Past Custom.

The following NLRB photostats are pertinent on this inquiry:

B-8 Exhibit 7, statement of John Groh.

B-16 Two carbon copies of affidavits by John Groh, both executed August 10, 1940. Exhibit 9.

(5) Elshoff Discriminated Against Progressives and Favored U.M.W. in Working Conditions, Seniority, etc.

The Progressives' charges in this respect were not very definite. Any evidence, however, related to this unfair labor practice can be catalogued under this heading:

C-16 Original typed "Memo", initialled "JCC"- examination of Peter Kolbokus.

(6) After the Mine Reopened, Elshoff Followed a Policy of Hiring U.M.W. Employees and Rejecting Progressives.

This is one of the key unfair labor practices toward which investigation should be directed. The following NLRB photostats are pertinent:

B-2 Carbon copy Clark, F.X. to Patterson, R.D., dated Jan. 8, 1941.

B-2A Carbon copy of memo. from G. L. Patterson, Director, 13th Region, 13 pgs., to Howard LeBaron, Acting Secretary, dated Jan. 7, 1941. - 11 pages.

B-6 Carbon copy of memo from Beatrice M. Stern to G. L. Patterson, Director, 13th Region, dated December 21, 1940 - 3 pages.

B-11 Exhibit 10, Affidavit of Joseph Laverso, executed Sept. 30, 1940.

B-12 Exhibit 13A, affidavit of Ralph Kress, executed Aug. 8, 1940; Exhibit 13B, affidavit of Dallas Bauswell, executed September 11, 1940; Exhibit 13C, affidavit of Melchoir Hamel, executed Aug. 5, 1940. Exhibit 13D, statement of Theodore Quintard. Exhibit 13E, affidavit of Clarence Westfall, executed Sept. 11, 1940. Exhibit 13F, affidavit of Leonard Riker, executed Aug. 6, 1940. Exhibit 13G, affidavit Paul Laurent, executed August 5, 1490. Exhibit 13H, affidavit of Vincent Guiffni, executed August 6, 1940. Exhibit 13I, affidavit of Jules Dupriez, executed Aug. 5, 1940. Exhibit 13J, affidavit of William Cole Stewart, executed-undated.

C-1 Original affidavit of John Groh, executed Sept. 12, 1940 (typed).

C-2 Original typewritten affidavit of Matthew Console, executed August 28, 1940.

C-3 Handwritten affidavit of Ed Reeves, signed but undated.

C-4 Original typewritten affidavit of James Schneider, executed August 28, 1940.

C-6 Original typewritten list of "Men who claim they have been progressives".

D-5 Exhibit 24 - affidavit of Vincent Matejka, executed Sept. 12, 1940. Exhibit 25 - affidavit of Frank L. Seiders, executed Aug. 8, 1940. Exhibit 26 - affidavit of Vincent Matejka, executed - blank.

D-6 Exhibit 27 - affidavit of Bill Badock, executed Sept. 12, 1940.

D-7 Exhibit 28 - affidavit of Fred Grobelnik, executed Aug. 6, 1940. Exhibit 29 - affidavit of William Schewe, executed Aug. 6, 1940.

D-12 Copy of letter from Lee Ensel to Dave Reed, Pres. PMA and John Malaker, Pres. Local U. No. 54, PMA, dated Nov. 8, 1939.

D-13 Copy of letter from John R. Kane, atty. PMW to Patterson, Reg. Dir., 13th Reg. Chicago, Ill., NLRB, dated Nov. 9, 1939.

B-5 Affidavits of John Groh, John Schneider (2), all dated January 7, 1941, together with MEMORANDUM signed by John R. Kane.

C-7 Carbon copy of affidavit of Harvey Williams, executed August 7, 1940.

C-13 Carbon copy of affidavit of Marcio Santani, executed August 8, 1940.

C-26 Original affidavit of Dallas Boswell, signed and executed September 11, 1940.

(7) Elshoff Administration of the "Dirty Coal" Fund.

The Progressives charged Elshoff with an unfair labor practice in connection with the administration of the "dirty coal" fund. It is not believed that there was much substance to this allegation. The following NLRB photostats relate to this allegation:

B-3 Original Exhibits III and IV - affidavits of Carl Elshoff, Dirty Coal Fines and Road Coal Funds, and affidavit of Lee Ensel, Dirty Coal Fines and Road Coal Funds.

(8) Circumstances Leading up to Election of February 21, 1941.

The following NLRB photostats are pertinent:

A-1 Memo dated Feb. 13, 1941, from Carl H. Elshoff, Pres. Mine B Coal Co. to Ray Edmundson, Pres. United Mine Workers of America, Springfield, Ill., at anc. (Carbon copy)

A-3 3 original typewritten reports of Examiner, dated February 12, 1941, from M. S. Ryder to File.

A-4 Carbon copy of agreement resulting from joint conference between representatives of Local Union Number 54 of the Progressive Miners of

America and representatives of Local #7469, United Mine Workers of America, the Sheriff, and representatives of The Mine "B" Coal Co.

Inquiry should be directed to ascertain:

(a) Did Elshoff express any opinions as to whether he wanted U.M.W. to win the election?

(b) When he learned of the result of the election, did he immediately begin to make plans to reopen the mine?

(c) Did he connive in any way to favor the U.M.W. campaign?

(9) Elshoff, on March 14, 1941, Signed a Closed-Shop Agreement with U.M.W.

The U.M.W. was certified by the Board on March 6, 1941. Eight days later, Elshoff signed a closed-shop agreement with U.M.W. He thus accomplished in eight days what he had failed to accomplish with the Progressives in four years. Inquiry should be directed to ascertain:

(a) When did Elshoff first indicate a willingness to sign a closed-shop contract with U.M.W? (I distinguish here between negotiating a contract, which he was obligated to do because of the certification, and signing a closed-shop agreement, which he had refused to do with the Progressives after they were certified on January 4, 1938.

(b) The NLRB files indicate that before Elshoff did sign the contract, he notified the Regional Director of the Board that he would not sign until the Supreme Court's decision had been modified.

Apparently he raised an absurd legal condition in this respect. It is believed that this was simply a gesture on his part to give his action an appearance of impartiality. Inquiry should be directed to ascertain whether he raised this contention in good faith or not.

The following unsorted NLRB photostats accompany this memorandum:

B-13 Exhibit 1 - Agreement between District No. 1, P.M.A. and Mine B Coal Co. of Springfield, Ill., dated April 2, 1937.

D-25 WU telegram, dated Sep. 13, 1938 to J. Warren Madden, Chairman, NLRB, Washington, from Joe Ozanic, Pres. International Union Progressive Mine Workers of America.

D-32 Orig. letter from W. Green, Pres. A.F.L. to J. Warren Madden, Chairman, NLRB, Wash., D.C., dated Sept. 27, 1937.

A-2 Original "Settlement Agreement" Case No. 13-C-1455.

D-15 Resolution of Local U. #64 Progressive Mine Workers of America.

D-33 Original memo from Leonard C. Bajork to Benedict Worl, Mine B Coal XIII-P-125 and XIII-C-473, dated Oct. 8, 1937, 2 pages.

A-3 3 original typewritten reports of Examiner, dated February 12, 1941, from M. S. Ryder to File.

A-6 Carbon copy of notice to All employees of Mine B Coal Co., Springfield, Ill., dated Feb. 5, 1941.

B-4 Exhibit V - Letter dated January 6, 1941, to Hon. John Stelle, Governor, State of Illinois.

B-7 Affidavit of William Crompton, Board Member, District No. 4, P.M.W. of A., executed October 1, 1940.

D-34 WU telegram from Joe O. Ozanic, Pres., Progressive Miners of Amer., to Everett M. Dirksen, Pekin, Ill., dated Sept. 20, 1937.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

Enclosure
No. 408059

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:FC:MLB

144-10

PARTMENT OF

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 26, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 3

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

I attach hereto photostatic copies of three documents from the files of the National Labor Relations Board, identified on the back as H-1 to 3, inclusive. These are the documents referred to in my memorandum to you of this date, numbered 2.

These documents suggest that even after the closed-shop contract was signed by Elshoff with U.M.W. in March, 1941, his cooperation with Edmundson continued to the extent of firing an employee, Francis Cerry, because he had at one time been a Progressive. The incident is significant in that (a) it would represent a continuation of U.M.W.'s efforts to persecute the Progressive movement, an effort in which Elshoff apparently is cooperating, and (b) it manifests a recognition on the part of both Edmundson and Elshoff that a union which has a closed-shop contract is justified in requiring the employer to dismiss an employee who has been expelled from the union.

It is requested that you investigate this incident thoroughly with a view to determining whether Cerry's dismissal was ever rescinded, what reasons, if any, there were for his expulsion from the union, whether he attempted to appeal the matter to the International Executive Board of U.M.W., and whether this was an isolated instance or whether Edmundson, with Elshoff's cooperation, discriminated against other former Progressive members.

RECORDED & INDEXED

41 345-8

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

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Enc. #240984

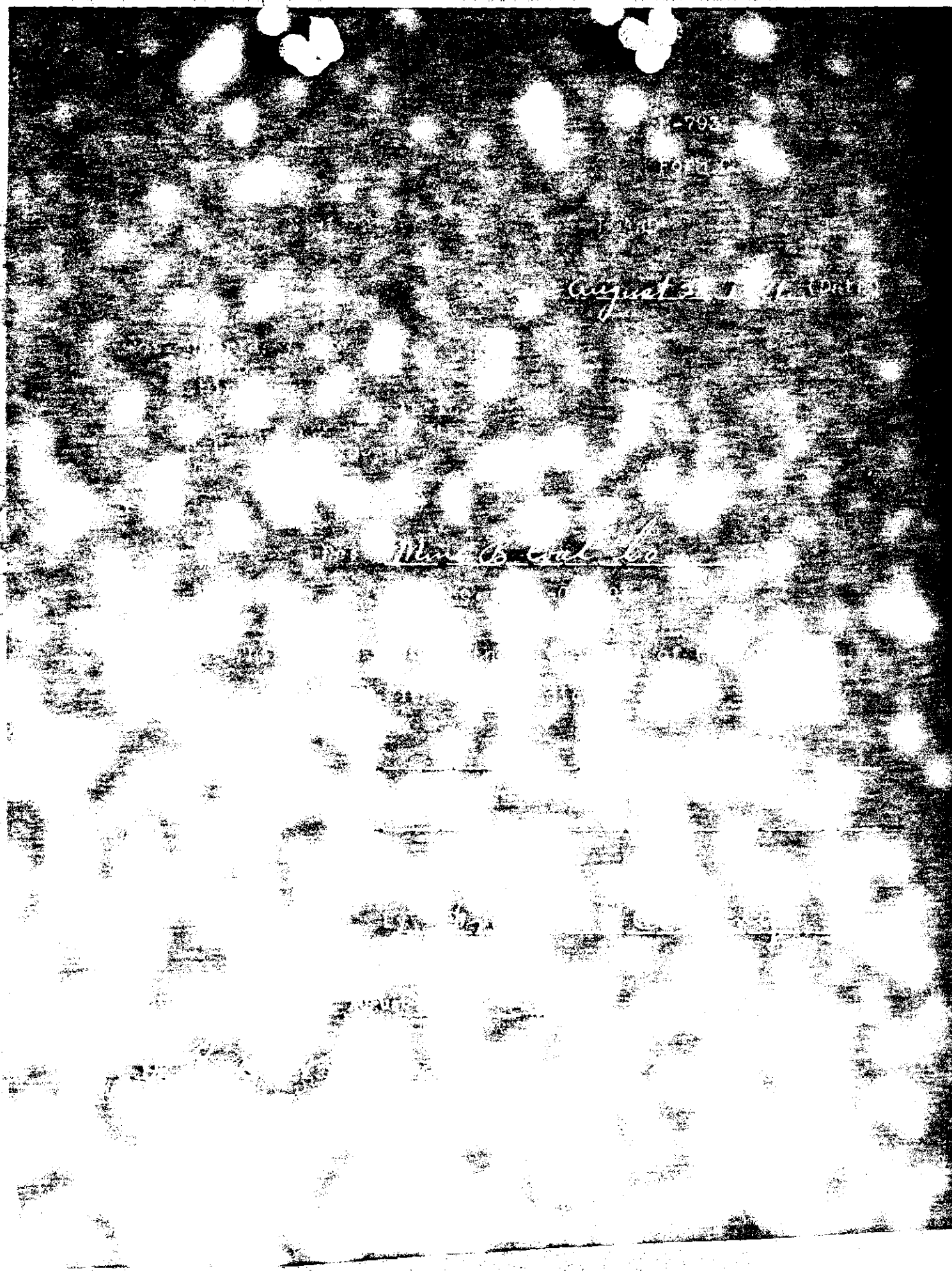
THE MINE B. COAL COMPANY
Springfield, Ill.
13-C-160[illegible] - INFORMAL FILE

1. Orig. typewritten memo of Martin Wagner, F.X. to "Memo to File" dated Aug. 28, 1941, with request of withdrawal of charge without prejudice, granted by I.S. Do[illegible]en, Acting Reg. Dir. on Aug. 28, 1943.

2. Typewritten letter from Edmun[illegible] Pres. U.M.Ne of [illegible] to [illegible] Falcetti [illegible] Mine [illegible] Co., Springfi[illegible] Ill., July 12, 19[illegible].

3. Orig. letter from Fr[illegible]is Curry to [illegible] Dir., NLRB, Chic., enclosing charge, dated July 28, 19[illegible].

44-84[illegible]-88



[illegible]

[illegible]TER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

NATIO[illegible] LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

THIRTEENTH REGION

TO Memo to file DATE August 2[illegible], 1961

FROM [illegible] Magner, Field Examiner

SUBJECT Mine B Coal Compa[illegible]
Case No. [illegible]

The investigation of this matter b[illegible] examiner disc[illegible] that the Mine B Coal Company, [illegible] time in [illegible] with the United Mine Workers whereby [illegible] agro[illegible] tions prevailing in [illegible] contract then in existen[illegible] Co[illegible] Operat[illegible] Ass[illegible] Distri[illegible] United Mine Workers [illegible] America. This agreement [illegible] for [illegible]

[illegible] admitting [illegible] this year, where [illegible] would remain in effect until [illegible] such time as a new agreement should be reached in the [illegible] negotia-tions between the [illegible]

[illegible] clear [illegible] contract [illegible] Mine [illegible] Since the [illegible] does not [illegible] does not [illegible] provision [illegible] Edmunds [illegible]

District No. 12

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA
Affiliated With C.I.O.

United Mine Workers
Building

Springfield, Ill.

July [illegible] 194[illegible]

[illegible] Oscar [illegible]tti, Superintendent
Mine B. Coal Company
Springfield, Illinois

Dear [illegible]

[illegible] to offi[illegible] that [illegible] George

[illegible]

[illegible] the Un[illegible] of Ameri[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the State [illegible] 1939,

[illegible] 12,

[illegible]

to emp[illegible]

Springfield, Illinois
July 28, 1941

Regional Director
National Labor Relations Board
Midland Building
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith charge of unfair labor practice [illegible] the [illegible] Coal Company of Springfield, Illinois, [illegible] in [illegible] within charge [illegible] formerly [illegible] a [illegible] of Local [illegible] 54, [illegible] the workers of American [illegible] conducted by the National [illegible] the signing of a contract [illegible] the [illegible] B [illegible] Company [illegible] as a [illegible]

[illegible] the Company [illegible] workers.

[illegible]

Regional Director
Chicago, Illinois

July 2[illegible],

belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

If under the above stated facts some other charge should be filed, please advise me. I sincerely hope that the Board will investigate this case and see if something can't be done so that I can go back to work and earn a livelihood without being placed on the charity of the government.

Very truly yours,

Francis [illegible]

WASHINGTON, D. C.

[illegible]:FC:MLB

144-10

August 26, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 2

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

I am transmitting herewith a group of photostats of documents obtained from the files of the National Labor Relations Board, which have been identified on the back as follows:

E-1 to 7, inclusive
F-1 to 8, inclusive
G-1 to 4, inclusive
I-1 to 6, inclusive
J-1 to 2, inclusive
K-1 to 3, inclusive
L-1 to 4, inclusive
M-1
N-1 to 3, inclusive

Documents identified H-1 to 3, inclusive are the subject of my memorandum to you of this date numbered 3.

There are also attached hereto two copies of an analysis of some of the more pertinent documents.

RECORDED & INDEXED 44-45-89

Obviously it is incumbent upon us to make a more thorough analysis of these documents which contain a considerable amount of very significant material which will be of aid to your investigation. This task is now being undertaken, and in a few days, I will send you a memorandum embodying our analysis of the significance of these documents and the additional investigative leads

which they suggest. I am sending you the documents today, however, in order that there may be no unnecessary delay in getting them into the hands of your agents. Many of the documents should be of considerable assistance when you come to interview the officials of the Progressive Union such as John Kane, General Counsel, and Joe Ozanic, President.

It is my belief that all of these officials who participated in the events of 1937-41 should sooner or later be fully interviewed. You will determine when it is most appropriate to make these contacts. When Mr. Coleman was in Springfield, he discussed with Mr. Hallford the possibility that pending negotiations between the American Federation of Labor and U.M.W. made it precarious to discuss the case in confidence with these Progressive officials. Obviously, however, these officials should have a wealth of knowledge concerning the pertinent events, and their cooperation can be a great aid to your Bureau.

Respectfully,

Wendell Berge

WENDELL BERGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

Enclosure
No. 240982

WB:[illegible]'Dhrs

144-10

Analysis of pertinent documents obtained from the files of the National Labor Relations Board. (Groups E-H)

(1) N. L. R. B. - E-3
1/26/39 - Fincher - V. P. Progressives to O. S. Smith - field examiner N.L.R.B. ---

Elshoff has always taken the position this business does not warrant reopening the mine.

Fancher says he has been informed that Elshoff is connected with the Brewerton Mine at Springfield but has never been able to confirm this.

(2) N.L.R.B. E-4 John R.
10-23-38 - Kane to Bajork LEONARD C.

On September 11, 1938, he met with Elshoff and his attorney who took the attitude that a closed shop with Progressives could not be signed because of order of National Labor Relations Board required that employment be offered to all employers on the payroll as of May 12, 1937, and this would exclude the Progressives that were expelled. Kane says this is a rediculous construction because the N. L. R. B. designed the Progressives as the exclusive bargaining agent and ordered Mine B to negotiate with them.

(3) N.L.R.B. - E-5 DAN
8/28/37 - McGill to Ozanic JOE

Every day it becomes more evident that Mine "B" is fostering the U.M.W. The Top Boss - Walter Sitton, has been going to the homes of members of the Progressives who work on top at Mine "B". On August 20, 1937, he went to the home of Fred Grobelnick, a member of local #54 and told him "if you come back to work you will get your 'back pay' and a United Miners of America card free." He told him that the men who would attend a U.M.W. meeting on August 20, 1937, at 4th and Monroe Street will represent the men who will work at Mine B when it opened up. He also visited Louis Steinmacher and Joe Keller, employed on top of the mine and talked to them about attending the meeting. According to Grobelnick, Sitton, who was a

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foreman at Mine B, told him that each of the bosses were seeing the men of local 54 who worked under them on May 12, 1937.

(4) N.L.R.B. P-7
8/25/37. Signed statement by 7 progressives.
Charles Roth, a foreman at Mine B, asked them to attend a meeting of the United Mine Workers on August 20 and told them they could now join United free and that Mine "B" was signed up with United and if they failed to show up for work as members of United within a couple of days after the mine reopened they would have no job at mine B. Roth said he was told to say this by Oscar Falcetti.

(5) N.L.R.B. P-1
12/15/39 Kane to the N.L.R.B.
Believes there is a conspiracy between United and Mine B. At a conference between Kane and Elshoff, Elshoff said he would not grant the Progressives a check off system, that he didn't like the Progressives, its organization or attorneys and would agree to nothing that would aid that organization. Later at a meeting of the Committee of Progressive Miners, he said he would grant a check off system if it was all right with Ray Edmundson.

(6) N.L.R.B. P-2
6/29/38 - Elshoff from Dorfman - Regional director. I.S.
Edmundson had assured Dorfman he would make no attempt to enforce the contract signed between him and Elshoff a year ago, but cannot enter into a written invalidation since the A. F. of L. "has never been willing to do this in cases where the tables have been turned - - "

(7) N.L.R.B. P-3 Carle
8/28/38 Elshoff to O. E. Smith
Has no intention of ignoring the decision of the board and will do everything in his power to cooperate to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

(8) N.L.R.B. P-4
1/12/38- Affidavit by Harvey Williams
Upon instructions from Falcetti he reported at 7:30 A.M. January 12, 1938 at Mine B to work as an engineer. He was met in the wash room by Bohannon, Joe Albanese and Dominic Pasquale and Bohannon asked if he was ready to join United and on being told no Bohanon wrote his name on a card which stated in effect that he should not be employed by Mine "B". In addition Frank Austin and Emile Pasquale were stationed in the office of the company (they are U.M.W.) and affiant says they were stationed there for the purpose of preventing persons not members of United from working.

(9) N.L.R.B. F-4
1/17/38 Affidavit by Fred Fish.

Upon instructions from Oscar Falcetti he reported on January 12, 1938 at Mine B to work as a null feeder. He saw Courley who told him he had nothing to do with hiring and that Oscar Falcetti was out of the city. Later he saw Jack Falcetti, he said there was work at the bottom of the mine. When he was preparing to do this work Bohannon contacted him and asked if he was ready to join United and on being told no Bohannon wrote his name on a card which stated that having refused to join United he could not work at that mine and that United would not be responsible for anything that happened to him unless he joined and as a result, he is scared to work in the mine being fearful that something will happen to him.

(10) N.L.R.B. F-6
9/14/37 Cranic to Bjork

Mine B and United are using every conceivable tactic to force the progressives to join United.

At a meeting of the Progressives on September 10, 1937, there were 400 employees of mine B.

On September 10, 1937 the Progressives prepared a second petition and at the end of the day the Progressives of their own free will walked into the miners' hall at 6th and Washington Sts., and signed. The number no doubt exceeded 400.

(11) N.L.R.B. G-1
6/[illegible]/39 - To O. E. Smith from Elshoff

No agreement has been reached with the progressives for two reasons. (1) Due to the unsettled condition of the industry there is no reason to reopen the mine. (2) The stipulation provides that upon request of local 54 Mine B would negotiate and there has been no request from anyone connected with the Progressives since August 22, 1938 when Fancher and McGill met with Elshoff and Falcetti. It is the company's intention to follow the order based on the stipulation.

(12) N.L.R.B. G-4
9/11/37 - Memo from Bejork to Benedict Wolf

P. 4. The Progressives submitted to the N.L.R.B. copies of the statements of their financial secretary showing that even after the expiration of the agreement in 1937 dues had been checked off by the employer during April, May, June and July of 1937.

P. 4. In a conversation with Elshoff Bejork was told that Elshoff was applying for membership in the Illinois Coal Operators Association which is recognized as the employer agency with which for years U.M.W. have negotiated their contracts.

P. 4. There is evidence to show that in the last few days Elshoff has been cooperating with United in their membership drive.

P. 5. On Sept. 8, 1937 Bejork had a conference with Edmundson and Ozanic and among other things proposed that an election be held to determine representation but Edmundson rejected this proposal without giving a specific reason but Bejork believes it was because his organization was not sure of its voting strength.

(13) N.L.R.B. H-1
8/28/41 Memo to file by Martin Garner
A man named Curry was dismissed in 1941 by Mine "B" because under the closed shop agreement he was not a member of United.

(14) N.L.R.B. H-2.
7/12/41 - Edmundson to Falcetti
Advises Falcetti that Dan Curry, George Francato, and Riley Kellion are no longer members of United and no longer entitled to employment at Mine B.

(15) N.L.R.B. H-3
7/28/41 - Dan Curry to Regional Director
Was formerly a Progressive and joined United after a closed shop agreement was signed. Has paid dues. Claims Company discharged him and was told to do so by United. Feels sole reason for his dismissal was his former membership in Progressives.

(16) N.L.R.B. I-1
1/4/41 Affidavit by John Kane
States Company objected to entry of decree on ground that it would have to hire the Progressives who were sentenced to jail. He states that an analysis of the dates of conviction would demonstrate that when Mine "B" signed the stipulation August 10, 1938, it knew that these employees had been convicted and that the signing of the stipulation clearly required it to offer them reemployment.

(17) N.L.R.B. I-1
1/3/41 Affidavit by Antone Victor Gent.
He was paroled September 19, 1940 and applied in writing to Falcetti for employment October 8, 1940. He is informed and believes that the records of Mine "B" will show that several men were hired there since he made application.

(18) N.L.R.B. I-1
1/4/41 - Affidavit by William Crowston
Was paroled September 20, 1940 and applied for work to Falcetti October 1, 1940 and since the date of his application has been unable to secure employment at that mine.

(19) N.L.R.B. I-1
1/3/41 - Affidavit by John Schneider

Was paroled September 17, 1940 and on September 20, applied in writing to Falcetti for employment and has made oral requests but has not been hired. He is informed and has reason to believe that records of Mine B will show that several men were employed since he made application.

He knows Jasper Cascioppi and Jack Falcia, both of whom are employed at Mine B and both of whom served time with him in the same federal institution.

(20) N.L.R.B. I-1
1/3/41 - Affidavit of Joseph Lovarra

Applied orally September 18, 1940 and by letter around October 15, 1940 for work at Mine "B" but has been unable to secure a job.

(21) N.L.R.B. I-2
10/29/40 Kane to N.L.R.B.

Ciascoppia was employed by Mine B a short time ago. He served time with Schneider. He was employed as an apprentice but is married and at least 35 and could not be considered as an apprentice under the rules of any labor organization in the state since only men under 21 can be considered apprentices.

(22) N.L.R.B. I-3
10/22/40 Kane to N.L.R.B.

William Lansky was found guilty in the Criminal Court for assaulting Pete Klega. Bohannon and William Surtock were put under peace bonds on complaint of two women - - wives of Progressives.

(23) N.L.R.B. I-4
10/19/40 Affidavit of Radeck, Santini and Schaum.

On October 14, 1940 in discharge of their duties as members of the grievance committee they were in the office of Oscar Falcetti and Bohannon came in intoxicated and cursed them violently and threatened to molest them. As members of the grevience committee they insisted that Falcetti discharge Bohannon because of these actions and because Vincent Matejka, a progressive, had been discharged for cursing on company property but Falcetti refused to discharge him.

(24) N.L.R.B. I-4
10/9/40 Affidavit of Perry Longino (P.R.N.)

During past months he has applied to Mine B 33 times for work. He applied on October 7, and October 9. Falcetti told him he could make application as many times as he wanted and it would do him no good.

4 men were employed October 7, and went to work Oct. 8.

Joe Perko and Hughey Monroe, members of United were employed Oct. 7. Tony Demice and Tony Takitis, both apprentices, were employed Oct. 7. On Oct. 9 Robert Todd, member of United went to work. Believes Falcetti wn't hire him because he is a Progressive.

(25) N.L.R.B. I-6

9/23/40 Kane to National Director

Joe Laverne applied to Falcetti on Sept. 18 or 19 and was refused a job.

Eddie Meckelbeck, an ex-convict was reemployed by the company.

(26) N.L.R.B. J-1

10/5/40 Affidavit of Leo Nagel

From August 10, 1939 to Nov. 2, 1939, the date when notices were mailed to various employees to report for work is 10 days, he made various requests to the Progressives and United to mail to Mine "B" the correct addresses of all employees as of May 12, 1937, and supplied each with a copy of the permanent payroll as it existed May 12, 1937. United responded by letter but the Progressives either refused or neglected to answer this request although as late as late as Oct. 28, 1939 they orally promised to supply the company with the correct addresses of members of their organization but this was never done.

(27) N.L.R.B. J-1

10/3/39 Nagel to Dave Reed (Dist. Pres. of Progressives)

Enclosed the permanent payroll as of May 12, 1937 and requested the correct addresses of members of local 54 who appeared thereon.

(28) N.L.R.B. J-1

10/17/39 Nagel to Edmundson

Attached permanent payroll as of May 12, 1937 and requested the correct addresses of members of United whose names appeared thereon.

(29) N.L.R.B. J-1

10/18/39 Edmundson to Nagel

Acknowledged receipt of letter of Oct. 17 and advised that the addresses were substantially the same as they were on May 12, 1937.

(30) N.L.R.B. J-1

10/18/39 Nagel to Dave Reed

Advising that mine B would be reopened and inviting him and bargaining agents of local 54 to meet to discuss this and other matters now or previously proposed, relative to work, employment, etc.

He advised that no reply had been received to his request for the correct address of Progressives.

(31) N.L.R.B. J-2
10/5/40 - Affidavit of Elshoff re Joe Laverne
Was advised that because of Laverne's conviction, he was automatically deprived of the right to employment at Mine B. Through counsel he requested the whereabouts of employees who were members of local 54 on May 12, 1937 but that the Progressives Organization failed to advise him.

(32) N.L.R.B. J-2
10/5/40 Affidavit of Elshoff re Harvey Williams
On the evening of Sept. 17, 1940 he was looking for John Falcetti and found him in the engine room with Harvey Williams. He had been informed on numbrous instances of the negligence and incompetence of Harvey Williams and determined to reprimand him and thereupon listed to Williams his shortcomings whereupon Williams asked if his services had been satisfactory and on being told no offered to resign and voluntarily wrote his resignation.

(33) N.L.R.B. J-2
10/5/40 Affidavit of John Falcetti re Harvey Williams.
Substantiates affidavit by Elshoff. Says when Williams offered to resign he (Falcetti) asked if he would putit in writing and Williams said yes and he gave him a piece of paper. Says Elshoff was not intoricated and he did not detect the odor of liquor about him.

(34) N.L.R.B. J-2
10/5/40 Affidavit of Oscar Falcetti re Williams
On night of Sept. 17, 1940 he saw Williams who said his work had not been satisfactory so he quit. Three days later Williams returned with John Groh and asked if Falcetti would reinstate him. He was told no, because he had quit of his own accord. Then Williams said Elshoff had fired him. Groh said the resignation was invalid because the word "resignation" was misspelled.

(35) N.L.R.B. J-2
10/5/40 Affidavit by Frank Austin re Williams
On evening of Sept. 17, 1940 he drove Elshoff home, sat in front seat with him, talked with him, detected no indication Elshoff had been drinking, and did not smell liquor about his person.

(36) N.L.R.B. J-2
10/5/40 Affidavit of Oscar Falcetti re Vincent. VINCENT
After the mine reopened in November, 1939 the Progressive check weighmen refused to mark down the weights for all the miners employed at the mine. He consulted counsel and as a result, permitted the miners not having the services of a check weighman to employ one at their own expense. A check weighman named Kirby was then employed.

In the middle of June, 1940 Kirby reported Matejka had threatened him, cursed him, and called him a scab. Falcetti talked to Matejka who said he was sorry and Falcetti said if it happened again he would discharge him. Two weeks [illegible]er Kirby reported Matejka had cursed him, and threatened him a[illegible]. He talked to Matejka who admitted the charge and then he discharged him.

The Progressive Grievance Committee took up the case and demanded Matejka be reinstated but Falcetti refused. Then Groh a board member and he discussed the case, failed to agree so the next step was to write up the case to be presented to a commission for final decision. In writing up the case Groh demanded that Falcetti admit in general evidence that he fired Matejka for Union activities which Falcetti refused to do. Groh said he could put anything in the evidence that he cared to and that such evidence regarding union activities was to be written up or he would not write up the case. As this was not true Falcetti refused to sign the evidence.

(37) N.L.R.B. J-2
10/5/40 Affidavit of Oscar Falcetti re Jack and Frank Lindsay.
Jack Lindsay was discharged for striking Bill Schowe and Wallaker. He did not present the matter of his discharge as a case to be heard before Falcetti.

Frank Lindsay was hired on trial and if his work was unsatisfactory he was to be discharged. On March 21, 1940 Falcetti told him his work was not satisfactory, paid him off and discharged him.

(38) N.L.R.B. J-2
10/5/40 Affidavit of Oscar Falcetti re William Lansky
He fired Lansky because on August 3, 1940 the Progressive Grievance Committee reported Lansky was intimidating men, trying to make them join United Mine Workers.

(39) N.L.R.B. J-2
10/5/40 Affidavit of Oscar Falcetti re Lew Wilkinson
Lew Wilkinson was fired because he claimed an injury to his head, and he neverreported for treatment to the Dr. that Falcetti sent him to, and at same time he claimed and collected compensation for injury. Actually he had taken time off to dig basements. Falcetti has never refused to write up the case.

(40) N.L.R.B. J-2
10/5/40 Affidavit of Oscar Falcetti re William Moleski
On Feb. 16, 1940 Emery Jacaway notified Falcetti Moleski had gone to work at the Old West mine of the Panther Creek Mining Co. He worked 5 days there and then the mine closed. He asked f

reinstatement and was refused and then the Grievance Committee demanded Falcetti reinstate him. Groh, a District Board member asked him to take up the Woleski case on the ground that he had discharged him. Falcetti refused. Since Woleski was not an employee of the mine he did not feel it necessary to formally consider the matter on the basis of an employee discharge case.

(41) N.L.R.B. K-2
1/8/41 Memorandum to Beatrice Stern from Patterson

The President of Mine B stated that if the Board concluded that the court decree had been violated he would undertake to correct the situation without formal action.

Falcetti states he had a conversation with Crompton but Crompton did not ask him for a job.

Kishoff stated he is having difficulty operating the mine because of antagonisms existing between the two unions and fears the employment of the four ex-convicts would aggravate the situation and perhaps render it impossible to operate the mine.

(42) N.L.R.B. K-2
1/8/41 Memorandum to Patterson from Clark - field examiner

On January 3, 1941 he called on Edmundson who showed him a letter he had written to Kishoff stating that he proposed to close his charter at Mine B on January 16, 1941 and demanding recognition on or before that date. He further stated he proposed to close Mine B on January 17, 1941 if Kishoff did not meet his demands by that time. Edmundson read him Kishoff's reply stating that by court order he was bound to deal with the Progressives, and stating he would hold Edmundson responsible for property damage and loss of profits occasioned by the closing of the mine.. Edmundson read part of his reply to this letter stating he would accept no responsibility for any damage or loss of profits.

Edmundson stated he felt that at this time there was no room for two unions in the State of Illinois.

Falcetti stated he had never recognized the United Committee at the mine.

Bevan Ray stated he was not a member of United at the time he secured his job at mine B but there existed documentary evidence that he was.

(43) N.L.R.B. K-2
11/6/40 Padway - Gen. Counsel A.F. of L. by Thatcher to Halliday

The Progressives have been outrageously discriminated against by Mine B since the court order entered against it. The charges filed by the Progressives were intended only as a secondary remedy and Padway wants contempt proceeding instituted.

(44) N.L.R.B. L-1
10/7/40 Thatcher to N.L.R.B.

The Company has continued to disobey the court order and the National Labor Relations Act in an outrageous manner. Each day results in ever increasing disintegration in the ranks of the "mine workers union."

(45) N.L.R.B. L-2
Undated - Kane to N.L.R.B.

The Company's attitude clearly demonstrates that it is determined to force its employees to join a union of its own choosing.

The company refused to negotiate with Local 54 until August 8, 1939, although the order was entered by the N.L.R.B. on or about August 15, 1938, during which time the company did not attempt to operate the mine.

In October, 1939, when negotiations were in progress and while the Progressives were waiting for action on a proposed contract submitted by it the company arbitrarily notified its employees to return to work without having reached an agreement.

After the mine reopened the company recognized United as representatives of the employees.

The company refused to grant the Progressives the check off or closed shop features of the contract it granted United although other mines in the state operated under such a contract.

On February 15, 1939, the company stated it would sign no contract with the Progressives but after an investigation by the regional director of the N.L.R.B. stated it would negotiate.

After charges were made to the N.L.R.B. the company agreed to certain phases of the contract but demonstrated bad faith by refusing to follow agreed procedure in the handling of disputes.

During the negotiations Kishoff stated to a representative of the Progressives that he did not like that organization and would not agree to anything to help it and intended to do everything he could to help destroy it.

The company ignored all requests of Local 54 to meet to negotiate and failed to attend meetings arranged and finally on July 20, 1940, refused to meet representatives at Local 54 without giving any reason for it. The company has failed to offer each employee on the permanent pay-roll on May 12, 1937, immediate and full reinstatement to the position they then held. The company has violated the court order that new employees should not be hired to do the same work as former employees until the latter have been offered these position.

The company has violated the court order ordering it to cease coercing employees in their right to join organizations of their own choice and from encouraging membership in United and otherwise discriminating in regard to employment on any term or condition. The company has encouraged membership in United by recognizing officials of United as representatives and by refusing to employ Progressives.

The company has encouraged membership in United by permitting members of United to organize on mine property and refusing the Progressives the same privilege.

The company has encouraged membership in United by criticizing Progressive workers and officials and denouncing its members.

The company has encouraged membership in United by refusing to sign a contract giving members of the Progressives the same privileges and conditions of employment accorded to all employees of other mines throughout Illinois.

The company has encouraged membership in United by permitting United organizers to intimidate Progressives on mine property.

The company has discouraged membership in the Progressives by refusing to grant the same conditions of employment enjoyed by employees of other mines in Illinois.

The company has discouraged membership in Progressives by intimidating and discouraging its members and by only employing members of United.

The company has not paid shot firers the same wages paid them on May 12, 1937.

The company has refused to grant a check off system to employees although this system has been established by contract and custom in this and every other Union operated coal mine in Illinois.

The company contrary to past custom failed to turn over dirty coal fines to Progressive officials.

The company has refused to follow past custom by dividing proceeds from coal loaded by company on haulage roads known as Road coal.

The company has failed to follow past custom by refusing to write up and submit to a committee or commission grievances of employees which cannot be settled at the mine.

(46) <u>I.L.R.B. N-1</u>

<u>1/20/41 Motion of Local #54 to vacate order directing a hearing Signed by John Kane</u>

Much intimidation and abuse by members of United was done in the presence of the mine superintendant and other mine "B" officials.

Members of United in the presence of the mine superintendant and "county" officials served an ultimatum on members of the Grievance Committee of local #54 that no member of local #54 would be permitted to enter the mine premises on or after the morning of January 17, 1941.

The President of local #7469 in a letter informed members of local #64 that the United Charter would close January 16, 1941, and that those not joining United by that time would lose their employment at mine "B". Following this threat Edmundson issued the press statement "We are going to take that mine."

Elsheff has allowed persons who are not employees to come upon the premises daily and intimidate and terrorize members of local #64.

Elsheff and United have brought about a situation making it impossible for the N.L.R.B. to ascertain, even by secret ballot, the wishes and desires of employees of mine "B" in regard to the designation of a representative for the purpose of collective bargaining.

(47) N.L.R.B. H-3

10/4/40 Memorandum from Clark to Patterson

Discusses the request by the Progressives for a contempt proceeding, reviews the facts and available evidence.

Hamilton O'Donne

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN L. LEWIS

PART 3 OF 13

FILE NUMBER: 44-845

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT John L. Lewis

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 3

SERIALS 90 p. 1

thru

90 p. 259

Case Originated At SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS File No. 44-18

Report Made At	Date Made	Period	Report Made By
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS	9-[illegible]-43	8-18,19,[illegible], 23 thru 9-2-4[illegible] inclusive	[redacted]

006261

Title

JOHN L. LEWIS; RAY EDMUNDSON; WALTER J. JAMES; CARL H. ELSHOFF; OSCAR FALCETTI

CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

93709

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Signed statements of approximately 150 men who were members of Local 54, Progressive Mine Workers of America, during pertinent period set forth. WILLIAM M. RYAN interviewed concerning Mine "A" transaction. ROBERT C. SOLOMON interviewed concerning attempts by ELSHOFF to purchase the Panther Creek Mines. Interviews with P.M.W. of A. officials and other miscellaneous persons set forth.

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2028

REFERENCE: Bureau File No. 44-845.

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ILS: This is t report in this case, .vestigation being prec upon a considerable volum. of correspondence from the Bu eau, which it is not deemed essential to reference in detail.

This report is being submitted in order to make available for immediate perusal the statements of persons interviewed during the course of this investigation. However, for the sake of coherence, certain investigative steps which have resulted in the obtaining of incomplete information will not be reported until the information can be set forth in complete form. No attempt is being made in this report to summarize the results of the investigation which has thus far been conducted.

It is noted that a memorandum for the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943 contains a statement that it will be essential to have interviews with a great number of the individual miners who worked at Mine "B" during the course of the alleged conspiracy. In order to inaugurate this phase of the investigation, contact was had with JOHN H. SCHNEIDER, Springfield, Illinois, who is presently an official of the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

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SCHNEIDER made available the dues collection books of Local #54, PMA and he also made available an original copy of the PMA petition dated May 26, 1937 [redacted] From these documents a list of approximately 462 PMA miners was obtained - which list, it appears - includes all of the PMA miners working at Mine "B" who would be connected with this investigation.

Investigation as to date has revealed that the following men named in this list are dead:

BOOKER, TONY	MARTINKUS, TONY	SEABECK, FRANK
CASPER, LOUIS	McDONALD, HARRY	SMITH, AUGUST
DARMON, GALE	NUTAUT, PETER	SMITH, ~~THOMAS~~
DRAUGELIS, GEORGE	ORANT, JAMES	TROOP, CHAS.
GALOB, FRANK	OZELIS, JOHN	WELCAUKIS, PAUL
GATHARD, JOHN	OZELIS, PETER, Jr.	WILLIAMS, HARVEY
GRIDER, CHAS.	POTTER, THOMAS	ZABLOSKY, JOE
MARI, DONALD	REEVES, EDWARD	

Investigation to date has revealed that the following PMA miners on this list are no longer in or near Springfield,

RE: JOHN L. LE , ET AL.

Illinois, and accordingly, no attempt will be made to interview them unless subsequent developments indicate that this may be imperative in individual cases:

ALBERT, MIKE	FAFOZLIA, OTTO	GREZGRICH, FRANK
BUMGARNER, A.	FIFER, JOE	KANGER, ANDREW
BRYANT, WM.	GALMAN, ADOLPH	KELLER, JOE
CRIFASI, STEPHEN	GENT, ANTONE VICK	LANGLER, MIKE
DAVIDSON, ERNEST	GATHARD, JESSE	MORELOCK, ANDREW, JR.
DI BARTHOLOMES, DOMINIC	GRAHAM, PETER, JR.	POWELL, ELMER
DRAGOULIS, VINCENT	GUZZARDO, JOE	TUCKER, JOHN
		ZIONS, MIKE

There are set forth below the statements obtained from 154 PMA miners.

In order that the Bureau may be advised of the scope of the matters discussed with these miners, there is set forth below an outline of interrogation which was used in conducting these interviews:

Name.

Address (residence and business).

Date and place of birth.

Citizenship.

Date, place and circumstances miner first joined any mine union.

Offices held in any union.

Relations between UMW and ELSHOFF at Mine "B" prior to September, 1932.

Attitude of this miner toward formation of PMW local at Mine "B", including the part he played, etc.

Relations between ELSHOFF and Local 54, PMW, between September 1932, and April, 1937.

a. Strikes,
b. Close-downs by management.
c. Attempts by ELSHOFF or FALCETTI to discredit PMW leadership by remarks, by a hostile attitude in settling grievances, etc.
d. Expressions of partiality or liking for UMW by management.

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e. Attempts by management to persuade men to return to UMW.

Relations between PMW officials and PMW membership.

a. Any sentiment among rank and file that local was racket run.

b. Extent of democracy in local - any measures of compulsion to keep rank and file in line.

c. Interest in union affairs - attendance at meetings, etc.

d. Attitude of rank and file toward convictions of PMW members in bombing cases.

e. Financial angles - special assessments, kick-back to local PMW officials, etc.

Relations between local 54 and UMW from September 1932 to April 1937.

a. Did UMW ever set up a picket line at the mine?
b. Did UMW distribute literature or have organizers at the mine?
c. Efforts to convert individual miners to return to UMW, with particular reference to details of the activities of the following alleged UMW spies:

JOE ALBANESE	JOHN (COTTON) ANANIAS
ANDREW SCHMELEVIOUS	JOHN SIRTOUT
DOMINIC PASQUALE	GEORGE JACAWAY
PETE CARTER	EMORY JACAWAY
FRANK AUSTIN	CHARLES BOHANNON
TONY PLOTCH	JAMES HALE

Relations between management and UMW officials, including social contacts, etc., between September 1932 and April, 1937.

The wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

a. What report did PMW officials give rank and file on temporary agreement with ELSHOFF?
b. Was there any feeling that PMW would be unable to get as good a scale as UMW?
c. Was there any commotion at mine on pay days in April? Any temporary slow-downs or stoppages?
d. What were the actions of the alleged spies during this period?

e. What was the attitude of the management on the wage question?
f. What actions did PMW officials take to calm down the wage issue?

PMW meeting on night of May 11, 1937.

a. Was this a regular meeting? If not, how were members notified?
Any indication that only a select few were notified?
b. What was the evidence presented against the five alleged spies who were expelled?
c. What did these men say in their own defense?

The morning of May 12, 1937.

a. What arguments and discussions were there at the mine about wages? How and when did the men find out they were not going to get an increase that day?

b. Did rank and file know about the expulsion of the five spies?
How were they told? What was the general reaction?

c. Why were coal cars being loaded short? Was there a growing sentiment to strike during the day?
If so, why did they intend to strike? That is, was it because of wages or because of the five expelled spies?

PMW petition of May 26, 1937.

a. Did this miner sign it?
b. What explanation of this petition did PMW officials give?
c. Were any threats, expressed or implied, made in connection with obtaining signatures to this petition?
d. How were the signatures obtained? That is, house-to-house, union meeting, etc.

UMW petition in Summer of 1937, date not known.

(See a., b., c. and d. above)

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

Unknown petition in Summer of 1937, date not known.

a. Did this miner sign it?
b. Who circulated it or sponsored it?
c. Was it really a "wildcat" petition? That is, was there a sentiment among most of the men to go back to work regardless of which union the company dealt with?
d. Who reported it to company officials?
e. Date petition was presented.

Formation of new UMW local 7469 July 29, 1937.

a. Was this miner approached concerning joining this local?
b. Were there any threats or violence used to obtain members for this local?

General information concerning the Summer of 1937 - union meetings, "wildcat" meetings, statements by officials of both unions, threats, violence, statements by management, etc.

Attempted opening of mine on September 27, 1937.

a. How did management give notice mine would be open?
b. Had PMW decided in advance the attitude they would take if the mine opened under the UMW contract?
c. When did picketing start?
d. Did this miner participate in picketing?
e. Did PMW import outsiders for picketing?
f. Were any threats or violence used by PMW leadership away from the mine premises to keep the rank and file in line?
g. General information concerning incidents during the sit-down strikes.

Issuance of injunction in Federal District Court on December 9, 1937.

a. Attitude of rank and file miners to injunction.

Attempted opening of mine on December 13, 1937.

a. How was notice given?
b. Why did only twelve men show up for work?

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

NLRB election on December 15, 1937.

a. Complete discussion of circumstances of election, including mechanics of election and events leading up to it. Note UMW contention that the election was a fraud, being dominated by strong-arm tactics of PMW.

Attempted reopening of mine on January 4, 1938:

a. How was notice given?
b. Why did only a few men show up for work?

General discussion of incidents between January 24, 1938 and November 6, 1939, while mine was closed.

Opening of mine November 6, 1939.

a. What did rank and file understand about wage scale, etc.?
b. What was attitude of rank and file toward inability of PMW to get a contract?

Period from November 6, 1939 to February 21, 1941, when election was held.

a. All threats, violence, etc., by either side to force union membership.
b. All efforts by both sides to secure new members by persuasion.
c. All statements by management concerning union preference.
d. All acts of favoritism shown by mine management.
e. Did this miner sign membership cards for either or both of the unions in the Summer of 1940? It is noted both unions submitted a number of cards exceeding a majority of workers to NLRB investigator who was investigating the claims for representation.

NLRB election on February 21, 1941.

a. See election of December 15, 1937, above, for suggestions.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He appeared reluctant to answer some of the questions propounded to him which he should have had knowledge concerning. This was possibly due to the fact that he is presently employed at Mine 'B' under the UMW. He also claims to be friendly with OSCAR FALCETTI. He is alert and presents a good knowledge of mine operations. He executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I presently reside on [redacted] Illinois. I was born on [redacted] at [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, in [redacted] and I started working at that time in a mine named [redacted] I moved to [redacted] Illinois in [redacted] and worked as a member of UMW in the mine near [redacted] until [redacted] when I started working at Mine B near Springfield, Illinois. I am presently working at Mine B.

"I never held an office in the UMW union, but I was President of a local [redacted] Mine near [redacted] which was under a PMA contract. I held this office for about six months in [redacted] This union will be referred to hereinafter as PMA.

"I worked in Mine B from about [redacted] to about May 12, 1937 when it shut down due to the strike. I did not go back to work at Mine B, but got a job at Mine A about October 18, 1937 as a PMA miner and worked there until about September of 1940. About September, 1940, I went to work in Mine B as a member of the UMW. I have worked there continuously until the present, and am still working there as a member of the UMW.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"Elshoff, prior to 1932 got along very well with the UMW.

"In 1932 I was not in favor of the wage scale being lowered and I voluntarily joined the PMA and I feel that the rest of the miners at Mine B felt the same way. I did not take any active part in this formation.

"Everything was alright between Elshoff and PMA between September, 1932 and April, 1937 to my knowledge and I was well satisfied with the management of the PMA and the rest of the miners were satisfied with the PMA leadership to my knowledge.

"I heard that Dominic Pasquale, Charles Bohannon and about ten other miners who were holding PMA as well as UMW cards and were organizing at Mine B on behalf of the UMW and that was why they were expelled from PMA, but none of them ever approached me. I do not know which union the operator of Mine B was in favor of as I never heard any of them make any statements about it. I left the mine when the shut down started as previously mentioned, and did not have any first hand information on the matter.

"Between May, 1937 and October 1937 I helped for about one month with the PMA picket line at Mine B. This picketing was to keep UMW from taking our jobs. The vote, as a result of the NLRB electing on December 15, 1937 showed UMW had only twenty-five members at that time.

"I heard that Charles Bohannon and the other eleven men that were later expelled from the PMA for organizing for the UMW received money for organizing, but I never have been contacted by them and have no knowledge of the payment by UMW to them.

"I don't know why Elshoff did not sign a contract with PMA when that union had a majority of the employees at Mine B.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the one and a half pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his [redacted] residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] registered at Selective Service Board [redacted], Springfield, Illinois. This witness can speak English well and could testify that he was satisfied with PMA on May 12, 1937, and did not wish to become a member of UMW. [redacted] advised he did not have a criminal record.

[redacted] furnished the following voluntary signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 25, 1943

"I, [redacted], [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used as evidence in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] and I am a citizen of the U.S. which citizenship I obtained through my father, who was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. in about 1915.

"I am now employed at [redacted] Ill., as a laborer.

"I became a member of the UMW in [redacted] when I was first employed in a mine as a miner. I droped my membership in [redacted] when I stopped mining.

"I started mining again in [redacted] and became a member of P.M.A. in [redacted] of which union I was a member for 3 or 4 weeks. I dropped my membership in PMA when I stopped minning.

"In the first part of [redacted] I was employed by the [redacted] Ill., for which mine I worked for 3 or 4 months, during which time I was a member of PMA.

"In the summer of [redacted] I was employed by Mine B, Springfield, Ill. and became a member of PMA where I was employed as a miner until May 1937 when the mine was closed.

"In the fall of 1937 I was employed at the Panther Creek Mine #6, Springfield, Ill., until Spring 1943. During my employment at the Panther Creek Mine #6 I was a member of PMA.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I was a sect. in a "Wildcat" Union at [redacted] Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill. for about one month in [redacted] at which time the mine was closed for financial reasons.

"So far as I know the relationship between Mr. Elshoff at Mine "B" with PMA was good between the summer of 1936 and May 1937. I do not know anything about the relationship between Mr. Elshoff at Mine "B" and U.M.W. prior to 1932.

"Up until May 12, 1937 there was no trouble at Mine "B" and there were no strikes.

"So far as I know there were good relations between ELSHOFF and FALCETTI of Mine "B" and PMA during the time I was employed there, neither of whom ever mentioned union matters to me.

"So far as I know the members of PMA liked the union and were members of PMA because they liked the union and thought PMA could do more for them than any other union.

"I was never interested in union affairs, and attended only a few meetings of the union each year.

"The members of PMA thought the members of PMA convicted for bombing should not have been convicted as they did not get a fair trial, I cannot furnish any details concerning the attitude of the members of PMA concerning the conviction of PMA members in bombing cases as I was not interested.

"I cannot furnish any information concerning the financial operations of PMA, there were very few special assessments during the time I was a member of PMA.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" U.M.W. never attempted to organize the employees of Mine "B" in any way, No one ever attempted to get me to become a member of U.M.W. when I was employed at Mine "B". I never saw any employees at Mine "B" attempting to get any other employees of Mine "B" to become a member of UMW.

"I never saw any officials of UMW with the management of Mine "B".

"I know there was an attempt by union officials of PMA to obtain higher wages for the employees of PMA but there was never any trouble at the mine in April or May 1937 concerning an increase in the wage scale. None of the men alleged by PMA to be spies for UMA, the names of whom I do not know, ever said anything to me about an increase in the wage scale. So far as I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

know employees of PMA were on the same wage scale as the employees of UMW in mines other than Mine "B". Neither the management of Mine "B" or union officials ever said anything to me about the wage issue in April or May 1937.

"I did not know of a meeting of PMA on May 11, 1937.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I did not hear any discussion on the wage issue nor did I know of anyone who knew five alleged spies of UMW had been expelled from PMA. I did not see or hear of any coal cars being loaded short on the morning of May 12, 1937. I did not know there was any trouble at Mine "B" on May 12, 1937 until I was told by my boss to stop working. I did not know why the work was stopped on that day nor did the men I talked to.

"I cannot rember a petition of PMA of May 26, 1937 but I may have signed a PMA petition of May 26, 1937 and cannot remember signing it.

"I am not able to furnish any information concerning Mine "B" subsequent to May 12, 1937 as I was not interested in the mine and never returned to Mine "B" to try to get work.

"I do not know of a U.M.W. petition in the Summer of 1937 nor do I know of the formation of new UMW local 7469 July 29, 1937.

"I received one or two notices that Mine "B" was to have been opened subsequent to May 12, 1937, but did not attempt to get employment at Mine "B" as I was employed at Panther Creek Mine #5 and I was not interested.

"On May 12, 1937 I was a member of PMA and satisfied with the union. I was not interested in becoming a member of any other union.

"I have read the preceeding four pages which are correct an true to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

Witnessed: -

[redacted], Special Agent, FBI.
Special Agent, FBI.

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Re; JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] was interviewed on August 25, 1943 by [redacted] Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He apparently will make a favorable witness. He presents a good appearance, is intelligent and willing to testify. The signed statement furnished by him is set forth as follows:

[redacted], Illinois
August 25, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Illinois. I was born on [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois. I am a citizen of the United States.

"I first joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the U. M. W., in [redacted] while I was employed at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois. I worked under the U. M. W. at Mine B. until 1932, at which time I was desirous of changing to the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as P. M. W. I continued to work under the P. M. W. until and including September 27, 1937.

"I left the U. M. W. in 1932, because I felt that the majority of the miners in Mine B. wanted to join the P. M. W., and because I felt that I would receive no benefit for working under a union which was controlled by John L. Lewis.

"The miners were assessed 15 per cent of our salaries the first year we worked under the P. M. W., and though I felt that this was a large sum of money to be taken out of my salary by a union, still I felt that the P. M. W. made such an assessment to build up their organization. This was all right with me. I held no office either with the U. M. W. or the P. M. W. I have not been interested in union affairs. After the first year under the P. M. W., union dues were cheaper thereafter than under the U. M. W.

"Conditions and relations were very good between local 54 of the P. M. W. and the U. M. W. from September, 1932 to April 1937.

"My last day at Mine B. was on September 27, 1937. I received notice that the mine was going to re-open on September 27, 1937, because I saw a notice to this effect in the newspapers, and because the whistles at the mine blew. Therefore, I went to the mine on this morning to report to work at seven o'clock, oiled my machinery and just before eight o'clock on this date I approached the top boss at the mine in charge of all employees

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

above ground and whose name I do not recall. I asked him how I would work, and he replied that I would work under the U. M. W. At that time, I oiled machinery above the mine, outside of the retail unit. This was my job. Directly after this conversation I left the premises of the Mine B.

I felt that the vast majority of the miners at this mine were members of the P. M. W. and I did not want to work under these conditions.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agent, F. B. I.

[redacted]
Special Agent F. B. I."

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence on [redacted] Illinois, on the morning of August 28, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] was born at [redacted] on [redacted] He has been in the coal mines since he was 14 years of age. He is presently employed at [redacted] mine near [redacted] Illinois. [redacted] is not considered by interviewing Agents as a good witness due to his appearance and apparent lack of mental capacity.

Upon interview [redacted] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or consideration of any kind has been made to me for this statement.

"I worked at Mine B for several years before 1932 until several months after the strike at Mine B in 1939. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America when they were organized in 1932. I was always satisfied with the way that union was being run. I never wanted to change to the United Mine Workers. I am still a member of the Progressives and am satisfied with them. The Progressives never asked me to do anything that I did not want to do. I was satisfied with them in every way.

"I was working at Mine B at the time of the strike. I do not remember whether I was working on the day of the strike or not. I do not know what the strike was about. I do not remember. I was not at the mine on the day in September when the men went back to the mine. I did go out there and stay a part of the time after the men started staying on the company property. I voted in the election held a few days after the election. No one bothered me or told me how to vote. It was a fair election as far as I know, and I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"I do not recall but one time that they tried to open the mine. I was working on WPA part of the time. When the mine opened there had been some cave ins and falls. I did not see any evidence of any fire. Part of the mine where I had been working did cave in, and I never got my tools out of there at all. I remember [redacted] He was supposed to be an air man I do not think that they ever had an air check man before the strike. One day JIM HALE asked me to join the United Mine Workers. He told me that all the men would be doing it and I might just as well. I signed the papers then

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

but I quit the mine a few days later. I quit because I did not like to be involved in any troulbe. Some of the men thgt I rode to work with had been bothered, their clothes cut and torn in the wash house. Some had been beaten, and so I quit rather than stay there and get in trouble. I didn't want to belong to the United Mine Workers. No one ever made me do anything that I did not want to do.

"I have read the above statement on this page and one other page. It is true and accurate."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted] & [redacted]
FBI

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] related his story in a clear manner, and appears to recall well events around the time of the strike. It is felt that he would be a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement which he executed:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted], residing at [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make this statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a U. S. citizen in 1913. I first joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] and have never held any office in any union.

"I joined P.M.A. in 1932 when all the rest of the miners joined. As I remember P.M.A. started after U.M.W. had tried to get us to work for less money. We had a vote and the ballots were stolen and the election was no good. Also working conditions were not too good and the men wanted a new union. After P.M.A. started things seemed better at the mines. I do not remember what the men's feelings were when some members of P.M.A. were convicted in the bombing cases.

"TONY PLOTCH, FRANK AUSTIN, JACKDAY, ANDY, BOHANNON, JOHN SIRTOUT and some others who belonged to P.M.A. were supposed to be workers for U.M.W. I heard that these men were working for U.M.W. officials but they never approached me. I know that these men were kicked out of P.M.A. because they were working for U.M.W.

"I remember that our contract with Mine B, where I had worked since 1926, expired in the spring of 1937 and we were working under an extension. We were supposed to get paid back wages in case the new contract called for higher wages, this is what P.M.A. officers told us that we would get the new rate from April 1. After we had worked for a while ELSHOFF refused to sign a contract.

"I attended some of the P.M.A. meetings and I was at a meeting when a trial was held and some of the men I mentioned before as working for U.M.W. were kicked out. As I remember, we had a regular meeting and after this, three or four men were appointed to a kind of trial board.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

These men were charged with spying on our organization and the trial board found them guilty. I was at this meeting and remember that these men were kicked out of the P.M.A. Some were expelled for a couple of years and some for ninety years. Most of the members of P.M.A. know about this action, which was just before the strike.

"At the time of the strike I was a digger [redacted] at mine B. On the day of the strike some of the fellows didn't want to go to work with the spies. However, finally we all went to work but some of the men said lets load the cars short and lots of the cars went up without a full load.

"Someone told us to come up out of the mines that day, about two hours earlier than usual. When I came up I learned that there was a strike. I guess it was because the mine let these spies work although we didn't have a contract.

"After the strike I signed a petition for P.M.A. I signed this at the Union Hall. I also think I signed another petition at my house, I think [redacted] brought it out. It was to show how many members P.M.A. had and I think it was for the Labor Relation Board. No one ever made me sign, or threatened me.

"A couple of times fellows came to get me to join U.M.W. JOHN and BILL SIRTOUT came once, and another fellow called JOE or SAM came. They asked me why I should stay idle, if I sign we go back to work. They had some kind of a card for me to sign, told me it was a membership card. They said if they got enough members the mine would open up. They said if I didn't sign the mine might never open up. They did not threaten me.

"During the summer of the strike the P.M.A. had lots of meetings. The officers told us that they hoped to open the mine that summer.

"I remember that they tried to open the mine in the fall of 1937. As I remember, there was a notice in the paper telling of this. On that day 14 or 15 U.M.W. went down in the mine, but no one else went down. If you wanted to go to work that day you had to go in the office and sign up for U.M.W. That is what a man by the mine told me. Our P.M.A. officers told us not to sign anything. We came back to town and had a meeting and the next day about 325 of us went out and started a picket line. We stayed there until we were served with an injunction. We left, feeling that we had to, the law said so.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I remember that after this they tried to open the mine again. The same U.M.W. men showed up and a few new U.M.W. men, I guess they came from another part of the State. I was out there that day, not on company property but on the highway. We wanted to see what would happen.

"Our President, OZANIC, went and talked to ELSHOFF who told OZANIC that only U.M.W. men could work. That is what OZANIC told us. The Sheriff made us leave that day, told us that 15 or 16 men could stay on the picket line but not any more.

"I voted in the NLRB election in December. A. P.M.A. official told us not to go down and vote too many at a time, just 15 or 20. He told us not to talk to anyone on the street. The election was nice and quiet and no trouble.

"I remember that later on they tried to open the mine but no one would go to work, they wanted to open the mine under an open shop. The P.M.A. men didn't want to go to work that way.

"In November, 1939 the mine opened up under an open shop. Some mine official said that we would have another election, whichever one won the election would win the contract. I got a letter telling me to come to work and that I should be there in ten days or I wouldn't have a job. I went to work where I had been before, this section was all right. I guess that other parts of the mine had been caved in, Box 2 and part of Box 3.

"After I had been back to work I was approached to join U.M.W. These same fellows, some of the spies, came to my house to get me to join. They were nice, but told me that U.M.W. was going to win and that I had better join. In about July, 1940 I finally joined U.M.W. They asked me to come to a meeting and I did. I found the hall full of fellows, and thought that perhaps I had better join if all the other fellows were joining.

"After the mine opened up in November, 1939, it seemed that the only new men who were hired belonged to U.M.W. or else had to join before they could get a job. U.M.W. had organizers at the mine. They were supposed to be working but they weren't. I didn't know who they were. They were very friendly and used to go around and talk to all the men.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"New men came to work, some coming from Missouri and some from the southern part of the state.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct.

X [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
U. S. Dep't. of Justice."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Although this man relates his story in a clear manner, it appears that he has no information of value to offer.

[redacted] executed the following signed statement:

"August 30, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a U. S. citizen in [redacted] and presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I first started mining coal in about [redacted] and joined the U.M.W. at about that time. I have never held an office in any union.

"I worked at Mine A and Mine B on several different occasions and when the mine went over to the Progressives in 1932 I think I was working for the state. I went back to work with Mine B in [redacted] and as far as I was concerned everything was going along fine at that time. The union officers left me alone & I just went about my work and bothered nobody. I have never attended any union meetings--neither U.M.W. nor the P.M.A.

"In the spring of 1937 I heard some talk to the effect that our wage contract was to be renewed, but I do not know anything about any wage dispute. I am not a close friend of anyone in the mine and have never mixed with any of them as I live on a farm and come right home from work every day.

"I remember that on the day of the strike, which was in May of 1937, I went to work as usual & took up my regular job as a digger in [redacted] I heard that this section caved in and I understand it has never been cleaned up to this day. I never went back to pick up my tools. I know Tony Plotch, Peter Canten, Frank Austin, but I do not know anything about their actions at the mine. I never heard any of the men talking about spies for the U.M.W. and do not know what caused the strike in 1937. I heard men say that they got a raw deal, but I do not know why the men went on strike.

"On the day of the strike Frank Austin was supposed to be my driver and I kept asking him to bring my powder, but he never did bring my

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

powder that day. I didn't know until we were on our way home that night that the mine was on strike. I do not remember ever signing a petition of any kind after the strike. Due to the fact Frank Austin didn't bring me my powder, I worked all that day but didn't make any money, because I didn't load any coal that day.

"Between 1937 and 1939 when the mine was shut down I went to work for the state. I went back to Mine B in the fall of 1939 after I got a letter from Elshoff. I only worked there about nine days when I was offered another job with the state so I quit the mine job. I wanted to work for the state as it was a better job and my back was hurting me a lot. I am now working at the Panther Creek Mine and am a member of the PMA union.

"During the entire time I was working at Mine B I never had a bit of trouble. I was never threatened by anyone. As far as I'm concerned it doesn't make any difference which union I am a member of as long as I have a job.

"I do not have any information about the strike at the mine. I have read over this entire statement of four pages, have initialed the first three pages and hereby sign this pages. This statement is true to the best of my memory..

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses
[redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
U. S. Dept. of Justice "

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This man is average in intelligence, and appearance and is favorable toward the Government. He indicated a desire to avoid testifying, if possible. It is believed, however, that he would make a good witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement, which he executed:

"August 28, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and presently live at [redacted] I started as a miner during the last war and joined the U. M.W. when I first started mining. I am still working at Mine B. In 1932 when the rest of the men joined the Progressive union I also went over to the PMA and continued working at the mine. When the PMA first started in Mine B all the men were satisfied with the Union and everything went along fine until the Spring of 1937.

"I never attended many of the union meetings so cannot state as to all that happened just before the strike. I am a driver in the west section of the mine. I know that a group [illegible] men including JOE ALBANESE, PASQUALE, CARTER, AUSTIN and others mentioned [redacted] were trying to organize for the U.M.W.

"Prior to the time of the strike and after March 31, our union told us that we were to continue working and the new contract would be retroactive. Between April and the time of the strike I heard the men talking about CARTER, AUSTIN and the others trying to stir up trouble and telling the men they didn't have a contract and asking them why they were working. The PMA leaders kept telling the men to keep on working and that they would see to it that they got what was coming to them. I do not know of anyone who was threatened during this period and I don't believe most of the men knew that CARTER and the others were working for the U.M.W.

"I do not know anything about what happened at our uni

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

on the night of May 11, 1937. I heard the next day that some of the men had been kicked out of the union because they were really working for the U.M.W. On the morning of the strike I remember that the men were complaining that the company wanted the men who had been expelled to go to work. The only men I remember seeing was FRANK AUSTIN. I noticed that as soon as the men started working that day they all started loading the cars short and it continued the rest of the day. About an hour before quitting time word was sent to us to come to the surface and when we got on top we were told that the mine was on strike. Our union officers told us to go home because they didn't want us to work with the spies. I can't recall any mention being made of a strike being called due to an argument over wages.

"I remember that a short time after the strike, JOHN SCHNEIDER came to my house with a petition for me to sign. This was a petition asking the company to recognize PMA as best as I can recall. As I recollect the PMA distributed ballots among the men & asked them to check on the ballot which union they preferred.

"During the summer there was a great many union meetings and these meetings were well attended by the men. I remember that one time it was announced that the mine was to open, but only about 12 men showed up. I remember that in the fall the U.M.W. had picket lines outside the mine and I took part in the picketing several times.

"In December of 1937 there was an NLRB election in the Arsenal and the PMA won out in the election. I remember that in the December election the PMA men met at the union hall and marched to the Arsenal in small groups. There was no violence and no strong arm methods used by either side.

"I went back to work at the mine when it was reopened on an open shop basis in November of 1939. I believe there was an article in the paper that the mine was to reopen and so I went to work. As far as I know there was no fire at the mine between 1937 and November of 1939. There were a lot of cave ins at the mine and it was only natural that there was a lot of cleaning up to do before the men could start loading coal.

"When the men went back to work in 1939 they naturally weren't completely satisfied, but I think they felt that if they didn't go on the job the U.M.W. men would take their job.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"From 1939 until 1941 the mine was being operated on an open shop basis. I was one of the last to sign up with the U.M.W. I heard that there was a lot of fighting on the surface after I would go below for my job and that many men were beaten up, but I never saw any of it myself. Nobody ever really bothered me to join the U.M.W. but I heard that a lot of the older men were actually beaten up by the U.M.W. men. I didn't sign up until it became quite apparent that our whole local was going to sign up. As far as my personal knowledge is concerned the company was neutral with regard to the unions. I know that it was the general opinion among the men that the company favored the U.M.W. men. It was always generally understood that the U.M.W. men got the best jobs and were allowed more privileges but I do not know the names of any U.M.W. men who were so favored.

"I have read over this entire statement of six pages, have initialed the first five pages to show that I have read each page and hereby sign this last page. I wish to state that this statement is true to the best of my memory and if called upon I would testify to the above.

[redacted]

WITNESSES:

[redacted] :)Special Agents, FBI
[redacted] :)U. S. Dept. of Justice."

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of August 26, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is a native born American citizen, having been born near [redacted] would make a good appearance on the witness stand. He is a large and strongly built individual. He is rather intelligent and understands well. He has good command of the English language, being able to express himself quite well. He is very definite about things that he knows, and would not be easily confused on cross examination. He is believed to be a good witness. Upon being interviewed, [redacted] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill
August 26, 1943.

"My name is [redacted]. I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or considerations of any kind have been made to me to make this statement. It is true and accurate, and I am willing to repeat any part of it in court if necessary.

"I went to work at Mine B in 1922 and worked there until January of 1941. When I first ~~went~~ to Mine "B" I was a member of the United Mine Workers because everyone had to be a member of the United Mine workers in order to get a job at that mine. It was a closed shop. In 1932 the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized and I joined that union. It had a closed shop and I was a member of this union until I left Mine B. In 1936 and 1937 I was Union Steward at this mine, and was Steward again from 1939 to 1940.

"Before 1932 when the PMW of A. was organized there had never been any trouble at Mine B with the management. There was some dissension among the men in the mine with the UMW about the assessments, etc. but there was no real. trouble. Some of the men who had been disgusted with the UMW were tried by the Union and Elshoff fired them. Elshoff and the Union got along pretty well in those days.

"When the PMW of A was organized, we all were anxious to join, and none of us would go back to work until the men Elshoff had discharged were rehired. When the PMW of A was organized every employee at the mine was in favor of this union. At least I never heard anyone dissent about joining the PMW of A. The PMW of A kept pretty close to the men and stood up for them whenever anything happened. The PMW of A did this much better than the UMW had done. Elshoff did not like the PMW very much because it protected the men so much better. I never

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

heard him say anything about it, but I could tell from the way he acted and the expressions on his face, etc., that he did not like the PMV very well. However, I nevver heard hi say anything about the UMV. Twice in 1936, however, I did hear Oscar Falcetti, the mine superintendant say that sooner or later all the men would be back under the UMV and once he said that they would be better off all together in the same union. He seemed to want that the men belong to the UMV but never said anything about it. I did not know much about what was going on amongst Elshoff and Falcetti, but these remarks were made in my presence. That was before the strike in 1937.

"In 1936 there were some men who had been causing trouble in the mine and had been tried by the Union, but Elshoff and Falsetti would not fire them. I was not at the trials, and did not hear Elshoff or Falsetti say anything about it.

"I went to the Union meetings regularly. They were held twice a month. The miners were very loyal to the Union during all the time that the PMV were working at the mine. Sometimes there would be over 400 men at the union meetings. Sometimes there would be only 200 or so, depending on the weather etc. Whenever there was a special meeting of the Union, almost all of them came. Special meetings were announced by placing a notice on the bulletin board at the mine.

"Tony Pletch, Charles Bohannon, and Frank Austin and some of the other men were trying to cause troulble at the mine. I did not hear any of them ask anyone to join the UMV but I did hear these three say to other men that the PMV contract was not a retroactive contract, and some other things that were not true about the PMV contract and officials. I also saw Tony Pletch handling a petition at the mine in 1936. I did not see that petition.

"Except for these men, that I have named and also Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrevevious, Dominec Pasquale, Peter Carter, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway, who were always complaining about the way the PMV was being run I did not hear any of the men working there complain about the Union. They were all satisifed with the arrangments for wages, etc.

"The day before the strike, or close to the strike, Falcetti gave [redacted] a yellow paper that came out of the company office, and asked hi to read it to the men. There were copies of it for the men, but none of us took it. DeBartholomeo read it, and it said something about the temporary contract with the mine not having a retroactive clause in it. We did not pay any attention because we knew that it id have.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"A couple of days before the strike was called, or the day before there was a special meeting of the Union. It was held in the day time because that was not a work day. At that meeting almost all of the men at the mine were present. There were more than 400 present. I was there. At that meeting, we decided that we would not go back to work until Elshoff and Falcetti had fired the men who had been tried by the union and expelled. The next day none of us went down in the mine at all. We demanded to Falcetti that these men be discharged. I heard Falcetti refuse. He gave as one excuse that the men could belong ato any union that they wanted to. I do not know whei day it was that light cars were coming to the surface. I believe that it was the day before the strike. I do not know what reason there was for the light cars. I do not reall that there was any discussion about wages at the time of the strike. The refusal was to work with the 12 men who had been tried and expelled by the union in 1936. The day of the strike we stayed around and did not work. About the next week, we went out in the morning and watched to see if anyone came to work. About 300 of us were there at the road on those mornings just wathching. There was no picket line. Some of the men came to work, and a few went in, but not very many. We kept this up just a week or so, staying there only about an hour in the morning.

"Several times during the summer of 1937 after the strike, I went with the committee to the mine in order to try to get things fixed up to go back to work. Falcetti always refused to fire the men because of the Wagner act. He said that that act gave them the right to belong to any union that they say fit.

"In September when they started to open the mine again, we all went out to the mine to see who would show up. The first day the 12 men who had been expelled from the PMW union came. We did not stop them. The next day, about 300 of us showed up and told Falcetti that if those 12 went down in the mine that we were going. We lined up in front of the pit to go down. None of us expected to go down but we were ready. The 12 men did not go into the pit, and we decided to stay right there on the property to see that the company would not put anything over on us. Elshoff would not deal with the PMW and we were beginning to think that he was favoring the UMW. He did not sign any contract with anybody. We stayed on the property until the injunction. When the Marshall came with the injunction we left the property without any trouble. As far as I know Elshoff did not try to open the mine after the injunction. He would have announced it in the paper, and blown the whistle, but I never heard that he had tried.

"In May of 1937, ad few days after the strike started the PMW had a petition. Falcetti had told us that he had a petition of over 300 signatures of the men at the mine who wanted to go for UMW. I had heard that such a petition had been passed, but most of the fellows claimed that it was a fraud. To show falcetti how we felt, we all lined up and went

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

into Falcetti's office, and signed the peition right there on his desk. Falcetti stood there and watched us for a while, until he got tired of it, and walked out. I do not know of any other petitions.

"During the time from December 1937 when the injunction came and we left the Mine B property until the Mine opened in 1939 I was unemployed for over a year, and could not find a job anywhere. I finally got a job at one of the Panther Creek Mines, but I could not get a good place and did not make enough money to live on. My mother was sick at that time, we had a big doctor bill, and a large grocery bill. The only way that we could settle up was to sell our home, which we did.

"During the time of the strike I went out to the mine many times with the committee in order to try and get things straightened out and go back to work. Falcetti ignored us most of the time that we went there. He would talk with us, but would shake his head whenever we mentioned the 12 men and would then change the subject. I do not recall that there was any agreement with the Union as to opening the mine again in 1939. That was the first time he tried.

"I went back to Mine B a week or so after the mine reopened. There had been a small cave in and I could not get to my room. After it was cleaned up I went back to my same working place in the mine. Most of the men went back to the same rooms. I was mine steward and heard the complaints as they came up. Although I did not have any trouble, I know that the PMW men were given poorer rooms etc. when there rooms petered out than the UMW men. Dirt was being dumped on the cars of the PMW men, their tools were being stolen, and they were beaten. Many times I was with the committee when they complained to Falcetti and Elshoff about the conditions, and they refused to do anything about it. They easily could have done something. He would say that he did not know what he could do about it, and would say that he would send one of the bosses to check on it, but none ever did. I was in Falcetti's office almost every morning. The same thing happened every day. I never heard either Falcetti or Elshoff say anything about changing Unions etc. Many times when we went to the office, the UMW committee would already be there, and when we came in, they would quit talking. I do not know if the was taking care of their complaints or not.

"I do know, however, that after somebody joined the UMW that dirt was not found in their coal, that their tools were not being stolen any more, and they were soon taken out of their room, and put into a good room. That was common knowledge about the mine.

"When the mine reopened, there was no evidence of any big cave in or fire that I saw. When I first went into the mine, about

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

a week after it reopened, it was fairly clean, and ready to work.

"When the mine reopened [redacted] got a job there as Air Checker. I saw him many times in the mine. All he was doing was going around talking with the men and trying to get them to change over to the UMW. We never had an Air Checker at that time for the 18 years that I worked there until [redacted] got the job. There was practically no work to do in that position.

"In January 1941, [redacted] and some of the other men who had just come to the mine threatened to beat me up. Some of the Deputy Sheriffs stoped the fighting but did not do anything about it. I saw several fights there, and saw old men beaten and cut up. I saw some of them get hit. In January 1941 I was framed in the theft of some coal cars and was discharged. I threatened to take the matter to court and make them pay for all the lost time I had. A couple days later they offered to reinstate me, but I had seen enough at the mine, the beatings on the old men, and all the trouble, and the times that they had started to try to beat me. I decided that I would not be able to go back and work there under those conditions, and so I did not return. I did vote in the NLRB election which was held shortly after that because I had been employed on the day that employees were elgible.

"Many times in the mornings, when I was in the office with the committee, men we knew as good standing PMV men came to the office and asked for work. Every time Falcetti would tell them that they were not hiring that day. A day or so later, some men that none of us know would come and ask for employment, and Falcetti would hire them. We would ask them what Union they belonged to, and they would almost always say, that they did not belong to any union. A few days later they would have UMW cards.

"In the fall of 1937 when the NLRB held an election among the employees of Mine B, there was no trouble at all. I do not recall exactly where that election was held, but I do recall that there was not trouble about it. There were serveral UMW organizers around. They did not cause any violence or anything. The PMV organizers had not talked to us in a long time, because they know how we all felt about the Unions. There was no coercion of anything of that sort. The PMV men told all the men that they had a right to vote, and that they ought to vote. If the men did not have a way of getting to vote, the PMV men did find somebody to give them a ride. There were no threats about what would happen if they did not vote etc.

"There were never any complaints by the members about the way the PMV was handling its finances, nor about the officials of the Union taking advantage of anyone.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have never seen any violence, or compulsion used by any of the PMW organizers or officials at Mine 3.

"I have read the above statement on this page and seven other typewritten pages. All the statements made in it are true, and contain the whole story as well as I can recall it at the present time. It is all true, and I am willing to appear in court and repeat any of these statements.

[redacted]

[redacted]
F.B.I.
[redacted] F.B.I."

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on August 26, 1943 by Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He is presently employed by [redacted] and was born [redacted] Illinois. He admits no criminal record. [redacted] was very cooperative; showed a willingness to furnish all information in his possession, and stated he would be willing to testify if such were necessary.

[redacted] gave the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 26, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] Ill. I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill.

"I joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] and never held any office in any union. I started to work at Mine B in [redacted] and continued to work there until May 9, 1937 [redacted]

"From the time Elshoff purchased Mine B until 1932 the relations between Elshoff and the U.M.W. were to the best of my knowledge satisfactory, and things ran along smoothly. In 1932 the miners generally were not pleased with the agreement which Lewis had signed with the operators in which he agreed to a reduced pay rate for the miners. The miners had a vote among themselves and voted not to accept the Lewis agreement. Then the union of the Progressive Mine Workers of America started up. I attended some of the meetings which were held by the miners and which resulted in the establishment of the P.M.A. I did not take any active part in the organization of the P.M.A., but I did vote for the establishment of the new union. The reasons I voted for the new union were that I was opposed to the numerous extra assessments of the U.M.W., and further I believed that the U.M.W. was getting too crooked, as shown by the stealing of ballots and the numerous assessments and the action of Lewis in signing the agreement with the operators against the wishes of the miners.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"After the organization of the P.M.A. and the establishment of its closed shop agreement with Mine B, things ran pretty smoothly at Mine B. Relations between Kishoff and the union seemed to run smoothly and there were no strikes to the best of my knowledge. There might have been an occasional work stoppage of various short times, but I do not remember any strike as such. The mine was never closed down by the management and I never heard of any attempts by Kishoff or Falcetti to discredit the P.M.A. leaders in any way. To the best of my knowledge neither Kishoff nor Falcetti ever made any expression of partiality to the U.M.W. nor did they ever try to get any of the men to return to the U.M.W.

"Just prior to May 1937 I remember hearing several groups of men in the wash house at Mine B being talked to by Dominic Pasquale and Tony Plotch who were trying to get the men to join the U.M.W.

"The majority of the members of P.M.A. were satisfied with the way things were going and had no fault to find with the way the union was being run. In the few union (P.M.A.) meetings that I attended, any member had the the right to the floor at any time to say anything that he wished. However, I don't know too much about this because I was not too interested in union affairs and did not attend all the P.M.A. meetings.

"I don't know anything about the bonuses from 1933 to 1937, and I don't know the attitude of the union or the members toward them because I was not too interested in union affairs. I do remember that there were no special assessments requested of the members by P.M.A., and I know that there were no kick-backs to the P.M.A. officials. From 1932 until 1937 the U.M.W. did not set up a picket line or distribute any kind of literature, to the best of my knowledge. I do not know if U.M.W. had active organizers in Mine B, but I do know that I heard the following men talking to groups of miners at different times, trying to get the miners to join the U.M.W.: Dominic Pasquale, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Angelina, and Jimmie Hale. These men were P.M.A. members, but I think they were being paid by the U.M.W. I don't know if there was any social contact between these men and the management or owners of Mine B.

"I do not know anything about the wage scale dispute in the spring of 1937 as I was ill and unable to attend any of the union meeting. However, I was working daily. As far as I know there was no feeling that the P.M.A. would not get as good a break on the wage scale as the U.M.W. would, but on the contrary I, as well as the majority of the men, was very satisified with the P.M.W. and did not want to have anything to do with the U.M.W. I do not remember any commotion at Mine or any temporary slowdown or stoppages.

I do not know anything about the P.M.A. meeting on the

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

evening of May 11, 1937, and received no notice of it. I know nothing about the details of the strike which started on May 12, 1937. [redacted]

[redacted] In December of 1937 I read a notice in a Springfield newspaper that an election was to be held at the State Arsenal in Springfield for the purpose of determing which union would have the right to represent the miners at Mine B. No one talked to me about voting, and I went to the election of my own accord. I voted for the P.M.A., because I thought that was the best union, and I wanted to see that union at Mine B.

"In the fall of 1937 [redacted], one of the P.M.A., told me that the mine was going to be reopened, and that the P.M.A. had decided that if the U.M.W. men were allowed to work, the P.M.A. would picket the mine. I do not know what arrangements the P.M.A. had made concerning the picketing nor when it started. When [redacted] told me that he was going to the picket line, I decided to go with him and participate in the picketing. To the best of my knowledge the picket line consisted only of members of local #54 of P.M.A. The P.M.A. did not threaten us in any way to keep us from working. The purpose of the picket line was to keep the U.M.W. men from working, and not to keep the P.M.A. men from working.

"A couple of days before I left Mine B on May 9, 1937, I recall that I signed a petition given to me by a P.M.A. man. I don't recall what the petition was for. I think it might have been a petition to the operators to discharge some miners, but I cannot swear to this. I did not sign any other petition after that time. I was never approached by any U.M.W. organizer for the purpose of joining the U.M.W.

"I was on the picket line for about two weeks in the fall of 1937, and did not go out to Mine B again until late in 1939. At this latter time I saw a notice in a daily paper that Mine B would reopen, and I thought that I was well enough to start mining again. I went out to the mine and talked with Falcetti who told me that my name was not on the list of men to be employed. He did not give me any reasons for my name not being on the list. After a short conversation, Falcetti told me that he would 'split 50/50' with me and put my name in the middle of the list. He gave me no reasons for this proposition. Falcetti did not ask me if I was a member of P.M.A. and did not say anything about joining the U.M.W. Some time later, I don't remember how long, [redacted] came to my house to get me to go to

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] work. As I had a job [redacted] I did not go back to Mine B.
(continued)

"I did not participate in the mine election of February 1941, and have had nothing to do with P.M.A. or Mine B since my conversation with Falcetti about being placed on the list of employees who would be reemployed by Mine B.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and three other pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[redacted]

"Witnesses [redacted]

Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 29, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] He is presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #1 [redacted] would make a good witness for what information he does have. He can express h self well and would not be easy to confuse on cross examination. He makes a good appearance. He furnished the information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary to appear in court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I was employed at Mine R from three or four years before 1932 until May 12, 1937. I was employed there at the ti e that the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized. I am still a member of that Union. After the Progressive Mine Workers were organized, I was satisfied with them in every way and did not want to change Unions. At the time of the strike I was satisfied and did not want to change. I was working at the mine at the time of the strike. I was not at the meeting held the night before the strike. On the day of the strike I was below. I was loading full cars and knew nothing at all about a strike. When I came up I saw that there had been quite a few small cars loaded that day. I was surprised to find that a strike had been called. I do not remember exactly what the strike was called for, but I think it was over the fact that the company would not fire some men that the union did not want.

"I stayed out at the mine in the mornings for the next five or six days after the strike started. I do not recall signing any petition for either union at that time. I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"I heard that Elshoff had signed a contract with the United Mine Workers for the mine. I also heard that a new local for the United Mine Workers had been organized for Mine R. No one asked me to join the United Mine Workers at any time. I was not at the mine the day that the picket line started in September, but I came

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

out the next day and stayed at the mine most of the time that the picket line was in progress. No one but the men who had worked at Mine B were on the picket line while I was there.

"After the injunction I left, and I got another job at the [redacted] mine. I was working at the [redacted] mine at the time the first election for Mine B was held. I voted in the election. No one told me how to vote or tried to influence my vote in any way. I voted exactly as I pleased. It was a fair election as far as I know. I only heard of one attempt to reopen the mine while it was closed. That was in September 1937 when the picket line was formed. I got a notice that I could go back to work at Mine B when it was reopened, but I had a job and did not want to change.

"I have always been satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"I have read the above statement on this page and one other. It is all true and accurate."

/S/ [redacted]

"/S/ [redacted]
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents FBI"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed on August 27, 1943 at his home at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] is able to speak English well although he is vague about conditions at Mine B as of May 12, 1937. [redacted] would make a good witness as to the information furnished in a statement by him.

The following statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.,
August 27, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and to [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement & I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] Ill., [redacted] I am employed at the Panther Creek Coal Mine as a track man and I have been employed at the Panther Creek Mine since December 11, 1941.

"I became a coal miner in [redacted] in Ill. at which time I was a member of U M W. I have been employed as a miner in Ill. since [redacted] and was a member of U M W until Sept. 1932 and I have been a member of P M W since Sept. 1932.

"I have never held any offices in any union.

"I am unable to make any statement as to the relations between Elshoff of Mine "B" and U M W prior to Sept. 1932, as I was not employed at Mine "B" during that time.

"I was in favor of PMA being formed in Sept. 1932 as I thought U M W was a dishonest union. The reason I thought U. M. W. was a dishonest union was because I heard U M W officials stole the votes cast in 1932 concerning the change of wage scale. I took no active part in the formation of P M W.

"I was employed by Mine "B" as a miner in the Summer of 1935. Between the Summer of 1935 and May 12, 1937 I never saw or heard anything which would indicate the management of Mine "B" were not in favor of P M W. Between the Summer of 1935 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B", or close-downs at Mine "B", by the management. There were no attempts by the management prior to May 12, 1937 to persuade me to become a member of U. M. W.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I like P M A and I have considered it an honest Union since I became a member in Sept. 1932. Since I have been a member of P M A I have not had any unusual special assessments made against me.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases and I am unable to make a statement as to the attitude of other members of P M A concerning this case.

"Between the Summer of 1935 and May 12, 1937 U M W did not set up a picket line at Mine "B", or distribute any literature at the mine. Prior to May 12, 1937 no one contacted me at Mine "B" in an effort to convert me from P M A to U. M. W. I did not know of any alleged U M W spies at Mine "B" prior to April 1937.

"I do not know of any controversy concerning the wage scale at Mine "B" in the Spring of 1937. So far as I know employees at Mine "B" were on the same wage scale as employees at U M W mines.

"About two days prior to May 11, 1937 a Board Member of P M A notified me that a special meeting was to have been held on the night of May 11, 1937 to consider expelling some members of PMA. So far as I know all the members of P M A at Mine "B" were notified of the meeting and there were many persons in attendence at the meeting on the night of May 11, 1937. [redacted] a Board Member of P M A and two or three other members of P M A, the names of whom I do not know, advised those attending the meeting that John Ananias, Andrew Schrelovious, Tony Plotch, Emory Jacaway and Charles Bohannon were friendly with the management of Mine "B" and that they were spies for U M W; that they were attempting to overthrow the P M A at Mine "B" and replace P M A with U M W. A vote was taken to expell the above five named persons and almost all present voted to expell the five persons named above from P M A. The five above named persons were present and did not say anything in their defense.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I reported for work as always and before I entered the mine I was told there was going to be a strike. I did not know why there was a strike and I did not ask why there was a strike. I returned home from the Mine immediately and did not wait to talk to any of the employees about the strike.

"I signed the P M A petition of May 26, 1937. I was told that the petition was for the purpose of getting an increase in the wage scale. I signed the petition voluntarily in the headquarters of P M A. I do not know how other signatures were obtained on the petition.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I did not sign a U M W petition or any other petition in the Summer of 1937.

"I do not know of the formation of a new U M W local 7469 July 29, 1937.

"I attended some P M A meetings in the Summer of 1937, but I do not remember what took place. I was not threatened at these meetings. So far as I know there was no violence in the summer of 1937.

"Sometime in September, 1937 I was informed that P M A had a picket line at Mine "B". I went to Mine "B" as a picket about four days after the picketing started, as I thought I would enjoy acting as a picket. I wanted to act as a picket and no one threatened me if I did not act as a picket. There was no force or violence when I was a picket. I became sick after about a month and a half of picketing and return home. While at home I heard an injunction had been obtained to prevent picketing of Mine "B". I am unable to make a statement as to the attitude members of P M A took toward the injunction as I took no interest in it. No pickets were brought in, all pickets were local.

"I did not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" Dec. 13, 1937.

"I voted at the N L R B election Dec. 15, 1937 for P M A. The election was fair and no threats were made to anyone. So far as I know the miners of Mine "B" went to vote voluntarily and no one was carried to vote by P M A.

"I did not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" on Jan. 4, 1938.

"I was employed by the [redacted] Coal Mine in the first part of 1938 as a miner and I did not take any interest in Mine "B" after I was employed at the [redacted] Mine, therefore, I am unable to furnish any information subsequent to the first part of 1938 concerning Mine "B".

"I received notice to report for work at Mine "B" in Nov. 1939, but I did not report for work as I was employed, nor did I take any interest in the opening of the mine.

"I have had the preceeding five pages read to me and the statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed: -
[redacted] - Special Agent - F. B. I.

[redacted] Special Agent, F. B. I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This man neither reads nor writes English, and cannot sign his name. He professes to remember little or nothing of events in the past years. He expresses himself poorly and should not be considered as a witness. The following statement was secured; read to him; and acknowledged by his mark:

August 28, 1943
Springfield, Ill

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I am not a citizen of the U.S. and presently reside at [redacted] I can not read nor write English. I joined the U.M.W. a long time ago & I cannot remember the exact year. I have worked at Mine B for about 4 years and am now employed at Mine A. I was working at Mine B in 1937 when they had a strike, but I don't know why the mine was shut down. I have never held any office in any union and have never been interested in any of their activities. I cannot read nor write my own name and do not recall ever signing any petitions. I have no information about any union activities at the mine.

His (X) mark.

Above read to him and admitted true.

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"Witnessed:

[redacted]) Special Agents, F.B.I.
U. S. Dept. of Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 26, 1943 at his home at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, telephone [redacted] He advised that his correct name was [redacted] but that he always signed his name as [redacted] His Social Security Card, Number [redacted] carried his name as [redacted] which is incorrect. He has also been known as [redacted] which is also incorrect.

He was born in [redacted] and is presently [redacted] in Springfield. He entered this country in [redacted] and became a citizen in Federal Court, Springfield, on [redacted] Petition Number [redacted] Certificate Number [redacted] He was arrested in Springfield in [redacted] under the name of [redacted] for illegal possession of liquor, and paid $100 fine.

He is very cooperative, is willing to testify, and will make a good witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no force or duress used, and with no promises made me.

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and am employed at [redacted] I was born in [redacted] came to the United States in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen in [redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers at [redacted] in June of [redacted] The Mine there was a closed shop, and had to join if I wanted to work. I came to Springfield in [redacted] and got a job in the Mines here. I was still a member of the United Mine Workers. Except for a short visit back to [redacted] I worked in coal mines around Springfield from [redacted] having returned to [redacted] in [redacted] From [redacted] when the Mines closed down, until [redacted] I didn't work in the Mines, except one winter in a small country Mine, but just did odd jobs. In [redacted] I became employed at Mine B, and joined the P M A. I had not paid any dues to the United Mine Workers since [redacted] as I had not been working in Mines. The Progressive Mine Worker of America had a closed shop agreement with the Mine, and I had to join the P M A to work in the Mine B. No one tried to

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] get me to join the P M A, and I did it
(continued) on my own accord so I could work there.

"When the P M A was organized, I wasn't working in the Mines, so didn't take any part in the organization. I sympathized with the P M A, because I think Lewis gave them a raw deal. A new contract was to be made, and Lewis wanted the men to have a lower wage. The miners had a referendum, and rejected the lower wage scale, but even so, Lewis went ahead and signed the contract. I sympathized with the men organizing the P M A because of this action by Lewis, and the miners got a raw deal.

"I joined the P M A in April of [redacted], and became a member of Local 54, I think that was the number. A month or two after I joined, there was a meeting for election of local Aficers, which I attended. In May of 1937 there was some trouble at the Mine, but there was no trouble between the time I began working and that time. The Mine was not closed down at any time, either by a strike or by the Management.

"In May of 1937, when I went on strike with the others, the reason given me for the strike was the fact that there was no contract with the P M A and the Mine, and the men didn't want to work without a contract. The contract had expired on April 1, and no new one had been signed. On that morning, before any men went down into the mine, groups were talking and saying that they didn't want to go down in the mine without a contract. Some of the men went down into the Mine, about half of them, I think, but the rest, including myself, just hung around for a while and then came home.

"I never went back to the Mine again, and I left my tools and everything there. A few days later I heard a story that the United Mine Workers were paying some men to try to organize a U M W local in the Mine, and that was a reason for the strike. I didn't know anything about these men at the time. I went out on strike. I went out because I didn't want to work without a contract. I knew that there was a temporary agreement between the Mine and the P M A.

"I was not dissatisfied with the P M A, nor were the majority of the men. I know that the United could not get any better contract than the P M A, and was satisfied with the P M A. I was not a strong union man, and didn't have any preference between the United and the Progressive. Some time later an election was held, in the winter time. It was held in the state arsenal, and although I was working at [redacted] at the time, I went to the election. I voted for the P M A because the biggest majority of the men were for the Progressive. I knew this because of conversation in the various groups, and the feeling of the men was for Progressive. When I had been working at the Mine the biggest feeling was for the Progressive.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Before the strike I had heard nothing of any United Men working at the Mine, although some men working may have belonged to both unions. As I said before, the feeling of the men was in favor of the Progressive. In the year that I worked at the mine, I went to only one Progressive meeting, because I wasn't interested in Union meetings, and not because I might have been interested in United. I just wasn't interested enough in either one. When a meeting was to be held, a notice would be placed on the bulletin board at the Mine. These union meetings were generally held about twice a month. I can't remember now whether or not a notice of a meeting to be held the nite before the strike was posted or not. Anyway, I can say that I didn't know anything about such a meeting.

"I don't remember ever signing any petition to the mine saying that the majority of the men were in favor of P M A, although I might have signed one. I know that if a petition such as that was made up, I would have signed it, because, as I said, I later voted for P M A in the election. However, as I said, I can't remember whether I signed one or not. I don't remember whether anyone from the United Mine Workers ever came to me and asked me to sign a petition, but I know that if someone had I would not have signed it because I believed the majority of the men were in favor of the Progressive, and I was willing to go with the majority. After leaving the mine, except for the time I voted, I don't remember any petitions of any kind being given me to sign, and I can't remember any conversation about any petitions that I might have had, or heard about.

"After I went on strike I heard that the United was trying to organize a local, but no one ever came to me and asked me to join the United, and, even if they had, I know I wouldn't have joined, for the reasons given above. After the strike, I heard that United had set up a local, but I don't know of any meetings that either the United or the Progressive may have had.

"I heard that there was trouble among the miners when the mine was reopened, or attempts made to reopen, but I was not there, so know nothing about it. No one ever asked me to go out to the mine to help, and I never went out. I heard that the sheriff was called at one time, but know nothing further about that. I heard that United was trying to get men from other Mines and put them to work at Mine B, but I don't remember where I heard it, or anything else about it. I did hear that the P M A got men from other Mines around Springfield to help picket, but I don't know whether the story was true or not.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I did hear something about the injunction placed by the federal court, but as I was no longer interested in the Mine, and didn't ever see any of the men, I knew nothing about it.

"I don't know any reason why so few men showed up for work when they tried to open the mine, except I knew that most of the men were still in favor of the Progressives. I heard at the time, but don't know where or how I heard it, other than that I heard it from members of the P M A that a reason the P M A men didn't show up at the reopening of the mine was because they felt the Management of the Mine was trying to get the United local in the Mine and keep the Progressive out. I don't know anything more about this, as I wasn't working there, but I know that some of the men felt there might be a deal between the Management and the United. I don't know what the reason for their thinking was, nor do I ever recall hearing what the deal might have been.

" I got a letter from the Mine company telling me that the Mine was going to open again, and saying that the same job was open to every man who had worked there at the time of the strike. I don't remember when I got the letter, and I don't remember whether I got more than one.

"After I left the Mine, I lost just about all contact with the Union and the Mine and the Men. Aside from that first election at which I voted, I had nothing more to do with it. A couple of years after I left the mine, a miner whose name I can't remember, but who I know was a Progressive, told me that there was going to be another election, and asked me if I wanted to come and vote. I told him I wasn't in the union any longer, and couldn't vote because I had dropped my membership.

"Before the election of which I voted, I heard that both the United and Progressives were active in trying to get votes. No one came to see me and told me to come down and vote. I saw in the papers that an election was to be held and went down of my own accord. I never heard of any strong-armed methods being used by either unions and do know that no one approached me in regard to it. As far as I know it was an honest election, because it was run by the labor board.

"I have had the foregoing read to me consisting of approximately eight pages, and state that everything I said herein is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection."

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:
[redacted], Special Agent, FBI, Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, F. B. I. Springfield, Ill.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 28, 1943, by agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was in an intoxicated condition, and was apparently very frightened. He repeated several times that if his name appeared in the paper, he would be killed. He refuses to testify, and refused to sign a statement. He would not make a satisfactory witness. He advised he was arrested in Springfield, date not known, for a traffic violation.

The following statement was taken from [redacted]

"Auburn, Ill.
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I give this information freely, and no promises have been made to me, and no threats have been used.

"I live at [redacted] Ill., and am employed at the Mine B Coal Company. I was born in [redacted] I came to this country in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted]

"I don't want to say anything about the conditions at Mine B, because I'm afraid for my life if anyone knows that I said anything. If the United men knew that I said anything about it, I'd not only lose my job, but would get shot. I will say that I was forced to join the United Mine Workers, when I would much rather have stayed with the Progressive union. I was forced to join the United. men, whose names I won't tell, came to me and told me that if I didn't join United I would be shot, or beat up.

"I was satisfied in with the Progressive union and wanted to stay Progressive. In union meetings, if I wanted to, I could get up and say whatever I wanted to, and in the United meetings, if I tried to get up to say anything, I wouldn't be allowed to talk. I'm afraid to say anything, because there are men around the mine with guns all the time, and I'l not only lose my job, but I'l get shot.

"I have read the above, consisting of approximately one and one quarter pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge. I do not want to sign it, however, because I'm afraid of what might happen to me if anyone should know about it.

"The above statement was read by [redacted] and acknowledged

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

to be true in all respects by him.

[redacted]
Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Illinois, [redacted] was jointly interviewed at his residence on August 29, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He resents the tactics of the UMW, but had little specific information other than hearsay. He executed the following written statement.

[redacted] Illinois
August 29, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] Illinois and first joined a mine union about [redacted] which I believe later became the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I worked at the [redacted] Coal Company [redacted] Illinois. Fro[redacted] I worked at different mines near [redacted] Illinois including the [redacted] Mine, and the [redacted] Mines, the latter being near [redacted], Ill.

"At the [redacted] mines I worked as a member of the UMW. In about [redacted] I started working at Mine 'B' under the UMW. I left mine 'B' in May, 1937 and I never made any attempt to return to that mine to work, inasmuch as I got a job working at the [redacted] Mine, [redacted] Ill. in August or September, 1937.

"In 1932 I started working under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA. At this time I was working at Mine 'B' and I was a member of Local #54 of PMA.

[redacted]have never held an office in any union. I am now working at the [redacted] Mine as a member o. the PMA. I never want to return to the U[redacted] I played no part in organizing PMA. My job at Mine 'B' was driv[redacted] mules.

"I was always perfectly satisifed with the way PMA was being run, and I feel that the troubles and the strikes at Mine B was caused by a froup of miners who were trying to get the men to change to UMW, before May, 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I never attended but two PMA union meetings in the eleven years I have been a member of that union.

"I do not know enough about the twelve men who were supposed to be trying to get PMA men to go UMW to say that some of these men should have been thrown out of PMA, but I think that they should have been ejected if it was shown that they were doing this, because PMA had a closed shop agreement with Elshoff and I think Elshoff should have discharged these men if asked to do so by PMA.

"I do not remember anything about the wage scale question in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not know anything about the meeting of the PMA on May 11, 1943. I left work on May 12, 1937 and never returned. I figured I would rather work nearer [redacted] Ill.

"I may have signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937. I don't remember anything about it.

"I have not liked the UMW ever since the time in 1932 John L. Lewis claimed the ballots were stolen after a vote was taken on the question of reduction of wages.

"I have read this statement consisting on one and one half pages and have initialed the first page and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witness:
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his [redacted] residence, [redacted] Illinois, on August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] appeared to be cooperative and answered the questions propounded to him without hesitation. It is believed that he would make a good witness to testify to the facts as set forth in the following signed statement:

[redacted] Illinois
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] Illinois and still reside in [redacted] Illinois on [redacted] which is not numbered.

"I first joined the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW at [redacted] Illinois in [redacted] At that time I was employed in the [redacted] Coal Co. mine at [redacted] Illinois, and continued to work at that mine and mines around [redacted] At this time I went to work at [redacted] Illinois for the [redacted] Coal Co. working under UMW contract.

"In December, 1933 I first worked at Mine "B" as a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. This union will be referred to hereinafter as PMA. The last day I worked in Mine "B" was about May 12, 1937 the day the mine shutdown due to the strike. I was unemployed from May, 1937 until November, 1937 at which time I went to work at the [redacted] Coal Co. at [redacted] Illinois. At this mine I worked under a PMA contract.

"I have never held an office in any union and I was not working at Mine "B" when it started working under a PMA contract.

"I never attended any PMA union meetings, and I was always satisfied with the manner in which the PMA had been operated.

"My job at Mine B was digging coal. Relative to the relations at this mine they were always good between PMA officials and PMA rank and file.

"I know practically nothing about the twelve miners who were alledged to be sympathetic to UMW, and who may have been members of UMW while they were working at mine "B" as PMA members prior to May, 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I was not in this vicinity on September 27, 1937 when the mine attempted to re-open after it had closed-down in May, 1937. I was visiting in [redacted] at this time. Later I went out to Mine "B" on several occasions in September, 1937 and helped picket for the PMA on the mine premises. I was unemployed at this time. I returned to Mine "B" property again about November, 1939 when I got a form letter from Elshoff stating that the mine was to re-open and I had to report to work by a certain date if I wanted my job back. I reported, but never went back to work there and have no additional information concerning this matter.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witness:

"[redacted] (signed)
[redacted], Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by [redacted] Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Illinois, on September 2, 1943. He appeared willing to answer questions put to him and furnished the following signed statement:

[redacted], Illinois
September 2, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Illinois, [redacted] I am not now employed. I was born at [redacted] Illinois on [redacted] I first joined a mine union about [redacted] Ill. which was working under the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I worked in the local mines as a member of UMW and started working in Mine B about [redacted] as a member of the UMW. I worked there continuously until May, 1937, at which time the mine closed due to the strike, and I never went back to work in this mine. I never tried to work there after the mine re-opened. I remained a member of the UMW until September, 1932 when the PMA, meaning the Progressive Mine Workers of America, was organized. I worked in Mine B as a PMA member from September, 1932 to May 12, 1937, the day the mine closed. I have never held an office in a union.

"I voluntarily joined the PMA in September 1932 when the UMW announced that the ballot box had been stolen, in connection with the vote on the wage scale. I felt that the PMA was a good union and I still think it is a better union than the UMW. I wanted to get away from John L. Lewis as I never liked his methods of operation.

"From May to December, 1937 I worked off an on at the PMA picket line to protect my job. I did not picket after the issuance of the Federal Injunction of December 9, 1937. I do not recall the facts of the wage scale controversy.

"I heard that prior to may, 1937 a number of UMW organizers were working in the mine secretly to get the men to join UMW, but they never contacted me, and I never heard them talk to other miners. I never saw them beat anyone.

"I think Elshoff and Falcotti favored the UMW, but I don't know why they preferred them. I attended very few union meetings and did not keep up with union affairs. I voluntarily signed the PMA petition dated

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member. I never worked in Mine B after May 12, 1937 when Elshoff shut it down. I do not know why it was closed down. I feel that Elshoff shut the mine down so he could later sign up with UMW, but I have no facts to substantiate this statement.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the one and a half pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Illinois on September 2, 1943. He had no recollection of pertinent date, and appearing to be mentally slow, would not make a competent witness.

[redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

[redacted], Illinois
September 2, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"[redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in September, [redacted] I presently live on [redacted] Illinois.

"I first joined a mine union in the United States in [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois. This union was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW.

"I worked at several other mines under the UMW and then started working at Mine "B" about 1923 under the UMW.

"The only office I ever held with a mine union was being a member of the Pit Committee at the Panther Creek Mine #2, at Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] This was under UMW.

"I very seldom attended union meetings either under the UMW or the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA, except as a member of the Pit committee above mentioned.

"I took no active part in organizing the PMA at Mine "B".

"I was last worked at Mine "B" on May 12, 1937 though I helped the mine a couple of days.

"I do not know anything about the relations between Elshoff and Local 54, PMA., from September, 1932 to April, 1937 when the miners struck.

"As far as I can remember the PMA members got along well with their officials in that union. I liked the PMA and would rather work under that union than work under the UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I presently am employed at the [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois as [redacted]

"I heard that the following men were trying to organize PMA members to join the UMW:

JOE ALBANESE	JOHN (COTTON) ANANIAS
ANDREW SCHMELEVIOUS	JOHN SIRTOUT
DOMINIC PASQUALE	GEORGE JACKWAY
PETE CARTER	EMORY JACKWAY
FRANK AUSTIN	CHARLES BOHANNON
TONY PLOTCH	JAMES HALE

"I do not recall overhearing any conversation between one of the men and a miner in which conversation the miner was asked to join UMW or threatened if he did not. I was never personally approached and asked to join UMW.

"I do not remember the facts and details concerning the wage scale controversy.

"I can not recall the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 when the miners were ejected from the PMA.

"I remember that on the morning before the strike started some of the miners short loaded their coal cars and I did the same, merely because others were doing it. No one instructed me to short-load and I do not know why it was done.

"I do not remember signing any petitions either for PMA or UMW.

"I never went back to Mine "B" after May 13, 1937 with the intention of returning to work.

"In 1938 I got a job [redacted]

"I have carefully read and fully understand this statement consisting of two and one half pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated he was not in a position to give any information relative to instant case. [redacted] was very vague as to any incidents that took place at Mine B and it is believed he would not make a favorable witness.

[redacted] executed the following signed statement at the time of this interview:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me in order to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and presently reside at [redacted] I am presently employed by Mine A as an engineer. I first joined a miners union in about [redacted] when I was living in [redacted] Illinois. This was the U. M. W. union. Since [redacted] I have been a miner off and on in the vicinity of Springfield.

"I started back at mine B in the fall of 1936 and worked there until about the first of April, 1937. From Mine B I went to work as [redacted] and then worked at the [redacted] Coal Co. until some time in 1939 when I went back to Mine B. All the time I was employed at Mine B I was stationed in the retail yard loading coal trucks. I never paid any attention to union affairs and cannot give any information as to what caused the strike at Mine B in 1937. My job kept me out of the mine itself and as a result I hardly ever saw any of the mine.

"I first joined the P. M. A. in about [redacted] and only attended one or two meetings during the entire time I was so employed. I am now a member of the U. M. W. local at Mine A and have never attended any of their meetings. I have never formed an opinion as to what caused the strike in Mine B & have not been interested enough to even try to find out what caused it. I have no information relative to any union activities prior to the strike in 1937 and have no information relative to any happenings at the mine after that date.

I have absolutely no information whatsoever relative to any incidents on union activities. I have never signed any petitions to the best

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

of my memory. I have read over this statement & it is true to the best of my belief. I have initialed the first page and hereby sign this page."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

[redacted]) Special Agents, F. B. I.
[redacted]) U. S. Dept. of Justice"

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] telephone [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] who speaks in broken English, told his story in a convincing manner and it is believed he would make a good witness to testify as to the facts set forth in the following signed statement which he executed at the time of this interview.

Original signed

"August 28, 1943
Springfield, Illi

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and have been a citizen of the U. S. since about [redacted] I am presently residing at [redacted] Springfield. I have been a miner practically all my life and joined the U.M.W. in Oklahoma in about 1921. I have never held an office in any union. I started working for mine B in about [redacted] and prior to that time I had been working at the [redacted] Mines as a member of the U.M.W. When the Progressive union was formed at Mine B the [redacted] mine went on strike and the men began picketing at [redacted]. Many of the men joined the progressive union and I joined with them and went on the picket line. We felt that the Progressive union was the better union and wanted to get rid of John L. Lewis. There had been an election which we lost and the men were not satisfied with U.M.W.

"In my opinion everything was going along all right until some time in 1936 when the management began favoring the U.M.W. It was about that time that some of the men began talking to the men and telling them to switch over to the U.M.W. I was never approached by any of these men and do not know the names of any men approached but I know all the men were talking about it. Some of the men who were trying to organize for U.M.W. were Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, George Jocaway, and Bowling Green. I never saw any literature distributed by these men and do not know anything about their actions.

"In the spring of 1937 there was a dispute about wages involving back pay which we were supposed to get. I attended a majority of the PMA meetings and we were always told by my union that our union could get as much for us as the U.M.W. Those men that I mentioned above were telling the men that the U.M.W. was getting more money for their men and

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

and one time Frank Austin told us we were getting less money than the U.M.W. He did not ask us to join the U.M.W. though.

"I did not attend any union meeting the night some of the men were ordered expelled from the union. I had heard there was supposed to be a special meeting of our union the day before the actual strike, but did not know what the meeting was about until the next day when the strike was called.

"Before we started work on the morning of May 12, 1937, our pit committemen told one of the Falcetti brothers that some of our men had been expelled from the union for being active for the U.M.W. and that those men should not be allowed to work for us. Our committemen reported to us that the company men said they couldn't stop the men from working because that would be a violation of the Wagner Act. Our men were opposed to working with the same men as I previously mentioned, that is, Albanese, Carter and the others. To the best of my memory there wasn't any argument about wages that morning. Most of our men knew that those men mentioned had been kicked out of our union.

"Our men went down into the mines and most of the men loaded the cars short. We decided to do that after talking over the situation below and all of our men were sore because the men we were complaining about were supposed to work with us. We loaded cars short most of the day and when we came out of the mine at 3:30 we were told that the union was going to hold a special meeting outside, next to the pit in Mine B. I do remember that the president of our local had charge of the meeting & he told us were going to strike and for us not to come to work the next day. I remember that shortly after the strike there was a union meeting at our hall and I signed a petition for the P.M.A. at the hall.

"Whenever our men heard that the company was going to open the mine we would go out to the mines and picket. I remember that at one time I stayed at Mine B on picket duty for about two weeks. I went to work for Mine A in about September or October of 1937 so I do not know much about what happened at Mine B after the strike.

"During the time I was at Mine B I never received any threats from anyone. I voted in the NLRB election during December of 1937 and remember that we all met at the PMA hall and marched to the Armory in a body to cast our vote. I didn't hear anything about any threats or fighting that went on at that time. At the time of this election I was working at Mine A so I cannot state as to what took place at that time. I am willing to testify in court to any of the above facts. I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

have read this entire statement of five pages, have initialed the first four & hereby sign this page. This statement is true to the best of my memory.

(Signed) [redacted]

Witnesses

[redacted]) Special Agents, F.B.I.
[redacted]) U.S. Dept. of Justice

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This person expresses himself with difficulty, and would not make a desirable witness.

Following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943.

"I, [redacted] residing at [redacted], make the following signed statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves as Special Agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] came to the United States in [redacted] and became a citizen in [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] I have never held an office in any union.

"I started working at Mine B in [redacted] and joined the Progressive in 1932 when all the other miners did. All of the men wanted to join Progressive at that time. From 1932 to 1937 everything was all right. The men all seemed satisfied with the PMA.

"In the spring of 1937 some of the men started talking about joining UMW. There were three or four of these and I remember that Andy PASQUAL and Dominic Pasquale were supposed to be for U.M.W. They did not talk to me, however.

"I do not remember anything about a new contract in the spring of 1937. I did not hear any talk about anything of this sort.

"On the day of the strike I was working as a digger in [redacted] at Mine B. I guess I loaded two or three cars that day, then the driver came and said "Everybody out". I didn't know what the trouble was. I guess I load one or two cars short that day - I don't know why, somebody said load short. I didn't hear anything about a wage argument that day or about anyone being kicked out of the union.

"When I got to the top of the mine somebody said "Strike". I guess it was because Andy and Dominic were working for United.

"I forget now whether I signed any petition or not. I was not on any picket line, I worked on WPA that summer, I know other fellows were on a picket line but I didn't go, I was too busy.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I didn't go back to the mine until it opened up and then I didn't go to work until December, 1939. Falcetti had sent me a note telling me to come to work. I still stayed on the PMA until about the Spring of 1940. I then decided I had better join UMW because I was an old man and didn't want to lose my job. Nobody told me I would lose my job, but I knew. No one ever bothered me. I do not remember anything about an election, held by the NLRB. I don't remember when I joined the UMW. I never paid much attention to union activities and never went to many meetings. I still don't know what caused the strike in 1937, somebody just called it. It makes no difference to me which union I belong to, it is just the same, conditions are the same with both. Nobody ever made me join any union or threatened me in anyway.

"The above statement was read to me and I declare it to be true to the best of my memory.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI, U.S. Dept. of Justice.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] and indicated his willingness to testify to those matters set forth in the following statement which he executed.

"August 27, 1943
Springfield, Illinois

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and started working in the coal mines [redacted] when I was about 15 years old and worked at that trade until the strike in 1937. I first joined a union in [redacted] when I joined the U.M.W. and was a member of that union until 1932 when the PMA was formed. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and worked there until the strike in 1937.

"When the Progressive union was formed in 1932, I took no part in it and in fact didn't vote for any union. I always felt that when the new union was formed, it was formed just to make new jobs for men. I don't know how the company men felt about either the UMW or Progressive. The management never said anything to me to induce me to belong to any union. Conditions seemed to be the same under the Progressives as under the U.M.W. They weren't any better and they weren't any worse. I never paid much attention to union activities and in fact hardly ever attended any meetings. I have heard rumors about some Progressive men being spies for the U.M.W. but do not know anything about these men. I know Carter, Austin, George Jacaway and Emory Jacaway were supposed to be spies but I do not know anything about their activities. I do not know anything about events leading up to the strike in 1937 and had no idea why a strike was called. We were told the strike was called due to the fact an agreement couldn't be reached between the union and company about wages.

"I was down in the pit when the men started loading the cars short. Some of the men started saying that we should send the cars to the top partially filled as soon as we started working the morning of May 12, 1937. I know that I loaded some cars short because when I saw the other men doing it I thought I had better do the same. As I recall, I was of the opinion this was being done because the company wouldn't agree to a wage settlement.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I remember signing a petition to go back to work for the Progressive union, but don't remember whether it was at the house or the union hall. I remember that after the strike two men came to my house and asked me to sign some petition or some other paper for the U.M.W. but I refused as I was satisfied with the Progressives. They didn't threaten me and left the house when I said I wouldn't sign. I remember receiving some notice through the mail to come back to work from the company. I didn't go back to work or even try to go back though in view of the fact [redacted] I probably would have gone back to work. [redacted].

"In view of the fact [redacted] in 1937 I attended very few union meetings and so I cannot state as to any union activities or plans. I merely went back and forth to work and followed whatever orders the union gave to the membership. In the period between [redacted] I was a Pit Committeeman for the U.M.W., but other than that I took no interest in union activities.

"I have read over this statement of four pages, initialed the first three pages and hereby sign this page to show that I have read over the entire statement and it is true to the best of my memory. I wish to state that I would be willing to testify in court as to the above facts.

(s) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted], Special Agents, FBI, U.S. Department of Justice.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] telephone [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted]

[redacted] presented a nice appearance and told his story in a calm and collected manner. He talks in a fairly convincing manner and it is believed he would be a good witness to testify to those facts within his knowledge.

[redacted] executed the following signed statement. It is noted that this individual might be a reluctant witness in open court.

"Springfield, Illinois
August 27, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and presently reside at [redacted] I started working at Mine B before the last war and have worked there ever since with the exception of the time I was in the first war. I have never held any office in the union but was a member of the U.M.W. In 1932 there was a dispute that arose between the union and the company as to the amount of wages. Due to that fact the men in Mine B broke away and formed the P.M.A. Everything seemed to go along fine from 1932 until the time of the strike in 1937.

"Sometime about the first of May, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, Andy Shrevilians, Pasquale, Austin and several others, began agitating amongst the men; they were calling the men "scabs" & trying to start agitation for the men to join the U.M.W. The territory I was in at the mine had a nice gang of men in that section and we never had any trouble in our section. I know that Bohannon, Plotch and Austin seemed to have a lot of money and were driving new cars around about that time. I was never approached by any of these men however. I didn't hear of any meeting to be held on the night of May 11, 1937 and do not know what action the union took with regard to these men. On the morning of the 12th I heard that Bowling Green, Andy and Pasquale had been expelled by the union. These men were supposed to be drivers, but they spent most of their time on the surface trying to talk the men into joining the U.M.W. I believe it was common knowledge amongst the men that these men had been fired.

"I remember that shortly after the strike, some officers from

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

Progressive came to the house & asked me to sign their petition; which petition I signed. I was not approached by anyone from the U.M.W. to sign any of their petitions.

"I do not know anything that happened at the mine at the time attempts were made to open the mine. I stayed away from the mine during the period the mine was shut down. As far as I was concerned the first NLRB election held in December of 1937 was regular in every respect. There was no attempt on the part of the management or the unions to sway the men in their voting. The Progressives won this election. In November of 1939 I went back to work at the mines and the same men were again agitating. A man by the name of [redacted] was very active at this time in trying to organize the men for U.M.W. [redacted] and a man by the name of [redacted] were also active at this time in trying to organize the men for U.M.W. I didn't want to sign with the U.M.W. because I had been with the Progressive a long time and had a death claim with them for my father. [redacted] the others started fights with the Progressives and didn't seem to be doing any work. In my opinion these men were encouraged by Falcetti and the company and no attempt was made by the company to stop the men from organizing.

"After three or four months of this agitation, most of the men seemed to be swinging over to the U.M.W. In Feb. of '41, when the election was held I heard many rumors to the effect that the U.M.W. men were buying liquor for the men and getting them drunk prior to the time they voted. All the time we had been working under an open shop Jimmy Hale and others were bragging about how much liquor they could get with the U.M.W. In Feb. of '41 I was not approached by either side in an attempt to influence my vote.

"I never heard of any fine that was supposed to have taken place during the time the mine was shut down between 1937 and 1939. I know that in my section of the mine, which is on the west side, there wasn't any damage to speak of. I do know that there was supposed to have been some damage done on the north side of the mine. The north side was the side occupied principally by the U.M.W. Agitators.

"I have not been to a union meeting of the U.M.W. for over a year. I know that some of the men became involved at the meetings in arguments and actual fights so I decided I would stay away from them. For this reason I would not care to testify against any of the U.M.W. men in open court -- I'd be afraid of them taking some drastic action against me -- in fact I would fear for my life. I would not hestitate to testify

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(concluded)

before a secret grand jury session as to the facts related above. I have read this statement over and it is true to the best of my memory.

Witnesses
[redacted]) Special Agents, F.B.I.
[redacted]) U.S. Dept. of Justice"

(Signed) [redacted]

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JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was [redacted] interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated he was presently employed in the City Health Department. [redacted] stated he was born in [redacted], and had lived in Illinois his whole life. He stated in an "off the record" comment that in his opinion there was some kind of "deal" made between Lewis and Elshoff, but could give no evidence to substantiate this opinion.

At the time of this interview, [redacted] spoke in a clean intelligent and collected manner, did not give the impression he was bitter or prejudiced against any side. It is believed he would make a good witness to testify as to the facts in his possession. [redacted] executed the following statement and stated he would be willing to testify as to those facts.

"Springfield, Illinois
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following signed voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] knowing them to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me and I make this statement freely for the purpose of setting forth what I know concerning certain difficulties at Mine B.

"I first joined the UMW in [redacted] which was the UMW local for Mine B. In 1932, due to trouble over wage increases in the mines, the UMW was kicked out and PMA was formed. At first I did not want to join PMA but I had to if I cared to work, so I joined. I was working at Mine B, having been there since 1924 and after PMA came in things went along very smoothly. Prior to joining PMA my name was posted and Dominic Pasqualo came to my house, urging me to join. I do not remember who was with him but Pasqualo told me "If you don't come in, you won't work."

"From 1932 to 1937 PMA was having no trouble. The members were well pleased and we were having no trouble with the officials. Attendance was good at every meeting and working conditions were excellent.

"Sometime about the latter part of April, 1937, Pete Carter and Frank Austin came to my house and asked me to join UMW. I did not want to and told them so, because I was well satisfied with PMA.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"About two weeks after this, and probably on May 11, 1937 a special meeting was called by PMA. As near as I can recall this meeting was announced by a notice on the bulletin board at the mine. I attended this meeting and Bill Schowe, the president read off charges that certain members of PMA were working against the union in that they were trying to get the men to join UMW. The men were named and I know that Pete Carter, Frank Austin and Dominic Pasquale were among them. These men were present and could have answered the charges, but as I recall, they left without saying anything. Other members testified that they had been approached by these men in an effort to get them to join UMW. A vote was taken and these men were expelled from PMA.

"The following day, which would be May 12, 1937 the men who were expelled came to go to work. Inasmuch as they no longer belonged to the union the men wouldn't work with them and wanted them discharged. The men were urged to go to work and finally went down in the pit, but as long as the expelled members weren't fired, the other men started to send up short loads of coal. Things got worse and finally the men went on a strike. I do not know for sure who called the strike, but it was because of the expelled members working and not because of any wage dispute.

"I signed a petition about May 26, 1937 which stated that the signers wanted PMA to represent them. I signed this at the Union Hall and as I recall, some members were approached at their home. However, whether to sign or not was up to each man and no one was made to sign or threatened in anyway. The purpose of the petition was to show the company that we wanted to go back under PMA.

"PMA did everything they could to open the mines. The state President Joe Cosanic, made several trips to Washington to get help.

"Sometime in September, 1937, Elshoff sent a notice through the mail that the mine would open. An attempt was made to open it under UMW but PMA men went in and took the mine over. We stayed in there fifty-seven days and were served with a Federal injunction making us get out. At this time we felt that this was not right, but there was nothing we could do about it.

"I voted in the NLRB election in December, 1937. I recall that this election was held in the Armory. No one told me how to vote, the election was orderly and there was no disturbance of any kind. After this, I did not go back to the mine and know nothing of any other occurrences there.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have read and have had the above statement read to me and declare it to be true and correct.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses
[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Illinois"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at the Fairgrounds. He is a naturalized [redacted] and although he experiences difficulty in expressing his ideas in English, he appeared to have a good knowledge of the situation at Mine "B" pertinent to this investigation. He stated to interviewing Agents [redacted] and [redacted] that he is presently doing defense work. He has no known criminal record.

The following signed statement was executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill
August 31, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made by them to get me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] I emigrated to United States in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen in [redacted]

"I began working in the mines shortly after I came to the U. S. and I joined the UMWA union at that time. I began working at Mine "B" about [redacted]

"In 1932 I joined P.M.W. because the majority of the men were joining that union. I continued to work at Mine "B" as a P.M.W. until 1937 when the strike occurred. During this time everything concerning working conditions and settling grievances was satisfactory to me. I had no difficulty with P.M.W.

"During the wage scale controversy in the spring of 1937 I saw several labor "spies" who were attempting to get the men to join U.M.W. These men were JOE ALBANESE, DOMINIC PASQUALE, CHAS. BOHANNON, FRANK AUSTIN, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEO. JACAMAY, ENOKY JACAMAY, TONY PLOTCH, PETER CARTER, JAMES HALE, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, JOHN ANANIAS.

"During the wage scale controversy [redacted] board member of P.M.W. told us we would continue to work on a similar scale until a contract was signed and then we would get a 10¢ raise.

"I don't recall attending a meeting the night before the strike.

"On the morning of the strike we were told that some of the spies had been expelled from the P.M.W. and that ELSHOFF had refused to "fire" them so we were told to load our cars short that day. I loaded some cars that had only 600, 900, and 1100 pounds in them. In the afternoon just before quitting

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (interviewed)

time we were told that the mine was on strike so we came to the surface. This was agreeable to me because I didn't want 3 or 4 spies spoiling our union.

"I don't recall signing any petition in the summer of 1937 but I do recall that two "guys" came to my house to get me to join U.M.W. I think they were the young JACAWAY boy and a fellow name[redacted] I told them I was satisfied with PMA and was not interested in joining U.M.W. They told me at that time that UMW was the strongest.

"I remember that [redacted] came to my house and told me the mine would reopen and I could go to work. I went out to the mine to go to work but we began to picket the mine instead. The picketing started because if we went in the cage to work we were told we would have to join U.M.W.A. I don't recall who told us that except that we were in a group and the word passed along through the group. I picketed along with the rest until we were served with an injunction which stopped us from picketing on the mine property. I did not see any fights or violence during the picketing.

"I voted in the NLRB election in Dec. 1937 and I think it was a fair election. I don't recall an attempt to open the mine right after the election.

"In November 1939, I received a letter saying I could go to work as the mine was going to open. P.M.W. decided we should go to work to hold our jobs because things were in a "mess" about the union.

"I continued to work at Mine "B" and did not see anyone beaten or forced to join UMW. I voted in the second election and I think this election was a fair one as far as being able to vote as I pleased and in a secret fashion. No threats or promises were made to get me to vote for either PMW or UMW.

"I quit work in April or May following this election and went to work for [redacted]

"I am not now a member of P.M.A. because I haven't kept my dues paid because I have not been working in the mines. I prefer P.M.A. to UMW and would want to rejoin P.M.A. if I went back to the mines to work.

"I have had the above statement of about 3½ pages read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I., Spfld., Ill.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, Telephone [redacted] residing at [redacted] Telephone [redacted] was interviewed at his residence on August 25, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is registered with Local Draft Board #3, Springfield, Illinois. He was born in [redacted] states he has no criminal record and indicates he will be a willing and cooperative witness. He speaks English without difficulty and appears of average intelligence.

Prj
not at 8 now

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 25, 1943

"I, [redacted], of [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Fed'l Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind knowing it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted]

"In [redacted] I first joined the UMW while working at [redacted] Mine [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. I was a member of UMW until 1932. In April of 1932 there was a strike and I did not work until December of 1933, at which time I went to work in Mine "B" at Springfield at which time I joined the PMA union. From December of 1933 until May of 1937, I worked in Mine "B" - and was a member of PMA during the entire time.

"During the time from 1933 until May of 1937 I noticed Elshoff was friendly with those UMW sympathizers working in Mine "B". These sympathizers were Charles Bohannon, Pete Carter and several others, about twelve in all, whose name I cannot remember. Elshoff and these men would have parties in the company office, but none of the fellows who belonged to PMA were at these parties. During this time the talk among the fellows working in the Mine "B" was that the UMW was furnishing the money to agitate for UMW in Mine "B". There was no strong arm tactic noticed by me - but there was a lot of propaganda favoring the UMW.

"During this period between 1933 and 1937 I can remember no strikes or close downs in Mine "B". But during this time Falcetti would tell us of how the [redacted] mine was better off because of the UMW which gave more favors to the company. I would say that Falcetti tried to influence us miners in Mine "B" to be sympathetic with the UMW. I was of the impression that Falcetti favored those some twelve UMW sympathizers by granting them favors in the mine, like giving them better mules, if the man was a driver,

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

or giving a miner a better room to work in. It seemed they could do most everything they wanted.

"During this period between 1933 and 1937 all of the fellows in the PMA seemed satisfied. I believed the PMA was doing good for us miners and at no time did I ever notice any attempts by the PMA to use strong arm tactics of any kind to keep the men in line. There seemed to be no friction between the PMA miners and the PMA officials. During this time I attended many UMA meetings and I noticed no unusual number of special assessments and we knew of no kickbacks to local PMA officials.

"Between 1933 and May 1937, the UMW never picketed Mine "B" to my knowledge, but I recall there were threats by UMW to picket, but I cannot recall who these fellows were. During this time I recall seeing pamphlets distributed at Mine "B" telling the fellows to join UMW.

"In early Spring of 1937 I recall no slow downs or work stoppages and I noticed no actual violence and no one came to me to talk me into going over to UMW, altho I recall some fellows were contacted by UMW sympathizers, but who was contacted - and who contacted them - I can't remember.

"I cannot recall being at a meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937, and I cannot say whether there was a meeting. On the morning of May 12, 1937, I went to work and noticed nothing unusual until I was notified by a driver that there would be no more work for the day. I cannot remember when I heard that some of the fellow had been expelled from the PMA.

"I cannot remember any coal cars being loaded short on May 12, 1937. I do not remember signing a PMA petition on May 26, 1937, but I may have signed it. It is just that I cannot remember. But I know I did not sign any UMW petition. But I cannot remember any 'wildcat' petition having been circulated during the summer of 1937.

"After the UMW local was formed in July 1937, I received by mail, some material urging me to join the UMW. But no one contacted me personally in that regard.

"After May 12, 1937, I never went back to Mine "B", but at the end of May in 1937 I was one of the PMA who picketed Mine "B" - but only a few UMW men showed up for work so they could not work the mine. Toward the end of the summer of 1937 about a dozen UMW workers tried to start the mine so our local #54 PMA had a sit down strike in the mines for about 56 days, lasting until a few days before Thanksgiving of 1937. I was on this sit down strike until early November, 1937, [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Only our own PMA local picketed and we never imported any picketers. No force or other means was used by the PMA officials to keep the PMA members in line. The reason we stopped the sit down strike was because the sheriff notified us there was an injunction against us.

"I remember there was an election that winter, of 1937, and the PMA won. No violence or threats were used or made by either the UMW or PMA. I do not remember any other attempts to have the mine reopened until 1939 when I received notice from the company that the mine was opening & I had so much time to come back to work. But I never went back to work for Mine "B".

"I have read this statement consisting of six pages, including this page, and believe it to be true and correct.

[redacted] (Signed)

"WITNESSES

[redacted] (Signed), Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] (Signed) Special Agent, FBI."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, his residence, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] immigrated to the United States in [redacted] He was naturalized in Springfield in [redacted] This witness has a fair knowledge of English and can make himself understood. [redacted] would not make a good witness [redacted] He can testify he was a member of P.M.A. on May 12, 1937 and that he did not wish to become a member of U.M.W. as he was satisfied with P.M.A. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] stopped working at Mine "B" about [redacted]

[redacted] furnished the following statement:-

"Springfield, Ill.,
August 25, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used against me in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] and emmigrated to the U. S. from [redacted] I was naturalized as a citizen of the U.S., Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] I am unemployed and [redacted]

"I was employed by some mine, the name of which I do not know, in [redacted] Ill., in July [redacted] at which time I became a member of the UMW. I was employed at this mine for about nine months.

"In [redacted] I started to work as a miner in a coal mine in Springfield, Ill. From [redacted] to the spring of 1932 I worked in many mines in and around Springfield, Ill., during which time I was a member of the UMW.

"In the spring of 1932 I was employed at the [redacted] Mine [redacted] Springfield, Ill. as a miner at which time I was a member of U.M.W. I stopped work in the spring of 1932 as the contract between [redacted] Mine [redacted] and U.M.W. ran out and I did not have a union contract to work under. The U.M.W. in the new contract drawn up in the fall of 1932 cut the wage scale.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

[redacted] I went to work at Mine "B", Springfield, Ill. as a miner, working as a member of PMA.

"I have never been an officer in any union.

"I am unable to furnish any information concerning the relationship between U.M.W. and Elshoff at Mine "B" prior to September 1932 as [redacted]

"I was very much in favor of the formation of PMA and attended many meetings when it was being organized as I wanted an honest union to be organized and I did not think the U.M.W. was honest.

"There seemed to have been good relations between Local 54 PMA and the officals of Mine "B" between December 1932 and the first of May 1937, there were no strikes at the mine nor did the management close the mine from December 1932 to May 12, 1937. Neither Elshoff or Falcetti made any statement against PMA nor did they show any hostile attitude toward PMA, between December 1932 and May 12, 1937. So far as I know the management of PMA was in favor of PMA between December 1932 and May 12, 1937.

"There was no sentiment among the members of PMA that PMA Local 54 was being operated as a racket. All the members seemed to like the way PMA was being operated and wanted to be members of PMA rather than members of any other union. The members seemed to be interested in the union PMA. There was not a very large attendance at the meetings of PMA and I did not attend very often as I was not able to go to the meeting after working all day.

"The members of PMA were not in smypthy with the trial of some of its members in the bombing cases. The members of PMA thought the defendants in the bombing cases were not getting a fair trial.

"There were no unusual assessments made by PMA during the time I was a member. So far as I know the officals of Local 54 PMA were honest and there was never any kick back to local officals of PMA.

"UMW did not set up a picket line at Mine "B" between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 nor did I ever see any literature being distributed in favor of U.M.W. during the above dates. I do not have any knowledge of any of the alleged UMW spies. I do not know of any relations between the management of Mine "B" and officals of UMW nor did I see the management of Mine "B" with any officals of UMW.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I do not know of any wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937. No mention was ever made to me by anyone concerning a wage issue. So far as I know there were no temporary slow-downs or stoppage of work in the Spring of 1937 prior to May 12, 1943.

"I did not attend the PMW meeting on the night May 11, 1937, but I was told there was to be a special meeting that night. All the miners were informed of the meeting by a man at the top of the mine immediately after they came out of the mine. I was not told the reason for the special meeting on the night of May 11, 1937.

"On May 12, 1937 I went to work as always, I loaded all the cars in my room, but no empty cars were brought to my room. I remain in my room until time to stop work. I was told by someone when I reached the top of the ground that PMA closed the mine because mine officials refused to discharge five men who had been expelled from the union because they were UMW spies. I do not know of any coal cars being loaded short May 12, 1943.

"I do not remember the PMW petition of May 26, 1937 and cannot say whether I signed the petition or not.

"I did not sign a UMW petition in the Summer of 1937 nor did I sign any other petition in the summer of 1937.

"I know nothing about the formation of new UMW local 7469 July 29, 1937, I was not asked to become a member of UMW in 1937 nor did anyone threaten me if I did not join the UMW in 1937.

"I did not get a notice from Mine "B" in Sept. 1937, that the mine was to open. I heard from an unknown source that PMW was to picket Mine "B" in Sept. 1937 on the day the mine was to open under UMW contract. On the day the mine, Mine "B", was to open in September 1937, I went to Mine "B" as a picket and remain a picket for 56 days. There was no violence used during the 56 days of picketing. The pickets remained on duty during the 56 day period, during which time the union, PMA, provided a place to stay and some of the food.

"A few days before Thanksgiving 1937 the Sheriff advised the pickets that an injunction had been obtained to prevent the picketing and for that reason PMA stopped the picketing of Mine "B". The members of PMA did not think the court should have issued the injunction.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"A few days after the injunction a few UMW members went to work at Mine "B". I do not know how notice was given that the mine was to have been opened at this time.

"A fair election was held in Springfield by NLRB in December 1937. To my knowledge PMA did not threaten any to vote for PMA. I was in favor of PMA and voted for PMA.

"I do not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" in January 1938.

"In 1938 there were some meetings of PMA members, but I did not attend. There was no violence to my knowledge between May 12, 1937 and Nov. 1939 when Mine "B" reopened.

"I understood that the wage scale at Mine "B" after it opened in Nov. 1939 was to be the same as it was on May 12, 1937.

"The members of PMA who returned to the mine thought they should have a contract with Mine "B", but the management of Mine "B" would not give them a contract.

"I returned to work at Mine "B", January 5, 1940. I could not return to work prior to that time because there were many cave-ins in the mine. I do not know of any fires in Mine "B" subsequent to Jan. 5, 1940.

"In the spring 1940 an agent of UMW talked to me in an attempt to get me to like him and be in favor of UMW. In the Summer of 1940 a driver in Mine "B" threatened to throw coal on me because I would not join UMW. In the fall of 1940 an employee of Mine "B" attempted to get me to sign a slip to join UMW so that everyone in the mine could get along together. I did not sign the slip. I never saw or heard anything which would indicate the management favored UMW. I saw several fights between members of PMA and UMW from Jan. 5, 1940 to Feb. 21, 1941.

"I was a member of PMA until about [redacted] and never signed a card to join U.M.W. up until that time.

[redacted] I was told by a boss, the name of whom I do not know, that if I did not join UMW I would loose my job. I know that UMW was going to win the election as representative of the employees as they had many agents and were getting friendly

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

with the employees and for that reason I joined UMW about [redacted]

"So far as I know the election Feb. 21, 1941 was honest as it was held by the N.L.R.B. I do not know of any force or threats being used to obtain votes f - U M.W. at the time of the election.

"I am at this time in sympthy with PMA and I am only a member of UMW because membership is necessary in order to work at Mine "B".

"I do not have any specific reason to believe the officials of UMW are dishonest.

"I have had read to me the nine pages of this statement which is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:-

[redacted], Special Agent-F.B.I.
Special Agent F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] was interviewed at his residence on August 26, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is [redacted] years of age, having been born in [redacted] He came to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a U. S. citizen in [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois. He advises he has no criminal record. He speaks and understands English with difficulty and has trouble remembering. It is felt he would make an unsatisfactory witness. [redacted] resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, has no telephone and is employed at Mine "A".

"Springfield, Ill.
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted] of [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Fed'l Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I am [redacted] years of age, born in [redacted]

"In [redacted] I started work in the mines in Illinois at which time I joined the United Mine Workers Union. I first started work in Mine "B" in Springfield, in the fall of about [redacted] or at least [redacted] years ago. Before 1932 I never had any trouble with Elshoff or Falcetti and I don't know of any one who had trouble with them. In 1932 the majority of the men working in mine "B" joined the Progressive Miners Union and so I joined PMA in 1932 but no force or threats or promises were made to me to join.

"Between 1932 and 1937 no one ever tried to get me to join the U M A, and the company never tried to get me to join the U M W.

"I don't remember going to a meeting of the P M A on May 11, 1937, and I don't remember when we went on strike in 1937 except that later that year we couldn't get to work unless we were U M W.

"But while we were on strike neither the U M W, the P M A or any one tried to get me to sign anything that I can remember.

"When we went out on strike, a P M A committeeman, whose name I cannot remember, told us this committee had a meeting with the company and the company said we could not work unless we joined U M W.

"In September of 1937 I went on a picket line, or sit down strike at Mine "B" for about 56 days. Only the P M A picketed and we didn't get in anyone else to help picket. Just before Thanksgiving 1937, a United States Marshall told us we would have to leave, so we left.

Re; JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I didn't go back to work until November of 1939 when I got my check number from Falcetti and my room was all right, so I went right to work. Some of the men could not go right to work because there had been "fall ins" and their rooms were not cleaned out. About 100 men went to work this first day and then about 25 more could go back each day as their rooms were cleaned out.

"I got a registered letter to come back to work in Nov. 1939, and all the men talked of going back to work in the open mine. But we all thought we were going back as P M A and that is what I thought.

"During this time I was laid off between 1937 and 1939 I had nothing to do with the mine. Some of the fellows were getting beat up by U M W men, but I don't remember who they were, and I didn't want to get beat up so I just stayed away.

"After several months after the mine re-opened in 1939, three U M W men came to me, but I don't remember their names, and told me if I didn't sign up with U M W I would be out of a job. These men said if I didn't sign for U M W by a certain day, I would be out of a job. So the day before this last day, I signed for U M W. The only reason I signed was because I didn't want to lose my job, and it didn't make any difference to me whether I was P M A or U M W just so the men were honest and I would join the majority.

"I cannot remember any elections or voting at any elections after went back to work in Mine "B" in 1939. After I signed for U M W I never signed anything for P M A. However in about 1937 I remember voting in an election where P M A got about 300 votes and U M W got about 28 votes.

"Since I've joined U M W I have had no trouble with anyone. I worked in Mine "B" from 1939 until [redacted] when I went to work in Mine "A". At this time [redacted] Falcetti gave me a slip to get a job in Mine "A". He said I had been a good worker and could earn more money in Mine "A".

"After I went back to work in 1939 at Mine "B" U M W organizers would come to Mine "B" and tried to get us to join U M W. No one tried to beat me up but one U M W fellow who said he had come from Kansas & Kentucky tried to talk me into joining U M W. Another U M W fellow tried to talk me into joining U M W and he was a Frenchman. But I cannot remember any of their names.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"This statement of five pages has been read to me by Special Agent [redacted] and I believe it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed: -

[redacted] Special Agent, F. B. I.

[redacted] Special Agent, F. B. I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] presents a good appearance; is a fairly convincing talker and seemed to be sincere in his statements. It is believed that [redacted] would be a good witness to testify to those facts set forth in the following signed statement. It is being noted that [redacted] expressed a great reluctance to testify in open court stating that in his opinion if he testified in court he would have a hard time holding a job in this community. Following is his signed statement:

"August 28, 1943
Springfield, Ill

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted], both of whom have identified themselves to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and have been a miner practically all my life. I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] and presently employed at the [redacted] mine. I started working for Mine B in [redacted] and at that time was a member of the P.M.A. I quit working at Mine B on May 12, [redacted] and at that time [redacted]

"Between 1933 and 1937 the PMA seemed to be getting along fine with the company men. I used to go to a majority of the meetings but do not know the various decisions made by the local union officials.

"I had heard runers in the spring of 1937 that some of our men in the Progressives were actually working for the U.M.W. Some of the men who were supposed to be spies were FRANK AUSTIN and CHAS. BOHANNON. I don't know if there was any dispute going on at that time with respect to wages. It is my impression that the strike on May 12, 1937 was due to the fact the men didn't want to work with those men. At that time I was working as a driver in [redacted] & know that shortly after the men started working they started loading the cars short. I asked the men why they were doing that, but they wouldn't give me any reason.

"A few weeks after the mine was shut down I went out to the mines with some other men and at that time I signed a petition for the P.M.A. I was out on the picket line with the other men when we were served with an injunction to get off the property. The men felt that there was a conspiracy between ELSHOFF & the U.M.W. men to stop us from w rking.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"The men felt that ELSHOFF was showing favoritism for those men who were in favor of U.M.W. I heard that the company was going to open the mines several times, but I didn't go to the mines on those days.

"With regard to the election in Dec. of 1937 I cannot state as to any acts of violence or threats made by anyone. I don't believe I went to the mine between Dec. of 1937 and Nov. of 1939 when the mine reopened. As I recall it a notice was put in the paper that the mine was to reopen. When we went back to work the Progressives had the majority, but it was an open shop so a lot of the men didn't sign up right away. As far as I was concerned I wasn't threatened or beat up. I do remember that a man by the name of [redacted] was beat up by someone. [redacted] and others were the U.M.W. men who had the reputation of being tough. The men all felt that if they didn't do as these men wanted them to, that they might get hurt. It seemed that when the mine opened in Nov of 1939 they would only hire U.M.W. men. It was my impression that Bowling Green of the U.M.W. seemed to be the man who had a lot of influence with the company. I believe FALCETTI and BOWLING GREEN were good friends inasmuch as it was common knowledge that they ran around a lot together at night, going on stag parties, etc.

[redacted] I quit because I made up my mind that I couldn't get along with JACK FALCETTI and had been wanting to change jobs for a long time. I have read over this entire statement of four pages, have initialed the first three pages, and hereby sign this page to show it has been read by me and it is true to the best of my memory.

[redacted]

"Witnesses

[redacted] Special Agents
F.B.I.
U.S. Dept. of
Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This man indicated a willingness to testify to those matters set forth in the statement which he gave. He does not read English but appears to understand questions put to him.

Following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"August 27, 1943.
Springfield, Illinois

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to this country when a young man and have been a citizen for about [redacted] years. I presently reside at [redacted] and am employed at [redacted]

"I first joined a union in [redacted] Illinois, in about [redacted] at which time I joined the U.M.W. I started working at Mine B in [redacted] and worked there until the strike in 1937. I was a member of the U.M.W. until about 1932 when the Progressive Union was formed. Everyone told me that if I joined the Progressive the dues would be smaller and working conditions would be better. As far as I was concerned the working conditions under the Progressive union didn't seem to be any better and it cost more in dues. Since I never talked to any company officials I cannot say anything as to how the company felt about the unions. I never held a union office and didn't go to hardly any meetings. I do not know anything about events leading up to the strike in May of 1937 and didn't know a strike was coming until the day of the actual strike.

"At about one o'clock in the afternoon on May 12, 1937, one of the drivers told me that I had enough cars for the day and for me to go home. When I got on top I was told that the mine was shut down and for me not to come back. I went home that day and didn't even go back to get my tools. I don't have any idea as to why the mine was shut down. I never heard about any men in the Progressives being fired for being spies for the U.M.W. Some time after the strike two men came to my house to see [redacted] about work or something. All I know is that they had an argument about something and left when my wife told them to leave.

"I remember signing some kind of a petition for the Progressives after the strike. I cannot remember whether the men came to my house or whether I signed the petition at the union hall.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued) [redacted]. I have never visited with many of the men at the mines and so I do not know anything about how the men felt towards the unions. I do not feel that I would ever be able to testify in any court as to what took place at the mines before or after the strike in 1937.

"The above statement of three pages has been read to me by my wife, [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory. I have initialed the first two pages and hereby sign this page to show that it is true.

(s) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI, U.S. Department of Justice.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] is 34 years of age and does not impress one with his knowledge of the situation existing at Mine "B". He could be used as a witness, however, to testify to the facts set out in the following statement, which he signed:

"August 31, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and have always lived in Illinois. I presently reside at [redacted] I first started mining in [redacted] when I went to work for Mine B and have been working at that mine ever since. I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] and joined the PMA in 1932 when the local men decided to go with PMA. I have never held a union office. As far as I am concerned, there is no difference between the two unions. Everything was going along fine until the spring of 1937 when some of the men started talking about signing up with U.M.W. I recall that some of the progressive men were expelled from our union because they were working for United. I think the men were expelled from the union before the strike, but the company wouldn't fine them and that's what the strike was about.

"As I remember it, I went to work in my regular place, that is in [redacted] as a digger on the day of the strike. We got to work after my gang had already gone into the pits. I remember that the men were loading their cars short and somebody mentioned that we should only load the cars part full. I believe some of the men were saying that if we loaded the cars short the company might not let the men work. I heard that Tony Plotch, Frank Austin, Pete Carter and some other men were going around to see the men & trying to organize for the UMW. I only attended union meetings about once every two months, and never took an interest in what the men who were supposed to be spies were actually doing.

"I remember that on the day of the strike we were told by the union to quit work at about 2:30 P. M. so we all left the mine. I remember that we all went out to the mine sometime in Sept. and our local decided to set up a picket line. I was on picket duty for about a month when I came home. I heard that Falcetti had told our grievance committee

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

that only UMW men could work as the company had a contract with UMW. I believe about 10 or 15 men started to work that day and all of these men were the men who had been acting as spies for U.M.W. Our men decided to set up the picket line when Falcetti said only UMW men were to work. I didn't hear Falcetti make any statements though.

"I voted in the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937 and as far as I know everything was peaceful. There was no violence and no threats were made by either side as far as I know. I didn't go out to the mine again until the mine opened in 1939. I was not contacted by any one to join the U.M.W. I was given my same room and started to work it as soon as I got back to work. After I had been at the mine for about a year I was asked by Tony Flotch to join the UMW so I joined at that time. [redacted] he never used any force to get me to join the union. As far as I'm concerned, one union is as good as the other as long as I'm working.

"I have read over this statement of four pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory. I have initialed the first three pages and hereby sign this page.

[redacted] (signed).

"Witnesses

[redacted] (signed)) Special Agents, FBI
[redacted] (signed)) U. S. Dept. of Justice"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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Prog-unted at B now

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] telephone [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks very broken English, was very slow in comprehending questions put to him, seemed to have a very poor memory, and in general it is believed he would make a poor witness. [redacted] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U.S. in [redacted] I became a U.S. citizen as soon as I possibly could. I have been working in the mines ever since I came to the U.S. and joined the U.M.W., sometime around [redacted] I remained a member of the U.M.W. until 1932 when I joined the Progressive union. I have never held any office intthe union and never attended many of the meetings — either Progressive or U.M.W.

"As far as I was concerned conditions were about the same under Progressive as they were under the U.M.W. To my knowledge the officers of the Progressive were good men and I don't think they were engaged in any racket. I never attended many of the meetings and only heard rumors to the effect that some of the men in our local were spies for the U.M.W.

"I can't remember much of what happened on the day the mine was shut down in the spring of 1937. I know that many times we would go to work and when we would notice men coming back from the mine — that,is, not working — we would turn around and go home without knowing why the mine was shut down. I do not know any of the details as to why the mine shut down in 1937.

"I remember signing a petition after the mine shut down, but do not know whether I signed any other petitions. I went out to the mines and marched in the picket lines several times, but do not remember the dates. Since I live out in the country and away from most of the men I have never discussed the conditions at the mine with the men. I have never seen any men beaten up by any union organizers and have never seen any of the men fighting, but I have heard rumors that men were

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

beaten up. I heard rumors that the U.M.W. promised Elshoff conditions would be better if their union was the only union, but I do not know how the company men felt towards the unions.

I went back to work at the mine in the fall of 1939 and remained a member of the Progressive union until the mine was recognized as being under the jurisdiction of the U.M.W. Since I began working at Mine B I have been in the West section most of the time. I do not know anything about any fires or damage done to the mine while it was shut down during the strike.

"My opinion is that the mine went on strike in 1937 due to the fact the company wouldn't make an agreement with progressive as to wages. I do not know anything about the action, taken by union officials in connection with the strike.

"This statement has been read to me by Special Agent [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory.

(Signed) [redacted]

Witnesses

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI
U.S. Dept. of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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Springfield at Board

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on August 28, 1943.

At the residence of [redacted], [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed him in the presence of his wife and he advised he has never been arrested. He appeared to be very cooperative and appears to speak the English language in a fairly understandable manner. However, he cannot read or write the English language and at times had difficulty in understanding Agents' questions.

It is felt that he has a fairly good knowledge of the events that took place at the mine, and it is believed that he would make a fair witness.

The following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill. phone [redacted] am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, and no promises or threats have been made me to give this statement, and it is true and correct.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] and became a citizen in [redacted] I have been working at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. from [redacted] to the present time and I am a coal digger. I first joined the United Miner Workers Union in [redacted] at [redacted] Ill. I have never held any union offices. From [redacted] when I started till 1932 the UMW there at Mine B seemed to be alright and I don't recall of any troubles then. I just don't recall now how the miners felt then in regard to relationship between UMW and the management of Mine B. Around 1932 or so John L. Lewis stole some votes and we miners decided to form a new union and the Progressive Miners of America Local #54 was formed. I joined the PMA then in 1932 because all us miners decided to join it but I did not have any active part in forming it. As I recall it Carl Elshoff got along alright with the PMA men and officials from 1932 until the strike started in 1937. I recall that everything went along smoothly from 1932 to 1937 and that there were no troubles or strikes at Mine B. I never heard Elshoff or Falcetti condemn the PMA men or officials. The PMA union looked to me to be alright and they did a lot of good for us miners as they helped us with our work and got us benefits but now we have to do a lot of that work ourselves. The conditions now at Mine B are a lot worse now than they ever were under PMA. From 1932 to 1937 we miners ran the local and not a picked few. If we wanted

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

something we told the PMA officials and it would be brot up at a meeting and voted upon and no one forced or told us how to vote.

"I used to attend the PMA meetings once in awhile and they did not fine us for not attending. I personally don't think the PMA men had anything to do with those bombings but I don't know who did it. I have no knowledge of the money affairs of PMA but always felt the PMA officials were doing right with the money.

"About 4 or 6 months prior to the strike some of the PMA miners would go to the homes of the PMA miners and would give them a card and ask them to join over to the United Mine Workers. I recall that on several times ANDY SCHREVIOUS sneaked into my yard and called me out and on one time he wanted me to sign a card which he showed me and when I saw it was from the United Mine Workers I told him I would not sign it and that he should get out of my yard. He did not try to explain the card to me at all but he did not fool me. I also told him that he ought to quit doing that otherwise the PMA will catch up with him and throw him out him and he said to me "never mind, I'll never lose my job there." Andy never talked to me in the mine about this but just in my yard. I never received any literature re UMW before Mine B closed. I don't recall of any picket lines at Mine B prior to 1937. I don't know of any parties that were given by Elshoff or UMW men.

"I don't recall anything about the contract running out in March, 1937 as the PMA men and officials handled that matter and I can't recall what they may have said about it as I didn't attend many meetings.

"I never knew of any troubles at B mine just before the strike came. However, just before the strike happened I remember that ANDY SCHREVIOUS got up on a bench in the wash room and told us that we all should go and strike and he was talking something about not getting enough wages. This was the start of the trouble. Some of us miners told him to shut his mouth as we miners did not want to strike as we were all satisfied with PMA and with the wages were were getting. As far as I know I don't recall what the PMA officials did in regard to the wage question. I was not at the meeting when they expelled the spies and the next morning at the mine I was told by other miners that some of the PMA men had been expelled. I recall that FRANK AUSTIN was one of them who was expelled and I can't remember who the others were. I heard that morning that these men all showed up for work alth they were supposed to have been fired. I remember that on that morning the PIT COMMITTEE and the president of Local #54 saw Frank Austin getting ready to go down into the mine and Austin had his headlamp on and he had a whip in his hand as he was driving mules. I walked over to Austin with the committ and the president and they asked Austin where he was going and Austin said that it was none of their business and he cursed at them and held his whip up as tho he would hit them so they all walked away. I actually saw this myself

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

myself and was right there. Austin went down into the mine afterwards and pulled out coal with the mules. The gossip at Mine B was that [redacted] a board member, had talked to Elshoff about firing those expelled men and that Elshoff complained to [redacted] that we miners were not filling our cars with coal, and according to gossip then [redacted] told Elshoff that the miners were doing pretty good and that if he would not fire those men he would call the miners out and close down the mine.

"We miners never loaded short loads until that day and some of us miners were sore b cause the management left those men return to work and some of the miners, not myself, did not fill the cars full and they did that just because they were sore. I loaded full cars and when I got out of the mine I did not see any partially loaded cars at all but just saw full ones. I did not know that there was going to be a strike until I got on top when the other miners said that [redacted] had called them out and that they were going to strike because Elshoff did not fire those men. I did not see FALCETTI talk to any miners on that day. The strike was caused just because the management of Mine B would not fire those men and there was no other reason to strike.

"I recall that shortly after the strike, I with other miners, sign some petition in the office of Mine B, and at that time our Committee, president and FALCETTI, were there too. The PMA officials told us that we should sign the way we wanted to and afterwards I heard that PMA won. No one told me how to vote and no one b at me up and we all voted the way we wanted to.

"I never signed any petition for UMW. I also think that I signed some other petition for PMA along the road there at the mine. I don't recall anything about UMW forming a new local in the summer of 1937, but I do recall that at some time while the mine was closed TONY PLOTCH came to my home on several times with DOMINIC PASQUALE and WITH GEORGE JACKAY and they wanted me to sign a card or paper with UMW but I told them I would not sign but that if the whole local went I would go too but not otherwise as I was well satisfied with PMA.

"I remember that the newspapers said something in fall of 1937 that Mine B would be reopened and all of us went back to the Mine B and intended to go back to work. I don't know if PMA had a meeting or not as to what action they would take and I don't recall of anything unusual happenening during summer of 1937. That morning I saw FALCETTI come out and talk to us miners but I did not hear what he said but I heard from others that FALCETTI said he wanted so many to do down into the mine but they had to first go into the office and sign up with UMW and then no PMA men went down at all and we all went home. However, I saw about 12 men, one of whom was JOHN SIRTOUT,

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

come out of Mine B office and FALCETTI was leading them to the mine and had one of his hands in his pockets and we all thought he had a gun and he hollered at us to get out of the way and he let those men do into the mine himself. I actually saw this happen myself. I did not go to any meeting that day but was told to be back at Mine B the next morning and I was there and we started a sit down strike. When I got there I saw this bunch of 12 or so in the mine office and Sheriff Lou Gold was there and he told us PMA miners to let those men go home and they left the mine and got into some automobiles. There was no trouble there and we miners did not hurt those 12 men at all. Everything was orderly. As I remember it one of the PMA officers told us that if we left the mine we could not return so we stayed there hoping to go back to work. We really were not striking as we were willing to go to work as PMA but would not sign up with UMW in order to go back to work. PMA did not bring in any strangers at all on the strike and it was just our local men who were out there. We were there for several months and we were protecting the mine property as we did not want anyone to damage it. PMA officials did not threaten us at all and we just decided to stay there to protect our jobs. The strike was very quite and there was no fights or bloodshed.

"I was not at the Mine B when the Marshall came out, and I don't know much at all about this matter. I don't know for sure if I was out at Mine B when they tried to reopen it again in Dec. 1937.

"I voted PMA in the first NLRB election and it was by secret ballot Government men were there. No one told us how to vote at all and we all voted the way we want too and we were not beaten up and it was a good election. PMA officials told us that when we went down to the Armory to vote that we should not take any papers from anyone as they said that UMW men might be along the street giving out papers. I voted PMA because I liked them and I was well satisfied. I feel that the vote reflected the true wishes of us PMA miners.

"I don't know for sure if I went out to Mine B in Jan. 1938 when they tried to open it again.

"I heard that Elshoff would not sign a contract with PMA altho we all were PMA but I don't know the reasons.

"I remember that I went out to Mine B and FALCETTI told us that all could not go back until all rooms were fixed and some returned but I was told I would be called in a couple of weeks. I don't recall just what they asked me out there. I don't recall what was said about wages but we believed they would be the same as before, the same union scale. Everybody was glad to get back to work and I did not go to meetings so don't know anything about the wages.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I saw a lot of new men there and they seemed to be company men as they were allowed to go all over the mine and these men came from other states and they were UMW men. TONY PLOTCH talked to me several times in the mine as to why I didn't sign up with UMW and I told him I liked PMA. BILL SINTOUT, the mule driver, talked to me several times and asked when I was going to sign up with UMW and he said I had better sign up before it is too late for me, and that he would fix me. I had no trouble with anyone having dirt thrown on my coal cars but other miners had troubles like that. I heard that logs and sulphur were put on loads of coal by UMW men and once Bishoff called us and told us that we PMA were doing it and we told them we were not doing it. I don't believe that PMA miners were doing wrong things at all but it was being done by UMW men there in the mine. In the spring of 1940 I last paid dues to PMA and in summer of 1940 joined up with UMW. I heard around the mine of other PMA miners getting beat up and whipped and I did not want to get a beating so I decided it would be best for me to sign up with UMW. TONY PLOTCH came to my home then and I signed a card for him. He did not say anything. I don't recall of signing any card for PMA during summer of 1940. I still liked PMA better than UMW but joined over so there would be no trouble. In 1941 I voted in the next NLRB election and I myself voted for PMA even tho I was then with UMW. The election was alright but at the mine there were so many new men there who were brot in by UMW that UMW was able to win that election. I voted the way I wanted to in that election. No one forced me how to vote either.

"The Mine B was in bad condition when it was reopened. It is not all open yet and now there are only about 250 men working there. It is caved in a lot and some of the rooms will never be opened. I don't know anything about a fire there in the mine.

"I can't read the English language but this 4 page statement has been read to me by Agent [redacted] in the presence of my wife and it is true and correct and I have signed it of my own free will."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSES:

[redacted]
Special Agent, FBI,
St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted]
Special Agent, FBI,
Milwaukee, Wis.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 26, 1943, at his home at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. He was born [redacted] and arrived in the U. S. in [redacted] He was naturalized in [redacted] in the [redacted] Court.

[redacted] and the extent of his information, it is not believed he would be a good witness.

The following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
[redacted]
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselv to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, or threats have been made to me for this statement.

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and at present [redacted] I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted]

"I first joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] I have never been an officer of any union. I joined the union when I was working around Springfield.

"About [redacted] I started to work at Mine B as a miner. At that time Elshoff and Buckley were the operators of the mine. Later Elshoff took over Buckley's interest in the mine.

"From [redacted] to 1932 there was not much labor trouble at the mine. Generally the relations between Elshoff and the U. M. W. were good and without trouble.

"In 1932 the miners became angry when Lewis agreed to a reduction in miner's pay from 92¢ per ton to 68¢ per ton. By a referendum vote the miners overruled Lewis and voted not to accept the reduction in pay. About 3 weeks later there was another referendum, but before the votes could be counted they were stolen. Lewis was president of the U. M. W., and the gener feeling among the miners was that he was responsible for the loss of the ballots. Nobody knows where the ballots went, but the feeling among the miners was that Lewis took the ballots away. The story was that the committee appointed by the local unions had seen someone go away with the ballots. I don't know who the persons were.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"After Lewis signed the agreement for a lower wage scale, the miners had some meetings among themselves and decided to establish a new union. I attended some of these meetings and was in sympathy with their aims. I was glad to get away from the U. M. W. We established the Progressive Mine Workers of America at this time.

"After their organization the P. M. A. secured a closed shop agreement with Elshoff, owner of Mine B. From this time until late 1936, Elshoff seemed to be satisfied with the P. M. A.. There was no trouble between P M A and Elshoff. There were a few men who were not satisfied with P. M. A., and they were constantly agitating for the return of the miners to U. M. W. One that I remember is Frank Austin. There was talk among the miners that Frank Austin received money from the U. M. W. to help get the men from P. M. A back to U. M. W. There also was talk that Austin was paying dues to both U. M. W. and P. M. A.

"From 1932 to 1936 I was always satisfied with the leadership in the P. M. A. There was no talk that the officers of the P. M. A. were running a racket. The members of P M A were satisfied with their officers. The members always were permitted to express themselves at the meetings.

"In the P. M. A. meetings there was no talk about the bombings which were attributed to P M A members. Most of the members did not know anything about the bombings. To the best of my knowlege, the men alleged to be responsible for the bombings were not dismissed from the P. M. A.

"While I was in the U. M. W. there were many extra assessments imposed on us. This was one of the major objections by the miners to the U. M. W. - having to pay many assessments. This problem was not present in the P. M. A. which imposed no extra assessments while I was in the P. M. from 1932 to 1936. One of the reasons we broke away from the U. M. W. was the many extra assessments that were imposed by the U. M. W. The only thing that could be termed an extra assessment by the P. M. A. was an assessment to take care of some members of the P M A who were striking at another mine.

"From 1932 to late 1936 there were U. M. W. organizers present in the mine (Mine B) but they did not set up a picket line or distribute propaganda or literature. Frank Austin was one of these organizers. In this period I heard stories that Elshoff and Falcetti were going out on parties with U. M. W. men.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"To the best of my recollection a strike occurr at Mine B in the spring of 1937. I heard that the reason for the strike was that the miners were putting short weights in the cars. This strike was settled and a few days later there was a second strike. I don't know the causes of this strike. I heard that the U. M. W. men went to work in the mine, and that the P. M. A. men refused to go to work with the U. M. W.

"At this time I heard that Elshoff wanted the U. M. W. men in his mine, I heard that Elshoff told people that he wanted the U. M. W. in his mine, and that he gave the mine mules to U. M. W. men so that they could use the mules at their homes. This practice was permitted while no work was being done at Mine B - while the mine was closed down. I heard that Frank Austin was given 2 mules. I also heard that Elshoff and Falcetti had said that U M W men could use the mine mules until the mine opened up again. None of the P. M. A. men were given any mules from the mine.

"About the summer of 1939 Tony Plotch came to me at [redacted] home of [redacted] and told several of us including [redacted] me and several others whose names I don't remember, that I should join the U. M. W. at that time, and that if I didn't join the U M W the National Labor Relations Board would make me join the U. M. W. later, if I wanted a nob at Mine B.

"I know that Charles Bohannon was a U. M. W. organizer because I heard that he told several of the miners that they should join the U. M. W. if they wanted to work, and also that he had beat up several of the miners because they did not want to join the U. M. W. Some of the men he beat up were known to me as [redacted]

"In addition to Austin, Plotch and Bohannon, I heard that the following men also were U. M. W. organizers: John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway and James Hale. None of these men ever contacted me personally.

"Because I had been ill, I knew nothing of the wage dispute of April 1937, and nothing of the meeting of P. M. A. men in May 1937. As I recall, shortly after the P M A men at Mine B were out on strike, I signed a petition for P. M. A. The man who brought the petition to me was known to me as [redacted] (ph). He asked me if I was satisfied with the P. M. A., and when I told him that I was satisfied, he asked me to sign the petition. No threats were made to me for my signature. He came to my house for my signature. I don't know if any men signed the P M A petition at a P M A meeting.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Several times in the summer of 1937 some men from U M W came to me to get me to sign a petition for U. M. W. but I never did. I don't know the names of the U. M. W. men who brought these petitions.

"At the time he new U. M. W. local was organized in the summer of 1937, I was not asked to join the U. M. W. [redacted] Therefore, I can give no information about activities of P. M. A. or U. M. W. men during this summer.

"I don't recall that I received any notice of any drive by the owners of Mine B to open up in the summer of 1937. [redacted] I didn't take a great interest in labor activities but I did go to the state arsenal in December 1937 to vote in an election called by the National Labor Relations Board. I went of my own free will. No one took me to the voting place. The election was advertised in the paper. At this election I voted for the P. M. A. because I wanted to belong to that union. It was the best union as far as I am concerned, and I did not want to have anything to do with U. M. W.

"The election was run by the N. L. R. B. As far as I am concerned the election was fair and square. Nobody told me how or when to do anything at the election.

"Because I had quit my job as a miner before the strike started in May 1937, I did not receive any notice from the mine that I could return to the mine for a job. I don't know if the mine sent out notices to the miners that they could return to work.

"I recall that I voted in the election of 1941 in February. The N L R B said that I could vote because I was an honorary member of P. M. A. The mine company contended that my vote was not valid because I was not employed at the mine at the time of the election. I voted but my vote was thrown out.

"I have had this statement consisting of this and six other pages read to me, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

[redacted] Special Agent, F. B. I., Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent - F. B. I., Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed on August 26, 1943, at [redacted] Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]

WILLIAM ECKLER, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, President of Local No. 54, Progressive Mine Workers of America, advised [redacted] Illinois, was one of the miners at Mine "B" who was soliciting the miners to transfer from the PMW to the UMW, and that he had personally solicited him to do so. He stated [redacted] was an associate of CHARLES BOHANNON, DOMINIC PASQUALE, and other alleged UMW spies who were working in Mine "B" part of which were expelled from PMW for their connections with UMW.

[redacted] was a strong UMW and would not tell the truth about the situation in the Mine "B".

In a written statement executed by [redacted] on August 26, 1943, he admitted he never favored PMW even though he was a member and tried to persuade the miners to join UMW, and that he himself in November, 1939, joined the UMW and paid dues to them, passing out their membership cards at Mine "B" to solicit membership.

[redacted] stated he was a member of the UMW and on the Grievance Committee of Local No. 7469. He thought JOHN L. LEWIS was a fine man and capable leader.

This man would not be a favorable witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.
August 26, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to me.

"I was born [redacted] Ill. and presently live at [redacted] Ill. I am employed at Mine "B". I am presently a member of the United Mine Workers of America, and a member of the grievenance committee of United Mine Workers Local #7469.

"I first joined United Mine Workers hereinafter referred to as UMW o[redacted] Ill. & went to work at the [redacted] Coal Co. mine in

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] I stayed a member of UMW until 9-6-32. At that time I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America hereinafter referred to as PMW when the whole of Mine "B" went PMW. I paid dues until May 1937 to PMW.

(continued)

"About Nov. 1939, after the long shut down, I petitioned UMW to become a member. The UMW accepted me & I paid dues to UMW from then on to the present time.

"I feel that John L. Lewis is a good leader for UMW. I did not like the leaders of PMW as they were mostly foreigners, they wanted to settle all matters their own way, & would not let me express myself at the meetings.

"When I was working at Mine "B" I worked as a member of PMW as I had to be PMW to work there when they had the contract, but I always wanted to work under UMW & I talked to the men to get them to join UMW as it was a letter union and conditions would be more satisfactory. I talked to the men this way prior to Nov. 1939, but after I was a member of UMW I passed out UMW cards at the Mine "B" to get the mines to join UMW. I did not force anyone to sign up with UMW.

"As far as I know ELSHOFF, operator of Mine "B" took no sides in the mine dispute & was entirely neutral. I have no information whatsoever concerning unfair tactics used by UMW or the operators in the mining dispute.

[redacted]

Witness:

[redacted] Sp. Agt., FBI.
[redacted], Special Agent, FBI.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed on August 25, 1943 [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This person apparently will make a good witness. He is of average intelligence and is definite in his remarks. He is willing to testify on behalf of the government. The following signed statement was taken from him:

[redacted] Ill.
August 25, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I presently reside on [redacted] Ill. I am an American citizen having been born [redacted] Ill. I am presently employed as [redacted]

"My first membership in union mines was in [redacted] when I joined the United Mine Workers of America refered to hereinafter as the U. M. W. I joined at Springfield, Ill. and went to work in Mine "B" near Springfield. I remained a member of UMW until Sept. 1932 working at Mine "B". At this time about Sept. 6, 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America hereinafter referred to as P. M. W. This was local #54 and I remain a member of P. M. W. until about March 14, 1941 when Elshaff signed a closed shop contract with U. M. W.

"The relations between U M W and Elshaff at Mine "B" prior to Sept. 1932 were satisfactory and they worked on a contract. There were no strikes, lockouts, or slowdowns. The only difficulty was merely settlements of individual miners difficulties.

"As to the formation of P M W local at Mine "B". I feel that all the miners wanted to join the P M W to get away from John L. Lewis because he favored the decrease in the wage scale in 1932, he claimed the ballots were stolen, and would not permit the miners to have a revolt and signed a contract with the operators association. The only part I took was to attend meetings at the formation & voted for P M W.

"Relative to relations between Elshaff & local 54, P. M. W. between Sept. 1932 and April, 1937. I would state the relations were satisfactory up to about Jan. 1937. However, from Jan. 1937 to about April, 1937 there was petty dissatisfaction as some miners wanted to join the U M W. There were no strikes, the management did not try to discredit the P. M. W. or persuade them to join U M W.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued

"Relative to relations between P M W officials & P M W membership I heard isolated expressions that P M U was racket-run, but I do not recall who made the statements. There was no compulsion by P M W to keep members in line. I only attended about 1/3 of P M W meetings as they met in Springfield, Ill. I ran for [redacted] of local 54 in the Fall of 1936 but lost.

"It is my opinion the rank & file of P M W thought the P M W members who were defendants in the bombing cases were framed and were not responsible for the bombings.

"The members of P M W did not feel they were taken advantage of in a financial way as all assessments were put to a vote. For the first year the assessments were 15% plus the dues and after the first year the dues to P M W were a little higher than those paid to U M W.

"As to relations between local 54 & U M W from Sept. 1932 to April, 1937 there was bickering over membership and a group of about twelve P M U members which included Dominic Pasquale formed a local of U M W at Mine "B" & then told Elshaff to recognize them as they had a majority. This was before the shut down about May, 1937.

"The U M W did not set up a picket line, distribute literature, but they did have organizers in the mine as aforementioned. These men were as follows:

Joe Albanese	John Ananiala
Andrew Schrolevious	John Sirtout
Dominic Pasquale	George Jacaway
Pete Carter	Emory Jacaway
Frank Austin	Charles Bohannan
Tony Plotch	James Hale

All of the above mentioned organizers of U M W had contacted me to join U M W saying the U M W would give stricter regulations which would make better working conditions.

"Concerning the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937 the miners felt to my knowledge they merely got a report from Elshall what the temporary agreement was, & that as soon as a contract was signed there would be a retroactive clause in it. I don't recall what the agreement was. As to the wages I felt, & believe the others felt, that the P M W would give the same as U M W would offer, but as P M W was smaller they would let U M W state what their contract was & the P M W would adopt the same terms.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I do not recall any slow-downs or stoppages at this time, but the 12 above mentioned U M W in Mine "B" tried to convert P.M.W members into U M W membership.

"I felt that the actions of the above named twelve miners consisted of attempting to recruit members of P M W however I do not know any threats or promises were made by these twelve men.

"I understand the operators of Mine B clained they had no existing contract with P M W with retroactive pay. I understand that new contracts were presented to the operators by P M W officials, but the operator refused to sign. P M W officials claimed that they were "stalled-off" by operators of Mine "B". I did not attend the P M W meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937. I was told by P M W miners that this was an emergency meeting. I was invited to this meeting & I believe the other P M W miners were invited. I knew by word of mouth & I beleve the other P M W miners knew in the same manner about the attempted discharge and the actual expulsion from P M W of the 12 men named above.

"I believe all of the P M W members wanted the expulsion and discharge of these men and as a matter of fact I recall that the feeling for this movement ran high in the mine on May 12, 1937. During this time I was working below the surface "pulling coal" and I know that coal cars were coming up short, which I understood from conversation had with miners was due to the fact that the above 12 men were still being permitted to work, and not because of any wage problems.

"All day on May 12, 1937 I noticed a growing indication of a strike threat. I believe the miners struck because the above mentioned 12 men were still employed & not because of wage troubles.

"I signed the petition of May 26, 1937. In regard to signing this petition I was contacted at the headquarters of P M W at 6th & Washington Streets, Springfield, Ill. by a member of P M W who ask if I would be willing to sign it.

"I know of no U M W petition which was made up in the summer of 1937. I know of no other petition presented in the summer of 1937 which referred to the miners returning to work regardless of the union under which they would work. I have never been threatened in connection with union or mine matters.

"On Sept. 27, 1937 I went to Mine "B" to work, arriving there at 6:30 A. M., however I noticed a [illegible] line of P M W workers had been formed & I was told by [redacted] and Glen Stuffelbeam not to go on Mine "B" premises. I did not engage in the picket. I was not threatened by P M W officials or representatives.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I do not believe that the P M W miners well considered the Federal Injunction of 12-9-37. I knew that Mine "B" was to be reopened on 12-9-37 from notice in the newspapers. I did not attempt to go to work on this day.

"No threats or promises were made to me and I have no reason to believe that such threats or promises were made to anyone who signed a ballot as being a P M W in the election of 12-15-37 held by N L R B.

"During the period from 1-24-38 and 11-6-39 members of both unions came to my house. The U M W miners tried to persuade me to change to U M W but no threats or promises were made.

"When Mine "B" reopened on 11-6-39 I noticed that a few, possibly 10 or 12 miners, said that they had changed over from the P M W to U M W, but I can not recall their names. I was not satisfied with the wage scale when Mine "B" reopened as I felt that it was about the same wage scale I had been working under. The feeling of the miners at this time was to return to work disregarding wage scale problems.

"It was generally known amongst the miners with whom I talked after mine "B" opened on 11-6-39 that there were some cases of violence. I understand from such conversation that P M W and U M W miners were hurt. From my personal observations I can not say this was correct. The miners claimed to me that this violence was due to members of U M W attempting to threaten members of P M W to drop that union and join U M W.

"In the summer of 1940 I signed a card to join the U M W because I felt that large numbers of P M W miners had left local 54 and joined U M W & that it appeared U M W would be the controling union at Mine "B". I was tried of unemployment and for this reason changed over.

"In the N L R B election held 2-21-1941 at Springfield, Ill. I designated myself as a member of U M W. I was at that time paying dues to U M W.

"I have read and initialed this statement consisting of eight and one half pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witness:

[redacted]
Special Agent, F. B. I."

[redacted]
Special Agent, F. B. I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on August 26, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He appeared to be willing to cooperate and to testify to the facts contained in the signed statement set forth below. It is believed that he would make a good witness.

The following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to me and I have been advised this statement could be used in court.

"I was born [redacted] County, Illinois, [redacted]

"I joined a miners union the first time abo[redacted] at Springfield, Illinois and went to work at Mine "B" as a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMW. The United Mine Workers of America will be referred to hereinafter as UMW. The PMW is the only mine union I have ever been a member of. I was a member of PMW from approximately [redacted] to [redacted] all of which time I worked at Mine "B" near Springfield, Ill. I never held any office in the union at any time.

"At the time I worked at Mine B, the Operative of this mine, Mr. Elshoff, appeared to show favoritism to those miners who were in sympathy toward the UMW. At this time, I believe there were about 100 men working at Mine B who had PMW cards, but who were still sympathetic toward the UMW. In this connection, it had always been my opinion that Elshoff wanted the UMW in his mine. The PMW men did not appear to get along as well with him as some of the UMW sympathisers. I can produce no evidence that this was true, but it seemed to be the opinion of most of the other miners at this time.

"I recall that in 1935 Elshoff refused to take out PMW dues from the miner's wages. There appeared to be no reason to believe that PMW miners felt that they were being cheated by their officials. I am satisfied that dues taken from me were properly used, and that there was no kickback to

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

officials of the PMW. I felt, and I believe it was generally felt at this mine that the miners convicted in the bombing trials were framed, and that they were no more guilty than members of the UMW, and their sympathizers.

"I have never been threatened by anyone, and I have no knowledge that anyone else was threatened in any way while I worked at Mine B. I was satisfied while I worked under the PMW, and I certainly did not want to work as a member of the UMW. I would not want to work under John L. Lewis, for I feel that John L. Lewis personally got a large portion of each miner's dues. This is my own opinion, and I was not persuaded to believe this by any member or members of the PMW.

"I have read and fully understand the one and one-quarter pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent F.B.I.
[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent, F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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Prog. Unit
next at B-mon

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on August 31, 1943. At [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised that many years ago he was arrested one for being drunk but never was charged with any criminal offense.

It was noted that [redacted] is rather intelligent, has been active in union affairs for many years especially prior to 1932 when he was very active in UMW affairs and it is felt that if any information or background data is needed on the affairs leading up to the split in 1932 that he can furnish such information. It was noted that [redacted] was definitely in favor of UMW but it is believed he gave a fair and honest statement of the events as he recalled them.

[redacted] gave agents a signed statement which is as follows:

[redacted]
Springfield, Illinois,
August 31, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, an making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made to me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] Illinois and I am a citizen of United States. I have not worked since [redacted] when I quit at Mine B where I was a coal digger. Around [redacted] I first joined the National Progressives in Illinois. In [redacted] I was board member of United Mine Workers District No. 12 and I resigned after I was on there for 8 months. Before then I had been sub-district board member of district #5. I worked at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., for about [redacted] or [redacted] years in all.

"Before 1932 relations between UMW and the management of Mine B were alright as far as I know. In 1932 I was on the Scale Committee of UMW from District No. 12 and I attended various meetings in regard to the wage agreement. I had heard that JOHN L. LEWIS went on into Ohio and signed up some 300 men but left the Illinois 73,000 men go. [redacted] from [redacted] Illinois [redacted] from [redacted] Illinois, and myself were on the Scale Committee in 1932 and I quit that committee that year after being on it for [redacted] or [redacted] years. After this trouble started with LEWIS I did not want any change made but felt that UMW should clean house. FARRINGTON, LEWIS AND WALKER seemed to have

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)--

personal grudges against one another and could not get along. FARRINGTON is now deceased. I felt that UMW should be cleaned up and that the miners should not bring in another union. I finally joined the Progressives at Mine B as all the others did. Some PML Committee tole me that if I didn't sign over to PML I would have to quit. That night about 7 or 8 of us signed over. We were told to sign over which I did. I was given the UMW ritual tho instead of the PML so in one way really never was with PML. I never took any active part in forming the PML at all as I was satisfied with the old UMW. I was just about forced to join over to PML, or else I had to quit so I signed over, but I never was beat up or anything like that.

"As far as I know PML officials got along alright with the management of Mine B. However, I recall that neither the PML officials nor the company itself gave out much information as to what was going on between 1932 and 1937 when the Mine B closed down. As far as I know the PML officias got along with the management of Mine B. If the PML officials did any crooked work in connection with the books I don't know about it as I never had access to their books. When I first joined over to PML I attended a special and regular meeting but after that I never attended any more meetings because I neverapproved of the idea of the miners splitting up like they did, that is, to have PML come in and take over. I don't know what went on with those PML meetings as after the split between UMW and when PML came in I never took any more interest in mine matters and just did my work and went home. While with PML I don't recall of them ever assessing any special assessments except the death benefits assessments. I don't believe that the PML officials did enough for the miners to get them clean and fresh air in the mine. However, this has not been remedied even since UMW came back to Mine B. I never heard any rumor about PML officials doing crooked work with money etc. of the Local No. 54. I never heard anything wrong then.

"UMW men never set up a picket line at Mine B prior to the time the mine closed that I know of nor do I know of any leterature being given out. Before the mine closed CHARLES BOHANNON, COTTON MANLS, a little Italian named SAM, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, and several others would go around in the Mine B and would talk to the miners about going back to UMW but they never used any rough tactics at all. They didn't have to talk to me about it because I still at heart with UMW even tho I had joined over to PML. I don't know if the above men received any salary from UMW for doing their organizing work but several of them did tell me that they would get back from UMW money they spent on phone calls and for car fare.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I never heard about any parties being given between ELSHOFF and the UMW men. In regard to the contract running out in spring of 1937 I don't know anything about it [redacted] I dodn't know a thing about the wage question and I did not even know they were going to close down.

"I had my daughter-in-law drive me to Mine B to get my check and at that time I had heard that the men were not working but I did not know it was a strike. At Mine B I asked OSCAR FALCETTI what the trouble was all about and he said he couldn't say and I don't know just what he meant by that. Then I went out there there was only the office force there so I didn't ask anyone else about it.

"I don't know anything about any men being expelled from PMA for doing spy work for UMW, and I never heard anything about a meeting being held when those men were expelled as I was sick before the mine closed.

"I can't recall of signing any petitions in summer of 1937 but around that time [redacted] GLEN STUFFLEBEAM (is now dead) and another man came to my home and asked me to sign some paper in connection with the wage scale they were working and I signed it and they said they were going to all the miners. I didn't care who made the wage scale as if there was not any scale we could not work. I was not threatened at all and signed that of my own free will.

"During the summer of [redacted] I was living a [redacted] in Springfield, Illinois, and around that time CHARLES BOLLINGER, COTTON ADAMS and several others came to my home in a car and mentioned they had formed a new UMW local and asked me how I felt about it and I told them I still felt that I was a UMW man and that I would sign up and I told them they should go ahead and try to get more men but that they should not use any force or rough stuff. A short time later I signed up over at the UMW hall.

"It seems to me that whenever the PMA had meetings that there was touble of some kind. I think that around Easter, in 1937 or 1938, EDMAYBEE(phonetic) was killed in connection with some meeting. I just heard about this.

"I did not know anything about the reopening of the mine in the fall of 1937 and I was not out there when it started to open but while the sit down strike was going on I went over there once in the evening

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

just to see what was going on. I saw a bunch of wops around there with canes in their hands and I told them that they did not need any clubs as no one would come out and bother them. They did not harm me at all nor hurt me. Another day I went out too and on both times things seemed to be alright and quiet and the men out there were from Local 54 and I did not see any strangers. No one had asked me to help in the sit down strike and I never took any part in it at all. I had once said that I would never picket any union. I think that the miners went out voluntarily to the mine to picket it and that they were not forced to go out and be there.

"I read in the papers about the Federal injunction being gotten out but I was not out at Mine B and don't know anything else about it.

"I did not know anything about the mine being reopened in Dec. 1937.

"I did not vote at the first NLRB election and don't know anything about it at all. I think was sick then so did not vote.

"I don't think I went out to Mine B in Jan. 1938 as I only went out later when they opened for good. I read that PMA won the first election and I don't know why ELSHOFF would not sign a contract with PMA. I took no active interest in union affairs in 1938 or 1939 till Mine B reopened.

"In the fall of 1939 I received a registered letter from Mine B telling me to come back to work and I did and I was told that they would call me later on and they put my name down on alist. I saw FALCETTI and he did not ask me what union I belonged but I think he knew I was a member in good standing of UMW. A month or 6 weeks later the paymaster stopped at my house and told me to come out and then I had to by new tools as my old ones were lost in one of the cade-ins. I could not get any tools then [redacted] in 1939 so didn't take much interest in mine matters. It was an open shop when I went back, and no one told us why it was that way, and nothing was said about the wage scale. I went back with UMW. The PMA and UMW miners got along alright in the mine there when I went back to work. There was quite a few new UMW men in the mine B from Indiana and other states but I heard that these new men were not allowed to vote in the next NLRB election as they were not there long enough. Nobody asked me to sign any membership cards in 1940. I had heard that LEE BAUMGARTNER, UMW, and [redacted] had a fight at Mine B but I never saw it but I think it was not over union matters but was a personal fight. [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

was a PMA man and he was supposed to have been beaten up by BAUMGARTNER, Otherwise I never saw or heard of any fights between UMW and PMA men except one morning there was some difficulty in the wash room I recall.

"In Feb. 1941 I voted at the NLRB election at the Armory in Springfield, Illinois and I voted for UMW. It was a good and fair election. I was not told how to vote and voted for UMW because I like them better than PMA.

"I think that many of the PMA men voted for UMW because they were not getting any benefits from PMA and I don't think the PMA officials were taking much interest in the wage scale matters. I feel that the miners were sick of the strike and voted for UMW to get it over with.

"I don't know what conditions the mine was in in 1939. In Oct. 1940 they were still trying to open up places in Mine B. I don't know of any fire while the mine was closed down.

"I don't know why GLASCOW was kicked out and I did not attend any meeting when he talked about money.

"There was some gossip around that LEWIS and the Peabody mine were giving ELSHOFF money but that was gossip. I never heard anything around UMW offices that this was so or ture.

"I have read over this 3 page statement and it is true and correct and I have signed it of my own free will and no threats or promises have been made me.

(Signed) [redacted]

WITNESSES:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, St. Paul, Minn.
Special Agent, FBI, Milwaukee, Wis."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on August 31, 1943.

At the Springfield Field Division Agents interviewed [redacted] who advised he has never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that [redacted] is rather intelligent and seemed to have a good knowledge as to what went on at Mine B. He advised he had no objections to testify in Court if he were needed and it is felt he would make a good witness if his testimony is necessary.

[redacted] gave Agents the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943

"I [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Spec. Agents of the F. B. I. No threats or promises whatever have been made me.

"My address is [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I first went to work in what is now mine B about [redacted] years ago. I have been working the last [redacted] years as [redacted] I quit there about [redacted] months ago because [redacted]

"I am a citizen of the U.S. born in [redacted] I first joined U.M.W. in Spring. in [redacted] and belonged to that union up to 1932.

"Prior to 1932 I knew of no trouble between Elshoff and the U.M.W. The reason for the miners going from U.M.W. to P.M.A. as I recall it was due to Lewis having reportedly stolen the votes on the wage cut question. I went over at this time because most of the others did.

"Under the P.M.A. between 1932 and 1937, the P.M.A. and the mine officials got along o.k. so far as I know. In this period I never heard Falscetti or Elshoff make any statement indicating they favored one union over the other, as far as I know they were neutral.

"Under the P.M.A. from 1932 to 1937, as far as I know the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

P.M.A. officials were doing alright. I dont know of any force being used to keep the men in the P.M.A. in line. I never did go a whole lot to Union meetings. I did attend some towards the last.

"It is my belief and the general opinion that the P.M.A. miners convicted of the bombings were not guilty but had been framed by the U.M.W.

"I dont rember all about the money but as far as I was concerned it was all o.k. The local P.M.A. was run by the men, there was no clique that was running things that I recall.

"Between 1932 and 1937 I don't remember the U.M.W. picketing the mine or bothering the men any way. I saw no literature or leaflets distributed by U.M.W. I dont know whether the alleged U.M.W. spies were active in this period or not if they were it was down below and I was always on top.

"I never heard of Mr. Elshoff giving any parties in Springfield or Chicago for U.M.W. officials or men. I have heard that he gives parties but I never did know who they were for.

"After the union contract ran out in 1937, I understood that whatever the wage scale was it would be retroactive to April the first. I was told this by P.M.A. officials, I dont think there was any feeling at this time that the P.M.A. wouldn't be able to get as good a contract as U.M.W. In April 1937 there was some talk around wondering whether they would get back pay but nothing serious happend. The management never talked to me about what its attitude towards dealing with P.M.A. was but as we went on to the time of thestrike the men began to feel that Elshoff wasn't going to deal with P.M.A.

"I was not at the meeting where the so-called spies were expelled. I heard about this meeting before it happened but did not go. The next morning when I came to work I heard about these men having been expelled and that the Co. would not fire them. The men felt the position of the Co. was wrong. I remember Joe Albanese, James Halo, Andrew Schrelevious, Domonic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Geo. & Emory Jacaway, & Chas. Bohanan as being the troublesome group at the mine some of these were the ones expelled at this time. I know the men were not satisfied over wages but I thing the real reason for the trouble wass the Cos. refusal to fire these men. I rember some of the cars being loaded short on May 12, 1937, I dont know why this was, whether it was on account of wages or over the firing of these men. This one

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

day is the only time I knew this happen.

"I remember that about 3 oclock the afternoon of May 12, [redacted] called the men out on strike. I dont know exactly what the reason was whether it was because of the spies or because of wages. I dont recall what petitions I signed during the summer of 1937 I do think I signed several such petitions, but I dont know where. Any petition I signed was for P.M.A. and was signed under no compulsion and of my own free will.

"I heard of a U.M.W. local being formed the summer of 1937, no one came to me at that time to get me to join.

"I dont recall anything unusual happening during the summer of 1937, no body bothered me.

"I was at the mine the morning the sit-down strike started. I heard of this through the papers. I went out and asked [redacted] if there was any work that day and he said "yes, if you belong to U.M.W." I rember that on this day only a few men went to work these were some of those so-called U.M.W. men or spies. After the Progressives found out that no one could work unless they were U.M.W. the P.M.A. men decided that if they couldn't work no one could. I was at the mine most of the time during the sit-down there was no fights or trouble while I was there, we just stayed there to protect our jobs. I dont know of any one but local men taking part in this. Most of the men carried canes or clubs, no guns that I know of. We were there of our own free will we could come and go as we wanted. We were not bothered by any U.M.W. men at all. I was there the night the U. S. Marshall came out and read the injunction. The miners left peacefully, but sort of felt they should have been allowed to stay there.

"I dont know whether I went to the mine when they tried to open it Dec. 13, 1937 or not.

"I voted at the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937, we met at the Hall and went down in a group. No body forced me to vote one way or another and as far as I know it was a good honest election. I voted for P.M.A.

"I dont remember anything happening of unusual nature between the time of the election and the time the mine reopened.

"I got a registered letter telling me the mine was to reopen and I was there the first day it opened, I dont remember any time limit to report. When I reported to go back to work I saw Falscetti

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

who told me to come out the next day if I wanted to go back to work. I returned to work the next day and worked up until [redacted] I knew nothing about the wage scale at this time but assumed it would be the regular Ill. wage scale. At first nobody said anything to me about joining the U.M.W. I didn't pay any dues to either Union at this time. Both unions sent men to my house to see me about joining. A fellow named [redacted] came to ask me to stay with P.M.A. he didn't beat or threaten me at all. This was just before the 2nd N.L.R.B. election, he wanted me to stay with the Progressives but I told him, "It didn't seem no use." Bungarner a P.M.A. man who changed over to organizing for U.M.W. came to see me about changing over to U.M.W. and I told him I might just as well. He didn't beat or threaten me. I went over to U.M.W. because it seemed as though they had the majority over there anyway. After the strike when I returned to work I saw a lot of new U.M.W. men there. A few of them are still there but most are all gone now.

"So far as I know it always seemed it didn't make any difference to the management which union was in the mine.

"I dont recall signing any cards for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. from the time I went back to work up until I joined the U.M.W. I joined the U.M.W. sometime prior to the last N.L.R.B. election I dont know just how long this was.

"I voted in the last N.L.R.B. election and voted for U.M.W. I voted for U.M.W. because I felt that the progressives wasn't getting no where. I voted of my own free will and the way I wanted nobody threatened me if I did or did not vote either way. The election was by secret ballot. I believe it was a good honest election. I think most of the men voted for the U.M.W. because they felt the same way I did. The only ones that were beat up were beat after the election these were progressives that felt they could do like the U.M.W. men did and stay there without joining the U.M.W. They gave them a deadline to join the U.M.W. and if the didn't they ran them off. [redacted] is one of the men who got beat he is still there he joined after they beat him up. I dont know who beat these men up. I was a Co. man and no body bothered me.

"I dont know what kind of shape the mine was in when it was opened but I dont think it took any longer to put it in shape than it always did before. I dont rember hearing anything about a big fire out there while the mine was closed. I have heard of Jack Glascow but I wasn't at the meeting where they kicked him out for saying something about money.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"I always felt the Progressives was the best outfit for the men. It was always felt that the U.M.W. was paying for keeping the mine up while the strike was going on.

"I have read the foregoing 14 page statement and it is all true and correct according to my present recollection. I am therefore signing this statement freely and initialing each page thereof.

(Signed) [redacted]

Witnessed
[redacted] Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)
" " " (St. Paul, Minn.)

Springfield, Ill
August 31, 1943"

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Ill. on August 28, 1943.

At the residence of [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed him and he advised he has never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that he seemed to have a preference for UMW and in response to Agents' questions he only remembered those things which he felt would in no way be to his disadvantage. He appeared to be a shrewd [redacted] with a convenient memory and is not believed that he would make a good witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from him:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No promises or threats have been made me and this statement is true and correct.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] and became a citizen around [redacted] I am a coal digger at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., and have been there for about [redacted] years. I first joined a coal miners union around [redacted] at Springfield, Ill., and have never held any union office. As far as I know there were no difficulties between Elshoff and UMW up to 1932 or so. Prior to 1932 Elshoff and UMW got along as far as I know of. Around 1932 I joined PMA because all the other miners did and did not take any active part in the matter. It seems to me that PMA got along with Elshoff alright between 1932 and the time the mine closed, and I don't recall of there being any strikes or other trouble between that time. I don't know if Elshoff or Falcetti had any difficulties with PMA between 1932 and 1937. I was not an active member of PMA but did pay my dues and attended only a very few meetings. Between 1932 and 1937 I believe that the PMA officials did a good job and I never was suspicious of them and they seemed to get for us miners what we wanted and I never suspected them of doing anything wrong with our money or rights. I feel that those PMA members had a fair and honest trial. I don't think that UMW ever picketed Mine B before the strike. Before the mine closed no one contacted me at home or at the mine to come back to UMW. I did not know of any UMW men working in Mine B who were giving information to UMW before the strike.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I heard thru gossip at Mine B something about parties being given by Elshoff and UMW men or officials but I never attended such affair. I recall that before the strike in 1937 something was said about wages but I never paid much attention to it as I still was getting my same wages.

"The cause of that 1937 strike was not over any wage question but was caused because there were some PMA men who were doing underground or crooked work for UMW and that was the cause of the strike.

"As long as I can make a living and don't get into any trouble it doesn't matter which union I belong to. I did not go to any meeting the night before the strike but heard something later at Mine B about some spies being kicked out. I recall that on the day of the strike some of the men did not load their cars full of coal but that only happened that one day and they did it because they were mad about the spies not being fired.

"I recall of signing some petition for PMA during the summer of 1937 and can't recall if I signed any more or not. I signed it of my own free will and no one forced me to sign it.

"I remember that in summer of 1937 UMW formed a new local and I was then asked to join it but I can't recall who asked me and I told them I would not sign up as I just stayed neutral.

"I did not take any particular activity in the strike as I did not want any trouble with anyone. From the time the mine closed in 1937 I was not out there at all until the mine opened for good except one time when PMA men forced me to go out there and help them picket. I happened to be down town one day and met some PMA men and I think one was [redacted] and another was [redacted] (phonetic) and they told me I should be out there and they told me to go out and I did that day and then they wanted to keep me there that night too but I had my wife phone that she was sick so I got back home. They wanted me to lay down on the cement floor of the wash room that night but I wouldn't. There was about 150 or 200 men there on the strike. There were no outsiders there in the strike, just from the local PMA. I went out to the mine myself that day and no one forced me or took me out there, but they told me I had to go. I felt that if I didn't go out they might do some harm to me. I voted at the first NLRB for the PMA because they were the majority and that is why I voted. It was a secret ballot. No one forced me to vote that way and I voted that way because I felt PMA was the better union. The second time I voted but I can't recall just how I voted and no one forced me to vote anyway that time. The election seemed

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

to be O. K. according to my judgment and there did not appear to be anything crooked about the.

"When the mine opened in 1939 I heard in some way that the mine was going to reopen and I went out there and they put me to work right away. I don't recall getting any registered letter from Elshoff. I still was PMA. While I was working in Mine B there were some UMW men there from other states and they would talk to me about going back to UMW and there was one man in particular who was very nice to me and he explained how much better UMW was but they never threatened me or forced me to sign over. I joined over to UMW because almost everybody else was either UMW or was joining over so I joined too. I signed something then but don't know just what it was, but think it was a membership card. I might have signed some card too for PMA but don't just remember.

"While I was working at Mine as PMA I used to send out clean cars of coal but still would get fined as they claimed I had dirt in the coal but I know I did not have that dirt but I don't know who did it. It happened once in a while to me and I heard that other men were having trouble also.

"When I returned in 1939 there was bad air in the mine rooms. There were some cave-ins too there. I don't know anything about a fire being there in Mine B while the mine was vacant.

"As long as no one causes me any trouble and they just let me work and don't bother me I am satisfied and I never took much interest in the strike at all.

"I can read the English language but I have desired that Agent [redacted] read this two page statement to me which he has done and it is true and correct and I have signed the same."

/s/ [redacted]

"WITNESSES:

[redacted]
Special Agent, FBI,
Milwaukee, Wis.

[redacted]
Special Agent, FBI,
St. Paul, Minn."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on August 30, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence. [redacted] was interviewed in the presence of his wife and he advised he has never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that he had difficulty in understanding the questions mentioned to him and his memory was rather poor. He appeared to be honest and cooperative but it is believed he would be hard to interview as a witness unless his testimony is absolutely necessary. He gave agents the following signed statement and inasmuch as he cannot write, he signed both pages of the statement with an "X" and his wife signed his name for him.

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 30, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] and I came to the United States about [redacted] and I am not an American citizen. I applied for first papers but they can't find where I came into this country. I worked at Mine B ever since CARL ELSHOFF took it over and I worked till a year ago [redacted] I was a coal digger there. Around [redacted] in Illinois I joined the UMW union but before I worked in Pennsylvania where you did not have to belong to a union. I have never held any union office at any time. Prior to 1932 I felt that UMW was more for the company than for the miners. At that time I changed over to PMA as the others did but it didn't make any difference to me which union there was and I never helped them organize the PMA there. In 1932 when we belonged to UMW we miners felt that we should not take the cut that JOHN L. LEWIS wanted us to take. At first PMA men got along pretty good with CARL ELSHOFF and they were able to bargain and make contracts and I don't know of any troubles between them at all as everything seemed to be alright as far as I know. I never heard of anyone suspecting the PMA officials of doing wrong things. I went to most of the PMA meetings between 1932 and 1937 before the mine closed. The union was pretty fair when I was there at Mine B. Nobody everbody told me I had to stay with PMA and could not joine UMW. I never had any opinion regarding those PMA men being sent to jail for the bombings as I never knew any-

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

thing about it. I never suspected any of the PMA officials of stealing any money or of doing wrong things and I think that they were doing a good job. No. UMW men ever bothered me before the mine closed. I never got any papers from UMW before the mine closed and I never saw any UMW men picket the mine before the strike. I never knew of any spies being in the mine for UMW and I don't know anything about any parties being given by Elshoff or by UMW or anyone else. I don't remember anything about the contract running out in spring of 1937. Before the mine closed there was no fights or trouble at all and things were going along just like they always did. I heard that there was going to a meeting the night before the strike and I just heard it but I did not go and I don't know if it was a special or regular meeting. On the day of the strike I heard nothing about wages and I did not know of anyone being expelled from the PMA. We got called out from Mine B but I don't know why. I recall something the day of the strike that some cars were being loaded short. As I remember it some PMA man told us to load them short but I loaded my cars full. I recall that the trouble at the mine started because the Mine B men would not fire some UMW men, and the strike was not caused because of wages.

"I did not sign any petition right after the mine B closed, and I don't recall of signing any petition for either UMW or PMA. I heard something about UMW forming a new union. I also recall that while the mine was closed 3 men came to my house and wanted me to join over to UMW but I would not sign for them. One was a [redacted] and the other was [redacted] and I don't know who the third one was. I do not recall anything happening during the summer of 1939.

"I do not recall recieving any notice that the mine was to be opened in Sept. of 1937 and as I recall it I heard some of the others say the mine was to be opened. I was out at the mine for a few days during the sit-down strike, no one forced me to go, I just went to see what was going on, I stayed a couple of nights out at the mine to help gaurd the property. All of the men were local PMA men just out there to see nobody hurt the mine. There was no trouble or fights, everything was peaceful. I was at the mine the time that the U. S. Marshall came out and told us we would have to leave, when he told us this [redacted] told us to pack up and leave, everybody packed up and left there were no fights nor nothing there.

"I dont know nothing about the attempt to open the mine on Dec. 13, 1937.

"I voted for the PMA in the first NLRB election on Dec. 15, 1937. Nobody forced me or told me that I had to vote for PMA, I voted for them

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

because I liked that union and they were the union at the mine.

"I dont remember anything about the attempt to open the mine in Jan. of 1938. From Jan. 1938 to Nov. 1939 I did not go to the mine but stayed around home most of the time. So far as I remember the only time I went to the mine during the strike was at the time of the sit-down strike.

"When the mine opened in Nov. 1939 [redacted] came to my house and brought me a letter telling me I should come back to work in three days or I would loose my job. He only gave me the letter and told me I had only three days to show up for work. He said nothing to me about joining any union. When I reported for work FALCETTI, told me that my room was not ready for me to work in yet and that he would let me know when I could come back to work, he never told me when to come back to work, I had to go back from time to time to find out, I went back to work in Jan. 1940, I think.

"I dont believe that I joined the UMW until after the last NLRB election, in Feb. 1941. When I went back to work they gave me a room that had bad air, this is the real reason that I quite last year because they wouldn't give me a room with good air. Nobody ever threatened me or hurt me to make me join the UMW, but my tools were stolen, I believe this was done by one of the UMW men hired there those men had no tools of there own in many cases. This was before I joined the UMW. I have had my tools stolen on three occasions altogether, all three of these times were before the last NLRB election. It is my belief that the UMW men felt [redacted] so they stole my tools instead. I never heard any of the mine officials say anything to indicate that they favored one union over the other. I do not remember having signed any membership cards for either union during the summer of 1940.

"I voted at the second NLRB election and again voted for the PMA, I did this because I felt this to be the best union. I think that the UMW won this election because there were new men brought into the mine, I saw several men in the mine who didn't even have any tools. After the election was over many of these men went away. In the Jan. following the election I joined the UMW, I felt I had to Join the UMW or be beat, no one threatened to beat me but I had heard of this happening to others and I joined to keep anything from happening to me. It is my opinion that conditions in the mine are worse under the UMW than they were under the PMA.

"When I returned to the mine there were a lot of squeezes in it, it was in pretty bad shape. I dont know anything about any fire while the

RE:
JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

mine was closed.

"I dont know anything about the meeting at which GLASCOW was kicked out.

"I know ANDREW SCHREVEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEORGE AND HORY LACAMAY, CHARLES BOHANNON but I dont know the other two. TONY PLOTCH, was one of the men I mentioned previously as having come to see me to get me to join the UMW.

"I have had read to me this two page typewritten statement and to the best of my recollection it is all true. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

[redacted] (X)

"Witnesses:

[redacted]
Spec. Agt. FBI (St. Paul)

[redacted]
Spec. Agt. FBI (Milwaukee)

Springfield, Ill.
Aug. 30, 1943."

Have get photocopy

006387

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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Prog United
not at B

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] told his story in a calm and collected manner and seemed to have a good recollection as to the events which took place at the time of the strike and which he had personal knowledge of. [redacted] speaks broken English, but seemed to grasp the meaning of questions quickly, and was very cooperative at the time of this interview. It is believed that [redacted] would make a good witness to testify as to those facts set forth in the following signed statement which he executed at the time of this interview.

"August 29, 1943
Springfield, Illinois

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in about [redacted] I have been a U. S. citizen since [redacted] and presently reside at [redacted] I started mining in about [redacted] and joined the U. M. W. at that time. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and joined the P M A at about that time. I have never held any office in any union. When I first started working at Mine B the union was getting along fine with the company and the union officers seemed to be good men. I never attended many of the union meetings so I cannot give much information as to what the union was doing.

"Before the time of the strike I had heard rumors that some of the Progressive men were acting as spies for the U. M. W. but I don't know what these men were doing before the strike. I think that Tommy Dillon was president of our local at that time and as far as I was concerned our union was being run in a good manner. I recall some members of the Progressive being arrested in 1936 for bombing and fighting and I know that most of the Progressive men felt that these men had been framed by the United, but can give no exact reason why we all felt they had been framed. Our union fees were about right and everyone seemed to be getting along fine. Up to the time of the strike I didn't see or hear of any picket line being set up by the U. M. W.

"A list of twelve names has been read to me by Agent [redacted] and I rember that I had heard all of these men were supposed to be working for

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

United. I recall that our contract expired in the spring of 1937 and I heard that the company had told our union that when a contract was signed it would be with the idea of being retroactive to April 1, 1937. I do not know anything about the activities of the 12 men mentioned during that period. I had heard that about 3 or 4 days before the strike some of the 12 men had refused to go to work and as I understand it they practically fired themselves by acting that way. I do not know anything about any union meeting the nite before the strike and I do not know exactly when the men were fired from the union.

"On the morning of the strike I went to the mine as usual and went to work in the [redacted] section and most of the men seemed to be in the pits. At the time of the strike I didn't hear any argument or discussion of wages. I do recall that about 3 or 4 days before the strike Peter Carter was talking to a group of men and asked them why they were going to work. He said he wanted to know what wages he would be getting if he went to work. I think that a lot of the men started loading the cars short on the day of the strike and it was my idea the men were loading the cars short to get even with the company for not firing the men. I worked the whole day until about 2:45 P. M. when we got word that our work was "all done." We didn't know anything about a strike until we got on top and somebody said a strike was on. We all went home and stayed home for several days at least. I remember signing a petition while I was at the union hall and nobody used any force to have me sign any petitions. I may have signed another petition but I can't recall the details.

"In the summer of 1937, Dominick Pasquale & Joe Albanese came to my house and later met me in the street at which time they insisted that I sign a petition for the United. I remember that they had about a dozen names on the petition. I remember that the last name on the petiton was [redacted] - I also saw the names of Plotch & Austin. They told me to join up with United and they would get me a better job, that is that I could get a better location down below. They didn't threaten me at all, even when I told them I wouldn't sign their petition.

"In September of 1937 I went out to the mine as I heard the mine was to open. I do not remember how we were all notified, but do recall we were all set to work. I remember that we didn't start to work because Elshoff wouldn't agree to recognize Progressive as having the sole bargaing rights. I believe that a few of the United men started to work so our men set up a picket line outside the mine. I stayed out on the picket line most of the time, but we all went home when we were served with an injunction.

"I remember that a few days after the injunction was served, an attemp' was made to start the mine again at which time about 12 or 14 United men started to work, but they didn't work long. I was not at the mine on that day. In December of 1937 there was an N L R B election and everything

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] seemed to be on the square at that election.
(continued) I didn't go to the mine much after the election in December of 1937. I remember that Tony Plotch came to my house in the summer time and asked me why I didn't join the United. He said I would get a better "entry" at the plant. He wanted me to sign a membership card, but I told him I didn't want to so he left.

"I went back to Mine B in 1939 when the mine re opened. When I first tried to start work I was told they weren't ready for me, but I started work about 2 or three weeks after the rest had started. When I went out to the mine Oscar Falcetti told me my section had caved in and that I had no section to work in. I started working in a different section when I went back and didn't get back to my old section, [redacted] for almost a year. I didn't hear any remarks about any fires.

"When we went back to the Mine we worked under an "open shop" rule, but in my opinion the men at first thought the Progressives would win out. I think Elshoff & the company showed favortism toward United, but it is pretty hard for me to give any definite information about that. It was the rumor that in order to get a job at the mine it was necessary for a new man to go to the united officials. It was the rumor that if a man saw [redacted] Edmundson, Bohannon or any other united official that a man could get a job. A lot of our men felt that there was some connection between United and the company, but none of us could prove anything.

"I have read the above statement consisting of seven pages and declare it to be true and correct. I have initialed the first six pages and have signed this, the seventh and last page."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F. B. I.,
U. S. Dept. of Justice"

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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Proj'ct not at B now

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] appears to have a clear recollection of matters at Mine B and tells his story well. It is believed that he would make a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement which he signed:

"August 30, 1943
Springfield, Illinois

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born in Illinois [redacted] and presently live at [redacted] I first started working in the mines when I was about [redacted] years old and joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] I have never held an office in any union. I started working for Mine B in [redacted] and at that time I was a member of the PMA union.

"As far as I was concerned, conditions at the plant were good up until the time of the strike. I used to attend most of the union meetings and we were told our contract was to expire in March and that ELSHOFF was going to renew our contract. I was told by the union that between April 1, 1937 and May 12, 1937, ELSHOFF had refused to meet with our men and agree to a new contract. Prior to the time of the strike there were no picket lines at the mine that I know of.

"I did not attend a union meeting the night before the strike and so I do not know of any action they took that night. [redacted] has read a list of 12 names to me and I knew all of these men at the mine. I had heard these men were supposed to be spies for the U.M.W. and know that they were expelled from the union for not being good PMA union men. I think that it was at a regular meeting about a week before the strike that the 12 men mentioned were ordered expelled from the union for 99 years. I recall that one of our officers got up before the meeting & read off some charges to the effect that these men had been carrying on activities for the U.M.W. Some of the spies were at the meeting and didn't make any effort to deny the charges.

"I went to work on the morning of the strike and took up my regular job as a digger in [redacted] When I got to the mine I saw about 400 men standing around and I was told that the PMA men did not want the men who had been expelled from the union to go to work with them, I had heard that these men had gone to FALCETTI and he gave them their "live check" to go to work that morning. It was my impression that none of the men wanted to work with these men.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I recall that some of the men started sending up short loads, but I loaded all of my cars just as they were supposed to be. I believe that most of the men were sore at the company for letting the spies go to work. I also think some of the men were sore at the company for not giving us a new contract and meeting with our officials. I think the men went on strike that day due to the spies working and also because we couldn't agree as to wages.

"I quit work at the regular time and when I got on top I was told the mine was on strike. I remember that I signed a PMA petition at the union hall. Nobody forced me to sign the petition and I signed because I wanted to go back to work.

"After the strike and in the summer of 1937, JOE ALBANESE & DOMINIC PASQUALE came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.A. They told me that if I didn't join United I would never work at Mine B again. DOMINIC did most of the talking and said he knew I wouldn't work if I didn't sign up. I told him I was going to think it over. In that summer there were no other attempts to get me to join the UMW.

"In September of 1937 I recall that there was a notice in the paper that the mine was to open, so all the men went out to the mine. When we got out to the mine FALCETTI said the mine would only open up if U.M.W. men worked the mine. He said he wanted 50 men to go into the mine and clean up so the rest of the men could go to work. TOM DILLON, president of our local said he would furnish 50 men, but FALCETTI said, 'I'm just working here the same as you fellows. I'm just under orders. I've got orders to hire only United men.' FALCETTI then said for the rest of us to stand by and let those go to work that wanted to. About ten or 12 men went into the mine and all of these men were the spies who had been working for United. I recall this was about 6:30 a.m. & our men then left the mine and went to union headquarters where we held a meeting. We decided to go to work the next day and throw up a picket line so the united men couldn't go to work. About 400 of us went out to the mine the next day and the men who had worked the day before went into FALCETTI's office and didn't try to go to work. The sheriff and some of his deputies were there to see that nobody was hurt. Our men then started on a sit down strike at the mine and kept a picket line at the mine until the picket line was broken up by the injunction in Dec. of 1937. I was on picket duty off and on most of that time.

"I remember that within a week after the injunction some of the United men went to the mine and started to work. There was only about 10 or 12 men and they were the same ones who had been expelled from the union. I do not know of any notice that was given to anyone to report for work at that time & I think it was just an idea of the united men heard about these men working so our union lawyer, DOLL, had an injunction issued stopping those men from working.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I recall there was an NLRB election in December of 1937 and to the best of my knowledge everything went along good. I do not know of anyone being threatened or any strong arm tactics used by either side.

"In November of 1939 I received notice to report for work and so I started working again as a member of P.M.A. After I started working in 1939 I was contacted many times by PLOTCH, AUSTIN and others and they would say, 'You'd better get right and join the U.M.W. because that's the way it's going.' It was my impression that the company was only hiring united men from 1939 on until the election in Feb. of 1941. It is my information that [redacted] was one of the men hired about that time. I believe [redacted] lives on [redacted] & is now working at Mine B. It is my opinion that if a man wanted to get a job at that time he first had to see the United man & get an OK from him and then go tell FALCETTI he was a United man. I believe [redacted] also was hired in that manner.

[redacted] I was working with JIMMY HALE's boy and I think he had me changed to another section because we couldn't get along.

"I have read over this entire statement of seven pages, have initialed the first six, and hereby sign this page. This statement is true to the b of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSES

[redacted]) Special Agents, FBI
[redacted]) U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This witness is about average in speech and intelligence. It is felt that he would be a favorable witness to testify to those matters set forth in the following statement which he executed:

"Springfield, Illinois
Aug. 29, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make this statement.

"I was born [redacted] and presently reside at [redacted]. I started mining at the [redacted] mine in Springfield in about [redacted] and joined the U.M.W. union in that year. I have never held any office in the year I went to work at Mine B in [redacted] and joined the P.M.A. union at that time. When I first started working for Mine B the working conditions were all right and things seemed to be going along OK.

"At the time of the strike in 1937 I was working as a digger in the South West part of the mine. I knew that there was a union meeting just a day or two before the strike, but I never paid much attention to union activities. As far as I know all the men were getting along all right with the company. Our union officers seemed to be doing their job well and the company seemed to like our union.

"I heard talk after the strike that some of the P.M.A. men were working for the U.M.A. I also heard that the strike was over these men.

"I do not know anything about any dispute between the company and the men over wages as I never paid much attention to what the union was doing. I do not know whether the rest of our union was doing anything about wages at that time.

"On the day of the strike in 1937 I went to work as usual and remember that some of our union officers were having a talk with Falcetti in his office about some men who were supposed to be discharged. Some of these men were Andy, Joe Albanese, John Sirtout, and maybe some others that I can't remember. Our officers came out

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

and told us to go back to work. We had all been talking about these men who were supposed to be spies for about two weeks before the strike.

"I know that in the morning on the day of the strike some of the men were loading cars short, but I don't know anything else about it. I think the men were loading the cars short to impress it on the company to discharge the men the union wanted fired. I worked all that day as usual and didn't know there was a strike until I came to the top after our work was done & somebody said we were on strike.

"I didn't go out to the mines the next day and about two weeks after the strike I signed a PMA petition to go back to work. I don't know whether some one came to my house or whether I signed the petition at the union hall. I do not know anything about any new U.M.W. local being formed in the summer of 1937 and was not approached to join it. As far as I was concerned I wanted to go back to work in the summer of 1937 but only under the Progressive. I attended some meetings in the summer of 1937 and I think that most of the men favored PMA.

"In the fall of 1937 I went out to the mine quite a bit to do picket duty and was out there when we were served with an injunction to break up. Our union leaders asked us to go out to the mines to picket so as to protect our jobs. There were no threats on violence on the part of anyone.

"When the injunction was served all of the men felt the company had switched over to the U.M.W. and that Elshoff was against the Progressive. It was my idea that the company wouldn't sign a contract and recognize the progressive union so we felt the company was favoring the U.M.A.

"I heard that some of the men tried to go back to work in Dec. of 1937 but I didn't go to the mine at that time. In Dec. of 1937 the NLRB supervised an election at the armory and we all met at our hall and then marched to the armory in groups of about 15 or 20. There was no violence of any kind that I know of.

"I know that I went back to work at ~~Mine B~~ sometime after the mine opened up in November of 1939. When I went back to the mines they were operating on an open shop basis. As a rule I was one of the last to start work every day so I didn't see any fighting or any violence. I had heard that there were fights, but I didn't see any. When the company started hiring new men at this time it seemed as though the only new men hired were U.M.W. men. It was my impression that [redacted] of the U.M.W. was friendly with Oscar Falcetti and it seemed as tho when he took a new man into Falcetti to get a job, that

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

man always got a job & it always seemed to turn out that he was a member of the U.M.W. I know that Bohannon was also a good friend of Falcotti.

"In my opinion all of our men felt that the new men being hired were all UMW men and that the PMA was gradually being out numbered. We could see that some of our older men were leaving and their places were being taken by UMW men. It is my opinion that a lot of money was spent by United to beat the progressives out of Mine B - I feel that the progressive union was sold out by some one.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.,
U.S. Dep't. of Justice."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on August 27, 1943.

[redacted] at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] in the presence of his wife, and he advised he has no criminal record [redacted].

It was noted that he was above average in intelligence among miners and that he had a fair knowledge of the affairs that occurred [redacted] and he appeared to be very cooperative and truthful in his statements. [redacted] it is believed he would make a good witness.

He furnished the following three page typewritten signed statement to Agents:

[redacted],
Springfield, Ill.,
August 27, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. Dept. of Justice, and no promises or threats have been made me.

"I was born [redacted] and I am a citizen of the United States. I first joined a miners union in [redacted] when I was [redacted] years old. I have been unemployed since May 12, 1937. I have never held any union office. I worked at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. from about [redacted] to 1937. Around 1932 there was a split in the United Mine Workers because of a cut in wages and I recall that there were 2 elections held under UMW and that the ballots were stolen and as a result of this Progressive Miners of America local was formed. I don't know at that time whether or not Mr. Carl Elshoff favored one union over the other. In 1932 I was in favor of PMA because I felt they were more honest and square and I felt that John L. Lewis was unfair to the men and that it was about time some new man should take over.

"From 1932 until May, 1937 I know of no trouble or difficulties that the management of the Mine B had with PMA and they all seemed to get along alright, as far as I can remember. Betwee 1932 and when the strike began the PMA officials and PMA miners all got along fine and never had any difficulties and the miners never suspected that PMA officials were crooked. In regard to the PMA there appeared to be no leader or big shot running the show but all the miners and the officials worked together and operated the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

local very nicely and there never was any trouble over this matter. I favored the PMA local as they were doing a lot of good for all of us.

"Between 1932 and 1937 there were about 14 men working in the Mine B who were PMA miners but everyone seemed to know that they were receiving money from UMW because these men were talking to the PMA miners about going over to UMW and these 14 men all seemed to have a lot of extra money and some also got new cars and other things. These 14 men never talked to me about coming back to UMW. I heard that UMW had sent out literature and pamphlets but I never saw or received any.

"In regard to the PMA members being convicted for the bombings it was the opinion of all us miners that the United Mine Workers were behind that and that the PMA men convicted had nothing to do with it at all.

"I recall that Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, Geo. and Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale, were at Mine B and these are some of the 14 men I referred to above.

"I never heard or know of any parties or social affairs between B Mine officials and UMW.

"The cause of the strike in 1937 was not caused over wages but was the result of Mine B not firing Pete Carter and Frank Austin after they had been expelled from PMA and there might have been a few more who were expelled too. I did not attend the meeting when the men were expelled and I don't recall if it was a regular or special meeting. In regard to when the strike started at Mine B it was not known to us miners that there would be a strike. However, on that morning we all went to work but we did not like the idea that the management of Mine B would not fire these men who were expelled. But we worked and that evening went home and did not know that a strike would be. I learned about the men being expelled thru gossip at the mine and I learned about it the next morning.

"We miners did not feel that we could get more or better benefits by changing over to UMW from PMA. There never were any coal cars being loaded short until the day of the strike when we miners saw Carter and Austin go down into the mine after the management should have fired them. This did not set well with the miners and they did not take an interest in their work because they felt that the Mine B management was favoring UMW. FALCETTI never said anything to me as to how he felt about the PMA and UMW. If the management would have fired these expelled men there would not have been any trouble at Mine B at all.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Shortly after the mine closed I recall that I signed a PMA petition which was gotten up by PMA. As I recall it I signed this petition on the highway near Mine B but most signed up for PMA. All of us signed this petition of our own free will and no force or pressure was used by anyone to make us sign and we signed the petition because we wanted PMA to be our local there.

"I never signed any petition for the UMW at any time but my wife, [redacted] told me then that TONY PLOTCH and another man who might have been CHARLES BOHANNON, came to our house at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. and inquired for me and I believe that their purpose then was to see me about joining over to UMW. MY wife says that Plotch pointed some blue steel weapons at her while he sat in his car at that time.

"I recall that a short time later I signed some other petition in the Mine B coal office, and I don't recall who circulated this petition but I know I was for PMA at all times.

"I never was asked to join a UMW local in summer of 1937. I recall that in summer of 1937 HARVEY WILLIAMS, who lived on Second St., was the PMA engineer at Mine B looking after the equipment even tho the mine was closed. Williams was in favor of PMA always and he once told my wife and I that UMW men had once drawn guns at him at the mine and were not going to let him work unless he was on the UMW side. He told us that he finally had to quit. WILLIAMS died this last winter in Springfield, Ill. If I recall right Williams told us that one of the men was DOMINIC PASQUALE and the other was an Italian.

"I don't recall of anything unusual that happened during summer of 1937 regarding this strike.

"During the fall of 1937 I did not receive any notice from Mine B that it was going to open. However, HARVEY WILLIAMS and [redacted] who also worked at the mine, came to my home and told me that he heard the ELSHOFF was going to reopen the mine the following morning with UMW men and Williams said that inasmuch as PMA was in control that all PMA men should be at Mine B the following morning. The following morning I rode out to Mine B with [redacted] (phonetic) and when I got there all of us PMA men were there and PALLETTI told us that he wanted 25 UMW men to go down into the mine to clean it up and some of those 14 men I mentioned before including FRANK AUSTIN, went down into the mine. The picketing started then the next morning after PMA had a meeting in town. The next morning no one went down and we PMA fellows started to guard the property and those 12 or 13 men who went down the day before did not go down again.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I spent quite a bit of my time at the time during this picketing and we were guarding the property as we were afraid that UMW might come in and damage the mine property. The strike there was very orderly and it was just to protect the property. No outsiders were brot in by PMA at all as just the local PMA miners were out there. However the sheriff and his men were out there too.

"We were doing this picket work just to protect the property and our property and no one forced us to picket the place at all. [redacted]

"I don't know anything about a strike in Dec. 1937. In December, 1937 I heard about NLRB going to hold an election at the Armory in Springfield and altho I did not have to go and vote I nevertheless wanted to vote as I still felt that PMA was the best and several miners came out [redacted] I voted for PMA. I have shown to agents [redacted] I went down and voted of my own free will and no one even asked me to go down and vote. As a result of this election I heard that PMA won by 404 to 25. This election was by secret ballot and it was perfectly legal and nothing crooked about it and I know that the other PMA men voted for PMA because they believed that was the best union. About two months after the mine opened in Sept. 1939 I first received my registered letter from Mr. Elshoff offering me back my job.

"I also voted at the second NLRB election [redacted] then and I voted again for PMA. The election was held alright but the reason UMW won was because I had heard thru gossip that many UMW men were going ardound to the homes of PMA and was telling them to vote for UMW and they also were given liquor and other things. I believe that the same 14 men were the ones going around. In regard to this second NLRB election the PMA men had to go down to vote by certain streets.

"I have never joined the UMW.

"This 3 page statement has been read to me and my wife by Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct and I have signed it of my own free will."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSES:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, Milwaukee, Wis."

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Priv not observed

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], who resides in his own home on [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at the Springfield Field Office on the morning of August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] Illinois. He is considered by interviewing agents as a good potential witness due to his above average intelligence for a minor, good appearance, and good ability to express himself. He is inclined to be verbose and state his conclusions as facts. He gave information as set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I first joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] I first went to Mine B in [redacted] I did not go back on the Union Rolls until [redacted] when I again returned to Mine B. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932 when the mine went over from the UMW. At that time I went over, but did not particularly want to change unions. I changed because I wanted to follow the majority. I was not satisfied with the PMW of A at that time. The check offs were too high. I also thought that there was no sense in having two unions. I always felt that way, and told whoever asked me about it exactly what I felt about this matter. A couple of years before the strike in 1937 this situation improved as far as the check offs were concerned, but I still wanted to have only one Union. In my opinion quite a few of the men at the mine felt the same as I did. Before the strike there were several men who had signed up with the United Mine Workers. None of them ever talked to me, but I understand tht at the time of the strike there was a majority of men signed up with the UMW. I do not know because I did not see the records, or talked to the men.

"In 1932 when the PMW was formed, Elshoff seemed to favor the PMW. His favoritism seemed to follow for several years and then I noticed that he changed over to favoring the UMW. I do not recall any specific acts that occurred to favor the UMW men. There were not many of them in the mine, and he could not do too much, but it seemed as if he was favoring them again.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I was not at the Union meeting the night before the election. I had seen men in groups through the mine in the days before the strike talking and arguing. They seemed to be upset over the wage scale and the contract the the PMW had, as not giving the men as much as the UMW contract. That is the reason that I think that many of the men had signed up with the UMW before the strike. I did not know that there was going to be a strike. I thought that the strike was called by the PMW officials in order to keep the rest of the men from signing up with the UMW. I do not know that this was the reason, because I never talked to any one about it, but that was my opinion at the time of the strike. I did not sign any petitions after the strike. I knew that there was a UMW local formed, but nobody ever asked me to join this local. I was at the mine part of the time during the picket line. I did not get there the day that it started.

"I voted at the election at the Armory in December 1937. As far as I know it was a fair election. Nobody tried to influence my vote. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote. I understand that in some of those elections men have been threatened, but I do not know that that happened at this election because I never saw anyone threatened, and did not hear anything about such a threat.

"I went back to work a few days after the mine reopened in 1939. I think that there was only one time that they attempted to open the mine during all the time that it was down. That was in August, I believe, in 1937. When I went back in the mine there had been quite a few falls. Shaft Number 5 was pretty badly filled up, and it took them a long time to get it back into operation. There had been no fires, and no other big cave ins at the mine, while it was closed, that I observed.

"During the time that I have worked at this mine There never has been a Special man checking air in the day time. A man did that at night after midnight. I knew [redacted] at the mine after the mine reopened. I do not know what he was supposed to be doing, but I know that I saw him with equipment that an air check man would be using. I do not know what activities were undertaken at the mine in organizing the United Mine Workers. I am a shot fire man, and do not go down in the mine until about 1:15 PM, and do not come up until after all the men are gone. Because I was out there at different times I do not know much about what was happening at the mine, and since I did not go to Union meetings I do not know much about what happened there among the men. As far as I know there was no violence at the mine. I heard that some of the men were beaten, but I did not see any. The beatings and violence that I heard about occured after the strike. I did not hear of any violence being undertaken at Mine B by members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, or the United Mine Workers.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I was never approached by anyone in connection with Joining either union because everyone knew my opinion.

"I have read the above statement on this page and two other pages. It is true and accurate.

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted]

F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] On August 30, 1943, [redacted] Street, Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he advised that he had never been arrested in his life. It was noted that he was very ignorant and would make a very poor witness. His son, [redacted] read the statement to him and he signed it by an "X". [redacted] then signed his name also to the statement, which is as follows:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 30, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the United States about [redacted] and became a citizen about [redacted] years ago. I have not worked for about [redacted] About [redacted] years ago or more I joined the United Mine Workers at No. 2 mine in Springfield, Ill. and I never held any union office.

"I worked at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. about [redacted] years in all. Before PMA came in at Mine B UMW got along alright with the management. I changed over to PMA because all the others did and it did not make any difference to me as I had to work to live and it didn't matter to me which union I belonged to. No one forced me to join PMA then in 1932. I always would join whatever union most of the men belonged to. I don't know Elshoff at all as I never saw him altho I worked for him and I don't know of any trouble he may have had with anyone and I don't know anything at all about him or how he ran his mine.

"I did not know of anything wrong with PMA union as they seemed to me to be same as UMW or other unions as it didn't matter to me which union was in. At the mine in 1937 we were told there was no work and we all went home. I don't know why there was no work and I don't know why there was a strike. No work so everybody went home. I never signed no paper for anybody when the mine closed in 1937. Nobody ever came to my home or saw me at the mine about joining over to UMW from PMA. No one bothered me or threatened me to join over. I never was at Mine B when they had picketing or were having the sit down strike. I never went back to Mine B at all till they opened for good. I don't know about any UMW spies at the Mine B. Nobody ever bossed me there. I never voted at any National Labor Relations Board in the Armory in Springfield, Ill. I would go to PMA meetings once in a while but not all the times, as I never understood what was going on because I don't

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

understand English very well and I would go so they would not fine me.

"The whistle blew when mine reopened and I went back to work. Nobody wrote me nor told to go back. I went to work right away as my room was alright and there was no falls there. I don't know what kind of wage scale they had when we returned to work. I was a coal digger there. After mine B opened up I paid no dues to anyone and then later some joined UMW so I joined with them but no one forced me to join nor told me to join.

"When I went back the mine looked the same to me as it was before and I don't know if there were any cave-ins there or not. I don't know much of what was going there as I just wanted to make a living. I never went to school and don't understand things well at all so don't know what it was all about.

"I can not read the English language so I have had my son read this 1 page statement to me and it is true and right and as I can't write my name I have placed a cross for my name.

(s) X
(s) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, Milwaukee, Wis.

[redacted] Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] on the morning of August 28, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] He is a naturalized American citizen. He has been in the mines most of his life. He is presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #5. [redacted] is not considered to be a good potential witness due to an extremely difficult accent, a rather dulled mentality, and an obnoxious appearance. He could only recall events which excited him.

The following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to get me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary to go to court to repeat this statement.

"I have been mining since [redacted] In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was glad to be able to join the Progressives then. I was not working at Mine B then, and did not go to Mine B until [redacted] I was a member of the Progressives all the time and liked that union. I am still a member of the Progressives. I do not want to join the United Mine Workers. I have never wanted to join the United Mine Workers since I have belonged to the Progressives.

"Before the strike at Mine B in 1937 things went along pretty well. Everybody liked the Progressive Mine Workers, and the officers of local #54. The only people I knew of who were complaining about the Union were 12 men who the union kicked out. We had a strike because the mine managers would not fire these men who had been kicked out of the Union. I went out and stayed at the mine for two or three months until the Marshall came with an injuction and we left. I voted in the election which was held a few days after the injunction. It was a fair election. No one told me how to vote. I voted just as I pleased. There was no trouble at all.

"When we went back to the mine after the strike, there were a few falls. They lost box #5. They still have not fixed that part, as far as I know. The men who were supposed to be working in Box 5 who were Progressives were given bad jobs in other part of the mine, but the men who were United Mine Workers got good jobs in the other parts of the mine. There were a lot of men hired at the mine who were supposed to be timberman,

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

or something else, but they did not work, and just went around the mine talking to people. One of them was named [redacted] Another was [redacted] Another was [redacted] was supposed to go around the mine checking the air. The company never had a man to do that before the strike.

"After the strike I was asked many times to join the United Mine Workers. I did not want to join and told the men that I would not. Joe Albanese and [redacted] asked me to join the United Mine Workers. [redacted] and [redacted] also asked me to join the United Mine Workers many times. [redacted] argued with me about it in my room, and one day he hit me in the jaw and told me that he would kill me if I did not quit saying things about him. Someone told me that I would have to join the United Mine Workers if I was going to stay and work at that mine. I told them that I did not want to join the United Mine Workers, and if they did not want me at Mine B I would quit. I could have kept my job at Mine B if I had joined the United Mine Workers. [redacted] promised me good room if I would come back and join the United Mine Workers. I quit at Mine B because I did not want to join the United Mine Workers, and wanted to stay as a Progressive.

"I was never dissatisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers. None of the men in the PMW of A treated me mean or threatened me. I always voted in all the elections exactly as I wanted to vote.

"I have read the above statement on this page and two other pages. It is all true and accurate and I am willing to go to court if necessary and repeat any part of this statement.

(s) [redacted]

[redacted] FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Illinois. [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 31, 1943. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] would not make a good witness as he is uneducated and is very vague about the facts.

The following statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.,
August 31, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted], emmigrated to the U. S. in [redacted] I am a citizen of the U. S. which citizenship was derived through my father [redacted]

"I became a member of UMW in [redacted] when I started working in a coal mine in [redacted], Ill. I was employed at Mine "B" in about [redacted] I am now employed [redacted]

"I have never held an office in any union.

"In 1932 I was a member of a local UMW. The local UMW for some unknown reason changed to PMA so I became a member of PMA.

"Prior to the change from UMW local to PMA, Elshoff of Mine "B" seemed to have been on good relations with UMW.

"Between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B" and the mine was not closed down.

"No one attempted to change me from UMW to PMA between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937. The management seemed to have been on good relations with PMA and the management had a good attitude toward settling grievances.

"I considered PMA a good Union and I was satisfied with PMA, no unusual special assessments were placed against me by PMA. I took no interest in union activities. I took no interest in the bombing cases and can furnish no information concerning them.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I do not remember a UMW picket line at Mine "B" between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 nor did I see any literature being distributed at the mine.

"No one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW prior to May 12, 1937.

"I never saw any officials of UMW associating with the Management of Mine "B".

"I never heard about a wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend a meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937. I do not rember if I received notice of such a meeting or not.

"On about May 12, 1937 I went to work as usual, someone told me the mine was on strike so I returned home. I do not know why the strike was called as no one told me.

"I do not recall signing any petitions in the summer of 1937.

"I know nothing of the formation of a UMW local in the Summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 PMA advised me that Mine "B" was to open. On going to the mine I was told by someone I could not work, but no reason was given. I acted as a voluntary PMA picket from time to time from Sept. 1937 to sometime in Nov. 1937 when an injunction was obtained to prevent the picketing. All the pkcets were miners at Mine "B".

"I do not know the attitude of the miners of Mine "B" concerning the injunction.

"Sometime in December 1937 I voted in the NLRB election for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair and no violence took place during the election.

"I think I obtained a position at Mine "A" in the last part of 1937 and dropped all interest in Mine "B". I cannot furnish any information subsequent to the last part of 1937 concerning Mine "B". During the time I was employed at Mine "A" it was not owned by Elshoff.

"I am at the present a member of PMA and consider it a good union.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have had the four pages of this statement read to me and the statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:-

[redacted] - Special Agent - F.B.I. (signed)

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I." (signed)

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JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois on August 29, 1943.

After making various inquiries agents located [redacted] not [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Illinois, and he advised he has never been arrested in his life.

It is felt that [redacted] would make a fair witness if called. [redacted] gave agents the following signed statement:

[redacted] Ill.,
August 29, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. No force or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to U. S. when about [redacted] and became a citizen thru my father many years ago. I worked at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., for about [redacted] years and quit there about in Jan. [redacted] and am now working at the [redacted] in [redacted] Ill.

"I first joined the UMW union in [redacted] Ill. when I was about [redacted] years old and I never have held any union office. When I started at Mine B I had to join UMW again and it was around in [redacted] and as far as I know Elshoff and UMW got along together. I never attended their meetings so don't know much about it. In 1932 I wanted to go to the Progressives because I knew we would get better treatment and I still say they are better than UMW. I was helping on a farm when that trouble came so didn't know much about those matters. There never was any trouble between PMA and Carl Elshoff between 1932 and the time the strike started that I know of. We PMA miners felt that the PMA officials were doing pretty good for us miners. I only attended a few meetings between 1932 and the time the mine closed down, and was not active in the PMA affairs. As far as I know everything was alright at the Mine B prior to 1937. I don't know nothing about the PMA men being convicted for the bombings. I think PMA officials were running the union money affairs alright and I was well satisfied. I never heard of any pickets or anything else wrong between UMW and PMA prior to the time the mine closed. I don't know of any parties being given by Elshoff or UMW. I don't recall what we were told about the wage contract except we were suppoed to get 10% more for 13 days but never got it. I don't know anything about the wage contracts. I attended only about two meetings in my [redacted] years. As far as I know all of us miners,

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

except a few were satisfied with the Progressives. I don't recall of any complaint being made on pay days over our wages. Before the strike I was contacted in the mine several times that I should swing over to UMW and that I would get more wages and conditions would be better. Their names were both [redacted] but I can't recall their last names at all. They never threatened me at all. I never heard why Mine B would not sign a contract with PMA I don't know anything about the meeting that was held the night before the strike but I believe it was a special meeting and [redacted] told me about it but I did not go to it. I did not know that there was going to a strike there at Mine and I left my tools and things all there. I was told that the strike was had because the Mine B men would not fire some expelled men and the strike was not over any wage question. I don't know anything about the cars being loaded short.

"At the mine 3 or 4 times I signed something but I just don't know what it was but I know it was in favor of PMA that I signed for and I did not sign up them for UMW. I never was contacted to join any UMW local in 1937, and I don't know anything about it. I recall that I went out to Mine B once or twice when they tried to reopen but I don't recall what happened or how I learned about it. I stayed at Mine B a few nights when they had a sit down strike. I was not forced to but did not bring in any outside miners at all and just the local was there and the Sheriff and his men. I was helping on farms then too so was not very active at all in thos matters and I never paid much attention to what was going on. I voted twice for NLRB elections and I voted PMA both times. I signed over to UMW because I had to in order to hold my job and I still liked PMA and voted for them both times. As far as I know the elections themselves were alright and they were by secret ballot as I recall. I did not go back to Mine B when they tried to open it again after the NLRB electich the first time. I don't know why Elshoff would not sign the PMA altho most of us were PMA. During fall of 1939 I received a letter from Mine B and they told me to come back to work. I went out and went to work right way. I don't recall what they asked me when I came back. I do know that they did try to hire more UMW men than PMA men. We got the union scale for wages I know but I don't know if they said anything about that to me. BOWLGREEN (phonetic) and several others contacted me in the mine and they told me that if I didn't swing over to UMW I would not have a job. I never was beaten up nor threatened. I was not bothered by the UMW men but I did hear that other PMW men were bothered a lot. "Cudge" (phonetic) was another who would talk to us about goving over to UMW. ANDY SCHRELEVIOUS, Pasquale, Tony Plotch, Sirtout and Charles Bohannon, who is Bowlgreen, were around and tried to get us to join over to UMW, after the mine opened in fall of 1939. There were a lot of new men

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

in the mine but I never knew them and they were all UMW. After the UMW won their second election many of these men disappeared and left for other places.

"I never was told by management of Mine B to swing over but everyone could see around there that the management liked UMW better. I remember something about signing some cards but I signed up for FMA. I signed over to UMW quite some time after I started back to work. We all signed over and it was after the NLRB election was held and when UMW won. I voted for FMA at that time and I was not told for whom I should vote. I think the elections were alright.

"When I returned to work in fall of 1939 the whole mine could not start except box 3 and 4 and I think some of the other had cave-ins. I know of several men who waited several months to get back because of the cave-ins. I don't knowing anything about a fire there in B mine in 1939.

"I still was with UMW till first part of 1943 and then signed back over to FMA as I wanted to get closer to home.

"I can't read the English language very well so I have had Agent [redacted] read this 2 page statement to me and it is correct as I gave it and I have signed it of my own free will and no force has been used on me.

Witnesses:

[redacted] /S/
Special Agent, FBI,
St. Paul, Minn.

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, FBI,
Milwaukee, Wis.

(Signed) [redacted]

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] telephone [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated he was born in [redacted] and had been a U. S. citizen since [redacted] He advised that he could neither read nor write the English language.

[redacted] ould not make a good witness for the reason he does not have a good memory, could only understand questions put to him by Agents after his daughter went into long explanations in his native tongue, and for the further reason he apparently has no information of value to instant case.

[redacted] furnished the following statement which he has signed with his mark, "X".

"August 26, 1943
Springfield, Illinois

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me by these men and I desire to state the following facts:

"I started mining in the vicinity of Springfield, Illinois in about [redacted] and worked at that trade until about 1937, when I stopped working due [redacted] When I first started mining in [redacted] the U. M. W. was the only union at the mines. In 1932, when the P. M. A. was chosen by the men as their union, I joined the P. M. A. Before that time the dues in the U. M. W. had been very high, but the dues in the P. M. A. were much lower. Between 1932 and 1937, when the P. M. A. was the only union, things seemed to be much better at first. The dues were lower and the union saw to it that the track was laid faster and the men were more satisfied.

"During the time I was in the union, I didn't go to many of the meetings and so cannot state much with regard to union activities. I do remember being at a union meeting shortly before the strike in May of 1937 and remember some talk about a strike, but my memory is very poor. I remember signing a petition for the P. M. A as I wanted the P. M. A. to be the only union in the mine, but I cannot remember the date I signed this petition or what the petition was about.

"I joined the P. M. A. in about 1932 and have belonged to that union ever since that time. I am still a member of the union, but do not have to pay any dues since I'm not working. I have never received any threats to join any other union. I do not know anything about any members of the P M A

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

being expelled for being spies for the U M W. I know Dominic Pasquale, but do not know anything about his activities.

"While I was in the union and during the time I was working I very seldom went to any of their meetings. I have been fired by the union for not going to meetings on several ocassions. In view of the fact I didn't attend many of the meetings, I do not have any information about the strike in 1937 and do not have any information about how the company felt about the different unions.

"The above statement has been read to me by my daughter, [redacted] and I wish to state it is true to the best of my recollection. I have marked the first two pages & hereby affix my mark."

"X" (his mark)

"Witnesses

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill."

[redacted]) "Special Agents, F. B. I.
) U. S. Dept. of Justice"

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], [redacted] was [redacted] interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. He stated he was born in [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted]. He became a United States citizen in [redacted]. This minor can neither read nor write English and understands English with difficulty. Most of the conversation was made possible by his niece, [redacted] acting as interpreter. His memory is poor and he has a habit of answering any question in the affirmative. He is hard of hearing and his value as a witness is doubtful. The following statement was secured from him and signed by mark after being read and translated to him by his niece.

"Springfield, Illinois
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following signed voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me and I make this statement for the purpose of setting forth what I know concerning difficulties at Mine B.

"I went to work at Mine B in about [redacted] and at that time was a member of PMA. Prior to that I had worked at Panther Creek mine. I attended union meetings once in a while, but not all the time.

"On the day of the strike, in May 1937 I remember that some men, who were UMW men, wanted to go in the mine and the PMA men didn't want them to. Those men were Pasquale, Austin, Bohannan and others that I can't remember. The strike was not about wages. PMA was a good union and everything was all right when they were there.

"As I remember, I did not go into the mine on the day of the strike.

"About two weeks after the strike I signed a petition for PMA. This petition was to show the company that we wanted to go back to work under PMA. I signed this petition at PMA hall. I signed it because I wanted PMA at the mine and not because anyone told me I had to sign it.

"I do not understand English very well and do not know what all of the trouble was about following the strike. During the strike I worked on WPA for a while. When the mine opened up I went back to

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

work. I then had to join UMW after I had worked for a while.

"The above has been read to me by my wife, [redacted] and it is true and correct and I have affixed my mark

/S/ his (x) mark

Witnessed:
[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
U.S. Dept. of Justice."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Street, telephone [redacted], was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated he was born in [redacted] and had been a U. S. citizen since [redacted].

[redacted] was interviewed by Agents with the aid of his daughter, [redacted], who acted as interpreter. [redacted] had difficulty understanding questions put to him, even in his native tongue, and so for that reason it is believed he would make a very poor witness. He also stated he did not want to get involved in any legal proceedings.

[redacted] executed the following statement which he signed with his mark, "X".

"August 26, 1943
Springfield, Illinois

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me and I hereby make this statement of my own free will.

"I started working at mine B in [redacted] and have worked there ever since. At the present time I am a member of the U. M. W. In 1932 I joined the P. M. A. and was a member of that group in 1937 when our men decided to strike because we heard that some of our men were working for the U. M. W. group and not our union. Some of these men were Dominick Pasquale, Frank Austin, Pete Carter, Jim Hale, Charlie Bohannon. We didn't want to work with these men because we knew they were troublemakers and we told the company we wouldn't work if those men were allowed to work. I do remember that the men were talking about the back wages which they thought they had coming to them under a new agreement which the company was supposed to have signed with the union. It is my belief that the men went on strike in May of 1937 due to the fact they objected to certain men. The strike was not over money to the best of my recollection.

"I have never held an office in the union and have not taken part in any union activities. Sometime in 1937, and before the strike in May, I was approached many times by Andy Schrelevious, and Andy tried to get me to join the U. M. W. Finally I got mad at him and chased him out of the mine with my pick. After that I wasn't bothered by Andy.

"I remember that one day in May of 1937 when we came to the surface from the pits, we were told by the cager that the plant or mine was on strik-

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] and for us not to come to work the next day. This was about 4:00 P. M.
(Continued)

"I went back to the mines in November of 1939 and remained a member of the Progressive Mine Workers until about July of 1941 when I signed with the U. M. W.

"I wish to state that I have no information about any of the transactions or agreements made between the company and any union. No threats have ever been made to me to join or leave any union. I have no information relative to union activities other than that set forth above.

"My daughter, [redacted] has read over this statement of three pages to me and I want to state it is true to the best of my memory. This is my mark - "

"X" (his mark)

"Witnesses

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill."

[redacted]) Special Agents, F. B. I.
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He stated he was born in [redacted] that he resided at [redacted] phone [redacted] and that [redacted] He stated that he had signed the P.M.A. petition in May 1937 but stated it had been done without coercion of any kind, but doing it because it appeared to be the wishes of the majority. It is felt that [redacted] would be a favorable government witness to testify to those matters set forth in the following statement which he executed:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 26, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following signed voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom I know to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make this statement.

"Sometime in [redacted] I went to work as a miner at Mine B, just outside of Springfield, Illinois. At that time I joined the UMW, inasmuch as that union represented the employees at Mine B and I had to join the union in order that I might work there. I never held any office in that or any other union.

"In 1932 I joined PMA because that union represented the employees at Mine B. No threats were ever made to me to join this union but I had to join it because you couldn't work at the mine if you didn't belong to the union. I never took any interest in the unions at all because I didn't intend to stay in the mines but intended to go into business for myself. I probably attended only a couple of meetings a year, just enough so that I wouldn't get fined for not attending.

"I never took part in the discussions the men had for I would get to the mine early and was usually the last one out. I paid no attention to either the affairs of the mine nor of the union.

"I also wish to say that I was never stopped or approached by anyone at the mine or at any other place in an attempt to get me to join any union.

"After PMA came into the mine things were better for sometime. The dues were smaller and working conditions were improved. Track was laid faster. After a while, however, conditions changed to where it was about the same as when UMW was there.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I know nothing of any relations between Mr. Elshoff and PMA. Nothing was ever said to me to indicate how the mine officials felt toward PMA. I do not recall any picket lines at Mine B nor did I ever observe any organizers for UMW there.

"I I do not recall any PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937. I went to work on the morning of May 12, 1937 as usual but I heard no discussions about wages or anything else. Sometime that morning one of the drivers came and told us that there was a strike, so I left. I later sent another fellow for my check and I have never worked there since.

"I have read the above and declare it to be true and correct.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:
[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on August 26, 1943.

[redacted] it was ascertained that [redacted] is not able to talk or understand the English language very well and through [redacted] it was ascertained that [redacted] has no criminal record and presently is not employed at Mine B [redacted]

It was noted that both persons appeared to be very cooperative and it is felt that [redacted] will make a fair witness provided he has an interpreter to assist him.

In regard to the statement mentioned hereinafter it might be stated that the same was signed by [redacted]

The statement, which was taken at the home of [redacted] is as follows:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill, am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me and this statement is true and correct. This statement is made by me through [redacted] as I don't speak english very well.

"I was born in [redacted] old and I was naturalized in [redacted] I have never been arrested at any time.

"Around [redacted] I first joined a coal union in [redacted] and I don't recall the name but it was not the United Mine Workers. I have never held any office in any union. I have worked for Mine B for about [redacted] years. I was working at Mine B prior to 1932 and I was there when they had the big trouble in 1932. I was a member of United Mine Workers then in 1932 as everyone had to be in order to work in the mines. Back in 1932 I don't know what the relationship between United Mine Workers and Mr. Elshoff was. Back around 1932 when that split came the United Mine Workers local broke away and formed the new Progressive Miners Local and

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued) this new local signed a new contract with Mr. Elshoff, operator of Mine B. I switched over because the whole town switched over to Progressive Miners. Between 1932 and 1937 it was the general feeling around Mine B that Mr. Elshoff and the management of Mine B wanted the miners to go back to United Miners Workers. Nobody approached me prior to 1937 to switch back to UMW except that it was general talk around the mine. I used to hear around Mine B that some of the men were approached to go back to UMW but I don't know who they are anymore. I liked the Progressive Mine Workers better than the UMW because we got better treatment and consideration whenever we wanted something done. The PMW never threatened any of us nor did they ever use any violence to keep us from going back to the UMW. I was an active union member of the PMW and attended their meetings regularly. The PMW would not fine us for not attending a meeting if we had a good excuse while the United Mine Workers would fine you if you didn't attend.

"The miners felt that the PMW members who were arrested for the bombings were not the guilty ones as they feld that the United Mine Workers did the bombing and placed the blame on the PMW men. The PMW officials always made a report as to where the money went to that they got and the miners always thought it was a true report and were never suspicious that anything was wrong. If some one died a special assessment would be made and the money given to the family of the dead man. I never felt or thought that the officials of PMW were getting any kick-back of money. Between 1932 and 1937 the UMW never picketed Mine B. I don't know of any miners who were interested in getting the PMW to go back over to UMW but there were a few who did favor the UMW but I don't recall who they were.

"I recall Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, the Jacaways, as being around the mine B and they tried to get the miners to change back to UMW from PMW.

"I don't know of any meetings or parties between the management of Mine B and UMW officials. It was the understanding of the miners during the spring of 1937 that Elshoff would not sign a contract with the Progressives but would sign one with the United Mine Workers. Just before the mine closed in spring of 1937 the miners knew they were working without a contract but we all were getting the same pay as we did before and there was no general feeling that we should swing over to the United Mine Workers.

"I don't recall of any temporary slow downs or stoppages during the spring of 1937 just before the mine closed down. Just before the mine closed in 1937 the above mentioned men continued to talk to different miners about changing over to the United Mine Workers from the PMW. None of them personally talked to me but I heard that they talked to other miners. I don't recall anything about the attitude of the management of

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

Mine B on the wage question at Mine B during 1937. In regard to the meeting held just before the mine closed I think it was a special meeting and not a regular meeting and I do recall tho something about some members being expelled.

"The miners at Mine B did not like the idea at all that the management refused to fire the 5 expelled men as the Progressives were the local there and not the UMW. The miners learned the story of the 5 by general talk around the mines. I don't recall of any coal cars being loaded short on the morning of the strike in May, 1937. The miners were all interested in getting that contract signed in May, 1937 and when the management refused to fire those 5 men that brot the blow off.

"During May, 1937 I signed a PMW petetion at the meeting hall of PMW and the PMW officials said they wanted the petition to show the management of Mine B that they had a majority. I went to the hall and signed the petition because I was with the Progressives and no one forced me to sign it.

"During the summer of 1937 I heard something about a UMW petition but I never signed it and never saw it but a fellow named [redacted] (phonetic) asked me to sign it but I didn't. I don't know of any force or threats being used by anyone in regard to the UMW petition being signed.

"I don't recall anything about an unknown petition in 1937 but I do recall that I also signed some petition at the mine for PMW in addition to the one I signed at the hall. The petitions I signed were all authorized ones.

"I heard that in summer of 1937 the UMW formed a local but I never was approached to join it and I never heard of anyone being beat up to join it.

"During 1937 the PMW continued to hold their meetings and they agreed not to return to work until they had a contract and the PMW members who were for the UMW did not come to the meetings.

"During the fall of 1937 I heard from other miners that Mine B was going to reopen and PMW hold a meeting and all decided to return to work and when we got to the mine the management only allowed the UMW men to go down into the mine. We all then stayed there night and day and sat around and played cards etc. and watched the property at night so one one could damage it and it kept on for about 50 or 60 days.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"No outsiders were at the mine at the strike, just the local men and their families would come out and visit them. At the PMW meeting we all agreed to picket and no one forced us to picket but we did so in order to protect our jobs. I was not at the mine when the injunction was read to the miners but they all left peaceably, and the picketing was over with.

"After the injunction was issued I heard the mine was to reopen but I did not show up there at all, as I thought there might be trouble.

"In regard to the election in Dec. 1937 all the members met at PMW headquarters and went in groups of 25 or so over to the armory and voted just as when one votes for the President. No force was used and it was a regular good election, and all of us voted of our own free will. Afterwards we all told our PMW officials just how we voted so they could check to see if the figures were correct. The results of that election were the feelings of the miners.

"After the election in 1937 I did not go back to the mine in 1938 when it was re-opened. The members of PMW all wondered how Elshoff could keep the mine closed. When Mine B reopened in 1939 I received a registered letter from the Mine telling me to come back to work and and I did return and at that time I still belonged to PMW. I was told that the wage scale would be the same as it was in the State of Illinois. We went back as an open shop. After we got the registered letters PMW had a meeting and it was decided best that all return to work otherwise they would lose their jobs After we returned to work UMW men came around and talked to us and it was noted that UMW men were treated better than the PMW men as they were given better rooms to work in and were treated better. The management of the Mine B did not come out openly and favor the UMW but it was noted that UMW organizers were given a free hand and could do anything they desired. I was contacted many times at Mine B to sign over to UMW and about 3 times different UMW men came to my home and finally I had to sign over to UMW as I did not want to see any trouble start and I had to work in order to make a living and I did not want to lose my job. I cant' recall the names of those who came to my home. I don't remember signing a card for PMW but I may have. I signed over to UMW because the others were doing so and it was more safe that way. I had heard different stories of PMW men getting beat up because they would not sign over and I didn't want to get beat up. These men who contacted me never threatened me at all.

"In regard to NLRB election in 1941 it was run off like the other one but there was a lot of new faces as new men were being employed at Mine B from other places. The PMW men did not like this second election as they had held their first one and won and did not like the idea of having another one and by that time many PMW had quit and taken other jobs

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

and therefore the UMW men won the election and the former PMW men who had switched over to UMW voted UMW as they did not want any trouble.

"If I had my choice I would go back to the PMW. I have been at Mine B until fall of 1942 when I was hurt and now plan to go back in week or so.

"I have furnished this information thru [redacted] and inasmuch as I can't read English [redacted] has read the same for me and he says it contains what I have said and I have signed my name on this 3 page statement.

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] (signed)

"WITNESSES

"[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Invest.
Milw., Wis.

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent,
F.B.I.,
St. Paul, Minn."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 31, 1943. [redacted] advised that he had no criminal record and was never arrested. [redacted] cannot understand the English language very well and had some trouble in understanding the questions. However, he was very co-operative and appeared to be honest. It is felt that he would make a good witness if his testimony were necessary, although he would be hard to question except through an interpreter [redacted]

In the presence of [redacted] gave Agents a two page signed typewritten statement which he signed and initialed, and which is as follows:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 31, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are know to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I have been at Mine A for over two years now. I was born in [redacted] and came to U.S. in [redacted] and in [redacted] became a citizen at Springfield, Ill. In Penn. in [redacted] I first joined UMW union and have never held any union office. Around 1932 I worked at the [redacted] Mine and when they had the trouble there I went over to PMA and then went to work at Mine B some time later. PMA was the union at Mine B when I went there. PMA officials and management of Mine B got along as far as I know and conditions were alright for us miners then. I don't know of any trouble at Mine B before it closed down in 1937. I never heard the management of Mine B say they wanted UMW instead of PMA. Most of us PMA men got along fine with the PMA officials except for a small gang in there who liked UMW. PMA officials did not beat us up to keep us in the union. I attended PMA meetings quiet regularly prior to 1937 when mine closed. I felt that PMA men convicted in the bombings were not guilty and that UMW men did it but placed blame on the PMA men. The PMA officials were alright as far as I was concerned and they were all right. Before Mine B closed in 1937 no one asked me to join over to UMW nor did I see any literature or papers. I heard talk at Mine B about some men trying to get others back over to UMW but I never saw it.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

I don't know anything about any parties being given by management of Mine B and the UMW. The PMA officials at meetings told us about the contract running out and

told us to keep on working and as I recall it [redacted] had some agreement with Elshoff about it. About 6 or 7 men wanted to go over to UMW from the PMAmen and I recall that some of the ones who wanted to go over to UMW was Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Annias, several of the Sirtouts, the Jacaways, Charles Bohannon and Jim Hale and everybody said they were getting paid by UMW then. Quite some time later Schrelevious told me that he had been getting paid by UMW to help them out and he said he was looking out for himself. I recall that he bought a nice new car at that time. Nobody like him now. Before the mine closed I don't recall of anyone hollering about their pay on pay days. Things were alright at the mine to my recollection just before the mine closed. The above men were trying to split up the PMA before the mine closed. While at one of the meetings of PMA just before the mine closed Pasquale talked about going over to UMW and I talked back to him and he told me to come out in front and he would shoot me. I never heard anything from the management about the wage question. There was no big trouble over wages before the strike came. The night before the strike came I attended a meeting which was a regular meeting and they expelled some 5 or so men as being spies for UMW. We all felt they had been spies. They were some of the ones whose names are mentioned above. Some one made a motion after a committee made their report and the men voted on it and ordered them kicked out. I think the company refused to put about $200.00 in fines on them. These 5 men did not say anything and they were at the meeting.

"The company would not fire these men and that was why the strike started. The morning of the strike the PMA officials [redacted] told us not to load full cars and that was once when PMA did wrong and I told them then too they were wrong and they did that because the company would not fire these 5 men.

"I think I signed a PMA petition a short time after the mine closed and I signed it and no one forced me too. They wanted their own union so that was why they got up the petition. I signed it out at the mine on the road. I never signed a UMW petition that summer and no one asked me to do so. I can't recall if I signed another PMA petition or not, that summer. I did not sign up with UMW and just heard they formed a new local. Nothing unusual happened during summer of 1937. I recall that about the time of the sit down strike the Women's Auxiliary of PMA picketed the home of Elshoff.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"In fall of 1937 I went out to Mine B and think I went to work with the rest of the PMA men but I can't remember just right. We heard the company was going to give the contract to UMW so we PMA started a sit down strike. Louis Gold, the Sheriff, was out there. I remember that I just went down for 1 day and I loaded the coal I had already shot and got my clothes and tools and then the strike started. PMA did not bring in any outsiders and no UMW men came around either. I was at the strike all the time. I was not there when the Marshall came and when I got there he had been there already. There was no trouble there then. The miners did not like it.

"Every time they start mine I go back but when they got contract with UMW I took my tools and left. I work in Mine A now but we are under UMW but if there was an election today most of them would vote for PMA again.

"I think I was out at the Mine in Dec. 1937 but am not sure. I think the notice was in the paper.

"I voted at the first NLRB election and we won and I voted for PMA. It was by secret ballot and it was a honest and good election and no force was used on me or anyone else. When I heard the mine was going to be opened as UMW I did not go out at all.

"I don't know why Elshoff did not sign a contract then. I think Elshoff did not want PMA back as he could not boss them while with UMW, right today even, it is nothing but a company union as he can do what he wants to do.

"When Mine B opened I worked one day and loaded my coal and got my tools and left. It was this time when I went down and not before. It was when the mine opened for good. I have never been back to Mine B since. I got a registered letter then to go back to work. Falcetti did not say anything to me. At end of day I told Falcetti I was leaving and he said I don't blame you.

"Right after then I went to work at Mine A. I did not vote at the next NLRB election. I heard that the mine brot in a lot of new UMW men and they voted for UMW then and that is how they won the second election.

"When I started to work in Mine A it was PMA but then later on when Elshoff bot it and I was told that I would hate to become UMW or quit the mine. Some John L. Lewis guys came in and told me that at the mine. I signed over to UMW but still even today I like PMA better because they do more for the labor man. UMW there is nothing but a company union.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"Mine B was no good too in Sept. 1939 as there were falls in it. I don't know if Mine B had a fire or not in 1939.

"I have had [redacted] read this 2 page statement to me and it is true and correct and I have sign it of my own free will.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
(Milw., Wis.)

Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on August 26, 1943.

Agents interviewed [redacted] at his home, [redacted] Street, Springfield, Illinois, in the presence of his wife and daughter and he advised he has no criminal record. He appeared to be very cooperative and seemed to be well versed with union activities. He also appeared to be honest and unbiased and is believed to be an individual who would make a very good witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 26, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., phone [redacted] am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me and this statement is true and correct.

"I was born in [redacted] and became a citizen through my father when I was about [redacted] years of age. In [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers Union at Pittsburgh, Kansas and was a member till 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. Between [redacted] and 1932, off and on, I was a member of the Pit Committee. I have been with Mine B for about [redacted] years and worked there in 1932. In 1932 I joined the Progressive because I was not getting any benefits from the UMW, and my sister never got any death benefits for the death of her husband. In 1932 I went with PMA when they had their vote but I had nothing to do with its election. Between 1932 and 1937 I have no knowledge as to whether or __ Elshoff favored one union over another.

"There was no trouble at Mine B from 1932 to 1937. During this time everyone was satisfasied with PMA and no one tried to cause them any trouble. Between 1932 and 1937 I know of no attempts of anyone to try to swing the men back to UMW from PMA. I and others thought that the PMA leaders were honest and that it was not being run by wrong men. The PMA was run then by the members and not by a few picked men. Between 1932 and 1937 I was active in the PMA union and did attend some of their meetings. I still don't think that all of those PMA men were guilty of those bombings and this was the general feeling among the members. PMA officials always made an honest report of dues, assessments etc. and we always know where all the money went to. I never suspected any PMA officials as being crooks or making pay-offs to outsiders.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"During the period 1932 to 1937 when the Mine B closed UMW persons did picket the mine on different occasions. On several times UMW men did bring out literature but they were kicked out from the mine. Even tho PMA had control over the mine UMW men were allowed to come into the mine and they talked to PMA men and tried to have them join the UMW. These men were imported as they were strangers.

"I know JOE ALBANESE, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout (he is now in U.S. Army), Geo. Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Eale as being men who worked at Mine B and although they were members of PMA the rumor and gossip around the mine was that all of them were being paid by UMW, and were telling UMW what was going on among the PMA men. They never contacted me regarding my changing over as they knew that I did not like them or UMW. I don't know of any relations between management of Mine B and UMW.

[redacted] an official of PMA, told us at meeting in 1937 that the men should continue to work on altho the contract had expired and and that if there would be any increase it would be paid back and that we would continue to get the same wage were were getting.

"We felt that there would be no advantage in going over to UMW from PMA because of pay or wage adjustments. Altho we were working without a contract in April, 1937, all miners were satisfied with their wages and no one complained about them and there were no slow downs or stoppages there at that time either.

"Before the Mine B shut down in spring of 1937 the above mentioned men would go around and talk with the PMA miners and tell them to join the UMW and also told them that if they were discharged from Mine B they could not get work at any mines. At various times some of them would ask me when I was going to join the UMW and I told them to stay away from me as I was old enough to make up my mind but I did see them talk to other miners.

"The management of B Mine never told us how they stood on the wage question and our PMA officials would tell us that they hoped to get everything settled soon.

"I recall that in May, 1937 PMA held a regular meeting and I attended the meeting which was attended by a large group and at this meeting they expeled five of the above mentioned persons. PMA officials told us that those men were trouble makers and that was why they were being expeled and a standing vote was taken and they were expeled. We were told that these five men were trying to keep men from going to work in the mine. Some of the expeled men were at the meeting but they had nothing to say.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"On the day of the strike we all thought that we would get an increase and it was on a pay day but when we got paid we were told we would get the same old rate. We were told this by our PMA officials. Also a majority of the men knew about the 5 members being expeled and inasmuch as Mine B was a closed shop the management should have fired them. I and other miners felt that inasmuch as these five were expeled they should be fired. We heard that the management would not fire them but they were afraid to come out and stayed in the office of the management all day and late that afternoon the Sheriff came out and assisted them in leaving the mine property. On this same time and day I saw some coal cars in the mine that were partly loaded and the men who were loading these cars told me that the drivers would come along and take the cars away before they were fulled loaded. Some of the drivers then were in favor of the United and were against the PMA. My car was loaded the same as usual tho. There was not any talk at all that day about going out on strike and when I came up out of the mine I figured I would be back the next day and I left all my tools in the mine.

"The strike was called because the management would not fire those 5 expeled men and everyone thought the strike would last only a few days or so and it was not caused over any wages. I and others were satisfied with our old wages even tho we did not get any increase.

"Shortly after the mine closed in May, 1937 I signed a petition for the PMA, which was given by the PMA officials and I signed this at the meeting hall and as I recall it the PMA official was going to take that petition to Washington, D. C. I and no other miner was threatened by anyone to sign this petition and we all signed it of our own free and wanted PMA to be our local there and not the UMW. During the summer of 1937 I heard that UMW had a petition out but I was not personally contacted as I had said before to them to stay away from me but I heard they went around to homes of miners with the petition.

"I don't recall about another petition in summer of 1937. I recall that in summer of 1937 UMW formed a new local but I never was asked to join it at all. However, some time prior to the opening of the mine in 1939 Tony Plotch came to my home and asked me why I didn't join the UMW. He did not threaten me at all but just told me I ought to join.

"During summer of 1937, after the mine closed I never heard anything about any fights or of anyone being threatened to do something.

"During fall of 1937 I received a notice from Mine B that the mine was going to reopen and it also appeared in the paper. I went out but never went down into the mine. The fellows mentioned before I saw at Mine B and they went down into the mines to work so no PMA went down to work and

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

and the PMA did not hold any meeting as to what action should be taken. About the day after at about 1 o'clock in the night the sit down strike started. Some PMA committeeman phoned me to get to the mine at once as about 150 UMW were coming in to take over our jobs and I went down to Mine B. I heard that the 150 men were met by deputy sheriffs at Big Lake and never were allowed to get into town. PMA did not bring in any outsiders at all to help with the strike and it was all done just by local PMA members. We all had this sit down strike to protect our own jobs and we all did it of our own free will as we all lived here in Springfield, Ill. and did not want outsiders to come in and take our jobs away. It was a very quiet strike and the sheriff was out there and I was there most of the time and we walked around for 2 hours to watch the property. We guarded the Mine B property as we did not want anything to happen to the mine as we wanted our jobs and also we did not want PMA blamed for anything. Several men were caught coming onto the property and they were turned over to the sheriff. The U. S. Marshall came out after about two months and read something to us and told us to leave peacebly and we told him we would and that we were just protecting the property.

"I did not know anything about the mine supposed to be opening again in few days. Our men were told by the Marshall that no one would work at the place and that when it reopened we would be notified.

"During Dec. 1937 the National Labor Relation Board held an election in the armory in Springfield, Ill. and it was held by secret ballot and was held under supervision of NLRB. We met at the meeting hall and went over to the armory in groups and voted. PMA officials did not force us how to vote and we also voted the way we wanted to and it was a regular election. I and others all felt that the election was not crooked at all and that it was a regular election.

"In Jan. 1938 I never received any notice that Mine B would reopen and some clerks from Mine B dropped in at the house and tried to feel me out in regard to returning there without a contract.

"Altho PMA was the bargaining agent from Jan. 1938 until Sept. 1939 I have no knowledge or information as to why Mr. Elshoff refused to deal with PMA. I feel that he must have had a strong reason for refusing to deal with PMA. It was the gossip that UMW were paying Mr. Elshoff and that was how he was able to keep the mine closed.

"About a month or so after the mine reopened in 1939 there was some dispute as to whether PMA or UMW was to get the check off money and Mr. Elshoff turned it back to the miners instead of giving it to the unions.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"During Nov. 1939 or so I received a registered letter from Mine B offering me back my job under an open shop. I understood that wages were to be the regular Illinois wage scale. The miners did not like the idea of going back under the open shop as PMA was the local there but we all had to go back in order to live as we had been off for 33 months. After the mine opened it seemed as tho UMW wanted to destroy PMA. PMA did not use any force to gain members as they always had the majority. During this time many new outsiders came to Mine B and they were UMW organizers two such UMW organizers, one from Colorado and another from Virginia, talked with me and asked why I didn't join the UMW and after I told them the full and complete story they said I was right and they quit and went back to their homes. The management of Mine B never said anything to me about which union they favored. It was the policy of the management of Mine B to place PMA men in bad rooms and give them the worse jobs so that they would get disgusted and quit and whenever a PMA quit or was laid off they would bring in new UMW men to take their places. UMW men from Indiana, Missouri and other states were all brot in and local men could not get a job at Mine B altho they were taxpayers.

"After the mine opened in Sept. 1939 some one used to place sulphur rock on my cars of coal and one week I was fined $17.00 because of this but I complained and it was taken away. It was gossip that the money from the fines was being used to pay back the money loaned to Elshoff by UMW and to pay the UMW organizers who were being kept at the mine. In regard to this $17.00 fine I went to UMW headquarters and saw [redacted] and complained to him and he went to the supt. of the company and I got my money back. The night before this another UMW organizer [redacted] told me that I would continue to be docked and that I should keep my mouth shut or else--and that the money has to come in. [redacted] told me this in Mine B. I feel that some UMW men were putting this sulphur rock on my cars just to cause me trouble as my partner never got fined and he was a UMW man.

"On another case I switched my identification cards number with my buddy and put some bad coal with his good coal and I got docked for giving good coal but my buddy did not get docked altho his car had bad coal on it and this proved that UMW men were getting by with everything.

"In regard to the next NLRB election in Feb. 1941 I feel that the election was properly held but the results were favorable to UMW because UMW had gotten rid of PMA men and replaced Mine B with their UMW men and thugs. It was not necessary to use any force or anything for UMW to win that election as they had enough UMW men packed in Mine B to swing the election over to them.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I don't recall if I signed any cards in 1940 or not. I think they were presented to me but I refused to sign them.

"I am still at Mine B digging.

"I was at some meeting when Glascow said something about money and he was put out of the meeting because of it.

"I have had [redacted] read this 4 page statement to me and it is true and correct and I have signed the same.

"WITNESSES

"x [redacted] (signed)

[redacted] (signed)
Spec. Agt. FBI
St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted]
Spec. Agt. FBI
Milwaukee, Wis.

[redacted] (signed)

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEWED WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on August 27, 1943.

At [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, phone [redacted] Agents interviewed [redacted] at his home in the presence of his wife and son. He advised he could not read the English language and it was noted that he spoke it rather poorly and it was necessary for his wife and son to assist in the interview.

He advised that he had no criminal record and presently is working at Mine B.

It is believed he would make a rather poor witness as his testimony would have to be given through [redacted] interpreter. He further claimed to know little or nothing of the activities between the time the mine shut down and when it reopened. He could, however, testify as to the violence used against him allegedly used to make him switch from PMA to UMW.

In the files of the Springfield Field Division of this case there is a copy of the following affidavit which he reaffirmed to Agents:

"STATE OF ILLINOIS) SS
COUNTY OF SANGAMON)

[redacted] after first being duly sown on oath deposes and states that he lives at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois and is an employee at Mine B Coal Company.

"Affiant states that he finished his room in the mine on September 17th about 3 o'clock and asked the driver, L.O. Bumgarner for an empty car to transfer his tools. The driver paid no attention to this affiant although he asked for an empty car a number of times, and finally when affiant again asked for an empty, affiant states that L.O. Bumgarner jumped from the front of the cars and began striking this affiant about the throat and jaws, and jugular region, severely injuring this affiant.

"Affiant states further that while striking him, L.O. Bumgarner cursed this affiant and called him a dirty son-of-a-bitch and told him he would kill him. Affiant states that he has been unable to return to work since being struck by Bumgarner and has suffered severe pain, the injury impairing his speech and causing him severe pain when eating. Affiant states that since suffering the injury he has been under the care of a physician.

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INTERVIEW WITH ANTONIO CIUFFETELLI
(continued)

"Affiant further states that he took the matter up with the Superintendent, Oscar Falcetti, but he refused to discharge Bumgarner, who is a United Mine Worker."

(signed) [redacted]

"(seal)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of January, 1941

(signed) [redacted]
Notary Public

My commission expires Sept. 9, 1941"

The following one page signed typewritten statement was obtained from [redacted] in the presence of his wife and son [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 27, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made.

"I was born [redacted] and I became a citizen in [redacted] I first joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. and I never have held any office. I started to work at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. on [redacted] and I joined PML then. I had no objection to joining that union as it was the only one there. I liked the Progressives and they never caused me any trouble. I worked till the last day, May 12, 1937 at Mine B and I did not know anything about a strike coming on until I was called out of the mines, and I don't know what the cause of it was. I just did what the PML officials told me to do.

"I never went back to Mine B until in fall of 1939 when I got a letter from Mine B telling me to come back to work and I went out to Mine B and they told me I could not work for a month or so as the room was not ready and then about a month later [redacted] came to my home and told me my room was ready and I went back to work in Dec. 1939.

"From Oct. 1937 until Dec. 1939 I worked in the [redacted] Mines.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"When I went back in Dec. 1939 I still was a Progressive but some time later signed over to UMT because everybody was fighting us in the mine.

"I voted twice at National Labor Relation Board elections in the Armory in Springfield, Ill. and the first time I voted for PML and second time for UMT because I was then a member of that local. I had to join the UMT because there was no more PML there at Mine B. I did not want any trouble so I joined UMT.

"Both elections were alright as far as I know and I voted PML first and then UMT. I never attend any meetings and just pay my dues and any fines because I don't go to meetings.

"I recall that I signed one petition for PML which they said was going to be sent to Washington, D. C. and I never signed any for UMT. Nobody forced me to sign it.

"I can't read the English language so I have had [redacted] read this to me and it is true and correct and I have signed it."

/s/ [redacted]

"WITNESSES:

[redacted]

"I also wish to say that in fall of 1940 L. O. BURGERNER, a UMT car puller, told me I had to go to the UMT meetings and I told him I never went to any meetings and just went home and at that time I still was with PML. A few days later I asked him for an empty car to haul my tools away and he turned around and hit me on the side of the neck. I reported it to PML too and signed an affidavit for them. I also told OSCAR FALCETTI and he never said nothing about it at all. While in Doctors office some lawyer came by and Dr. had him take me to Police where warrants was issued for BURGERNER but he won the case in Court. Doctor i[redacted] (?)

/s/ [redacted]

"[redacted]
Special Agent Federal Bur. of Invest.
Milwaukee, Wis.

[redacted]
Special Agent, FBI.
St. Paul, Minn."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on August 27, 1943.

On August 27, 1943, [redacted] Telephone [redacted] was interviewed with her husband in connection with her husband working at Mine B and she advised that [redacted] is her husband's brother and that prior to the time PWA took over in 1932 at Mine B, [redacted] took a trip [redacted] stayed for about [redacted] months and then returned to the United States. He returned and worked at Mine B until about [redacted] and stayed for about [redacted] months and then returned to the United States.

She felt that [redacted] could not furnish any information of value relative to the instant case as he was not there.

However, she advised he has been working at Mine B until this Spring when he got sick and during the spring of 1943 he went to [redacted] (phonetic), Box [redacted] He went there to regain his health and she said she does not know how long he will remain there but probably will return to Springfield, Illinois in two or three months.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on August 27, 1943.

[redacted] advised Agents she is the mother of [redacted] and that he formerly did work at Mine B. She advised that he is now with the U. S. Navy and is overseas and that he has been with the Navy for [redacted] months. She further stated that her husband, [redacted] never worked at Mine B.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, located on [redacted], Illinois, on the afternoon of August 29, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] Illinois [redacted] He owns his own home. He has been in the mines all of his life, and is presently employed as a track layer at Panther Creek Mine #2. [redacted] is above the average miner in intelligence, and ability to express himself. He was quite excited about events which occurred at Mine B. He can express himself well and would not be easy to confuse on cross examination. He is believed to be a good, potential witness. He furnished the following information as set forth in a signed statement.

[redacted] Ill,
August 29, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or consideration of any kind has been made to me to get me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I have been in the mines all of my life. I first went to Mine B in 1935 or 1936. I do not recall exactly what year it was. I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America at the time tht I went to Mine B. After the Strike at Mine B was over I went back and worked there until I could see that the Mine was going to be a United Mine Worker mine. I did not want to belong to the United Mine Workers so I quit. I got a job at mine A then, and when after two months it signed up as a UMW mine, I quit and went over to Panther Creek Mine #2, becaue I did not want to belong to the United Mine Workers. I was not particularly interested in the Union affairs. I went to the meetings occassionally, but not too often. I knew that there was some discussion at the mine and some greivances, but I do not know what they were. There were no slow downs or troulbe before the strike as far as I know. Everything was going along smoothly. I did not attend the meeting of the local the night before the strike started. I was laying track at that time and was down below when the strike started. I noticed that the men were sending up small cars, and I told them that they would not get anywhere with that. I do not know what they were quarrelling about, and I did not know that there was going to be a strike until it was called.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7c b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I went back out to mine a few days after the strike started to sign some papers. I do not remember what it was about. The Progressive Committee man called me in for it. We went to Falcetti's office to get something and got the papers there in the office.

"I knew that there was a local formed for the UMW the summer of 1937. I heard something about a contract with that local, but no one ever asked me to join that local. I did not go out to the mine the day that the picket line was formed. I went out a few days later and stayed quite a bit of the time. The men on the picket were all men who had worked at Mine B. There were no strangers staying out there all of the time.

"After the injunction stopped the picket, they tried to open the mine, but I did not go to work. They did not want any of us to come, and only were going to let the men who had been causing trouble at the mine come to work. I have never heard any of thse men say anything personally.

"I voted in the election which was held in December 1937. It was a fair election. No one tried to influence my vote, tell me how to vote, or anything else. I voted exactly as I pleased. After the election the mine did not reopen for several months. Most of that time I could not get any work, but I did work for a while at a couple of the other mines. When Mine B was reopened, I went back out to work.

"When I went back which was a few days after they reopned, I did not see any evidence of any big fire out there. There had been a few falls and cave ins but, there was no serious ones. Some of them I do not think have been opened yet. They weren't when I left mine B, in about January 1941.

"After the mine reopened I was asked many times to join the United Mine Workers. The men who asked me to join, and argued with me were not the old men who had worked at the mine before. Most of them were new men, who I had not know before. They were in the mine, but did not do much work. One was a fellow named [redacted] I never saw him do much work. He spent all of his time trying to organize. Antother was [redacted] He did not do any work either, but spent most of his time running around trying to organize. [redacted] asked me to joing the United Mine Workers several times. I do not know what he was supposed to be doing in the mine. He did not do any work that I ever saw.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

All he did was go around and talk to the fellows. He was supposed to be some sort of boss I guess. I know I saw him and Oscar Falcetti, the Superintendent arguing a couple of times. Once I saw them come out of the office. I do not know what they were arguing about, but I heard [redacted] tell Falcetti that if he did not like it he could leave, or go somewhere else. I wondered right then who I was working for.

"I did not get threatened or anthing like that. I had heard that some of the other fellows had been beaten up. I was pretty stubborn about it and would not join the United Mine Workers, and I was afraid to stay down there for fear that I would be hit too. The men were signing up for the United Mine Workers, and I could see that the mine was going to go over to the UMW, and I did not want to, so I went over to mine A when I heard that they wanted a track layer and grader. I knew that the Mine was going over to the UMW because it couldn't do anything else. The Progressives were being beaten. They were losing checks off their cars and things like that. I knew that the management must be favoring the United Mine Workers or it would have stopped that sort of thing going on.

"I went over to Mine A in the last part of Janurary 1941. I was sent a card to vote in the election at Mine B, and went to vote. [redacted] stopped me from voting. He stopped me when I was there at the voting place. My card was still in the local at Mine B and I thought that I was elgible to vote, but they did not let me vote. I was not the only one who was not allowed to vote the day of the second election. I had not been working at Mine A more than a couple of days before the election. Harvey Williams, who is dead now, went down to vote with me, and [redacted] stopped him from voting too. He was not working anyplace at that time.

"I have read the above statement on this page and three other pages. It is all true and accurate.

/S/ [redacted]

/s/ [redacted]
/s/ [redacted]
Special Agents FBI"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b2c b2D.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on August 28, 1943.

At [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] and at first he was somewhat reluctant to answer any questions at all as he said he did not want to get mixed up in anything as he still is at Mine B and was afraid that something might happen to him if he talked about the matter.

He advised Agents he has never been arrested in his life and in regard to [redacted]

[redacted] advised he only went to the Fifth Grade but it was noted that he was well versed in mine matters and appeared to be much more intelligent than the average miner. It is believed that in the event he is called to testify he will make a good witness altho he would not like to have to testify inasmuch as he still is at Mine B.

After some conversation he freely furnished the following signed typewritten statement.

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 28, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., phone [redacted] am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] Ill. and am an American citizen. For the past [redacted] years or so I have been at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. and am a coal digger. Around [redacted] or so I first joined the United Mine Workers at [redacted] Ill. I have never held any office in any union. I don't know if Mr. Carl Elshoff got along with UMW prior to 1932. Prior to 1932 I felt that UMW was trying to do all they could for the miners. When PMA was formed at Mine B in 1932 I felt that everyone wanted to new union as they did not want to take any cut in wages. The trouble started then when John L. Lewis signed a contract under an emergency after he said the ballots were stolen from the second election and the miners did not like that. I think that PMA operated pretty smoothly from 1932 until the mine closed down in 1937 and I never heard or knew of any trouble with Elshoff or PMA officials. I never heard Elshoff or FALCETTI complain that PMA

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

officials were crooked or wrong. I never heard anything prior to the strike about getting rid of PMA and getting back UMW. I and others felt that the PMA officials were doing a good job and we did not suspect them of anything and felt that they were running Local 54 alright for us. It was run in an orderly fashion. PMA never used any force to make us miners do things or vote any special way. I used to attend the important PMA meetings but did not attend all of the ordinary meetings. I and other miners have felt that some of those PMA men who were convicted in the bombing case could have been not guilty. I and others were all satisfied with the money reports from PMA officials and we never suspected them of doing anything wrong with the money.

"From 1932 to 1937 I don't recall of UMW ever picketing Mine B or causing a strike there and I never saw or received any literature nor did anyone try to make me join UMW and leave PMA. I have never heard anything about any parties between Elshoff and UMW men. I never knew anything about the wage question in the spring of 1937 until one afternoon about 2:30 o'clock when [redacted] PMA board member, called us out of Mine B and told us miners that they had been unable to reach a wage agreement. I did not attend any meeting the night before the strike but heard at the mine that some PMA fellows were expelled at that meeting.

"Before the strike began in 1937 it was common gossip that Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale, belonged to one clack at Mine B and that they were giving information to UMW, altho they belonged to PMA.

"On the morning of the strike I did not know that some PMA men had been expelled and I went to work as usual. During that day I did not hear anyone talk about the wage question nor talk about the expelled men. I was taken by surprise when I got called up at 2:30 P. M. On that day I loaded my cars the same as before but at some time I heard something about cars being loaded short but I never found out what it was all about. I did not know we were going out on strike till we got to the top of the mine that afternoon. I don't really know what the cause of the strike was. I can't say if it was over the wage question or because of the expelled men not being fired.

"When I went home that night I had no idea that we would be out on a strike. I might have signed some petitions in summer of 1937 but I just can't recall about it now. I may have signed some. If I signed any no one forced me to sign it and it was done voluntarily by me.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I don't believe I was contacted by anyone in July, 1937 to join the UMW local. I heard about it then. I don't know what the above mentioned fellows were doing in 1937 or thereabouts. I did not go back to work in fall of 1937 as at that time I did not do any picketing and I was sick around that time anyway. We were told PMA officials that if we did not help in the sit down strike that the UMW men would get out jobs and I went over off and on a few times to help them out. At that time I was on relief and had to work out some of the money. I was not at mine B when the Marshall came out with the injunction. The sit down strike was run in a very orderly manner and we were there to protect the property and would go back as PMA but would not go back under UMW. We washed the rooms, guarded the powder house, and protected the mine property. While I was around UMW did not bring in any men to work there. PMA men were in the strike and no outsiders were brot in to help us. I understand that when the Marshall came out PMA men left peaceably and there were no fights. We were not forced to go on the sit down strike.

"I did not go to Mine B in Dec, 1937 when they tried to reopen it. I took part and voted in the first NLRB, voting for the PMA. I voted for them of my own free will feeling that they had a majority anyway, so far as I know no threats or violence was used in anyway to influence the men to vote. We met at the PMA hall and went to the Armory to vote in pairs or groups, there were no strong arm methods used to influence us in the way we voted. Voting was by secret ballot and under the direction of a Government man. I have no recollection of being contacted by any UMW men in an attempt to tell me how to vote.

"I dont remember going out to the mine when an attempt was made to re-open it in Jan. 1938. I dont recall recieving any notice to go to work as I recall it now I just heard about it through talk. I am unable to give any first hand information as to what happened at this attempt to open the mine. From shortly after this time on I was on PMA and didn't take any active interest in what was going on in the mine. I heard rumor at this time that Elshoff was getting money from the UMW, but so far as I know no one could prove it.

"When to mine opened the last time in 1939 I believe I received a registered letter from Elshoff, in response to this I reported back to go to work. At that time they told me when to report back to go to work. As I remember it I had no personal knowledge as to the nature of any agreement as to wages or anything else, I believe however that the scale must have been the same as Union wages throughout the state or else the men would not have gone back at all. I believe that when they were ready for me to come back to work some of the other miners in the neighborhood came by and told me they were ready for me to come back to work. When the mine was first opened up everything seemed to me to go along fine and dandy for about a year I believe. Prior to shortly prior to the last NLRB election they

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

wouldn't let any of the sons of the miners come to the mine to work, but during this period they would let them come in providing they would join up with the UMW, it is my belief that this was the method used to enlarge the UMW membership at mine "B" so they could call for a NLRB election and be sure of winning. I don't know who made this rule, whether it was a Union Rule or a Company one, nor do I know who revoked it. I believe however it was done by what I call Elshoff's gang, in the UMW. During this period all of the new men hired were members of the UMW, they would take on no new PMA men at all. The UMW men did me no harm personally. I heard of dirty tricks being played to other men and know of one man whose name I do not recall at present being beat up and spending some time in the Hospital.

"Some time between the opening of the mine and the last election, Tony Plotc and "Cotton" Ananias, visited me at my home and tried to get me to sign up with the UMW, I told them I would do whatever the majority wanted. They said to "Hell" with the majority we want you now. I finally rejoined the UMW because my son wanted a job in the mine and I had to be a member of the UMW in order for him to get it.

"If I hadn't joined the UMW, I believe I would finally have had to get out of of the mine. I base this on what I heard and saw done to other miners who wouldn't join. I dont feel that I joined the UMW of my own free will but because of the pressure brought on me as I have indicated here, if it hadn't been for this I would have stayed with PMA as I was satisfied with that Union. I know of nothing else done by the management that would indicate preference for the UMW. So far as the PMA men were concerned they just had to take it and keep their mouths shut. I do not recall signing any membership cards in either PMA or UMW during the summer of 1940.

"I do not think that all of the men who voted in the last NLRB election, I feel that a lot of the UMW men who voted were hired at the mine simply so they could vote and give UMW a majority. As far as the election itself was concerned I feel that it was run honestly. I voted for the UMW in this election myself because I had joined the UMW and felt that it was best that I should vote this way in order to avoid any trouble.

"I believe that Mine B is in bad condition and that if it had been closed for another year they would have been unable to reopen it at all. It appears to me that the Fire-clay under the coal has heaved up and would have blocked the mine entirely if it had remained closed much longer. I have no present recollection of the fire in the mine in 1939 at all.

"I do not have any personal knowledge concerning the time when Glascow was kicked out of the UMW meeting, I do know that he wasn't elected to a union office the last time he ran.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I felt that conditions were better under the PMA and as far as I personally am concerned I would rather have them represent me.

I have read the foregoing statement of 3 pages and it is all true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I am therefore signing the same."

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed

[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI, US Dept. of Just. (ST. Paul)

[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI, US Dept. of Just. (Milw.)

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on August 25, 1943, by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] is a meek individual who evidently had no interest in the affairs at the mine as long as he could work. He would not make a good witness because he does not recall events which occurred, does not remember names, and was not in a position to know much about what happened at the mine because he worked above ground. He would make a fair appearance, can be understood, but does not possess aggressive qualities sufficient to withstand any cross examination. He is presently employed [redacted] He was born [redacted]

The following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 25, 1943

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] & [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or any consideration has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing to appear in court to repeat this statement if necessary.

"I got a Job at the Mine "B" sometime along in January of 1936. Soon after I started working There I was approached by three men on the company property. I do not remember their names. They asked me to Join the Union. I told them I would if necessary. I asked the Superintendant if I should and he told me I should so I joined The Progressive Mine Worker's of America. They took my dues right out of my pay check.

"I worked in The Retail Yards and Tipple most of the time. I worked below only a couple of months.

"I recall when the strike occurred. I had not heard any discussion about a strike, and was surprised when the strike occurred. I did not know of any diffeculties in The mine over wages or over discharging. I had no idea about what the strike was all about until after the strike. I do not remember what was told me about why the strike was caused. I did not stay around the mine much after the strike was called.

"A Few days after the strike was called I went back to the mine. The men were Just standing around. I went to work a few days above ground. No one tried to keep me from working, but there was not much to do so I quit and did not even go Back to The mine since that time. I got another Job and have never returned to mine "B".

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"While I was a member of The Progressive Miner's I did not attend more than 3 or 4 meetings. I was not particularly interested in what happened. I had no trouble with the Union. I did not see anything wrong with the P. M. W. I did not care much which Union was running the mine. I thought most of The men at the mine wanted the Progressive Mine Worker's and were satisfied. There were a few men who were disatisfied with the P. M. W. But I do not recall who they were or what they objected to. I do not recall anyone saying that They wanted to change Unions. I do not recall any talk about changing Unions.

"I do not recall if I signed any papers or Petition. I recall that there were some petitions passed out by Both the P. M. W. & U. M. W. Worker's around the mine. But I do not recall having ever signed any paper's at all.

"I do not recall any violence or threats. There was no wage trouble. I just did not know why the strike was called, or have much interest in The Union at all.

"I have read the above statement on this page and three other pages. It is all I recall. It is all true and accurate."

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted]
F. B. I.
[redacted]
F. B. I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the Springfield [redacted] Field Office on the evening of August 27, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] resides with his family in a home which he owns, located at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. He is a naturalized American citizen, having been born [redacted] He is presently employed at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] was considered by interviewing agents to be a good potential witness. He claims that he can read but cannot write English. He speaks English rather well, does not have a pronounced accent and is fairly easy to understand. He can express himself in English fairly well. He would make a good appearance Interviewing agents have some doubt, however, as to his ability to undergo a rigid cross-examination. He would probably be easily confused, and would follow a leading question and probably become confused in some inconsistency.

Upon being interviewed he executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. It is true and accurate. I am willing to go to court, if necessary, and repeat this statement.

"I first started to work at Mine B in [redacted] when I first came to this country. Except for a short period in 1923 or 24 I stayed at Mine B until the strike in 1932. During that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers. I attended meetings every two or three months. I was not an officer. In 1932 when the strike occurred, I had some money saved up [redacted]. I lost all my money after a while, and could not get a job back in the Mine B because [redacted] was an officer of the Progressive Mine Workers Union and he did not like me and kept me from getting a job. I worked on WPA and other things until 1936 when I was able to get back into Mine B.

"In those days Tony Plotch [redacted] He did not like the idea of joining the Progressive Mine Workers, and I saw many men come from the mine and argue with him, trying to get him to join the PMW of A. He also told me about it, and that he wanted to stay with the United Mine Workers.

"All the time from 1932 to 1936 I tried to get a job at the Mine B. Many times I would be out at the mine and ask for a job, and Oscar Falcotti

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

told me and ther other men that there were no jobs. I know, however, that when Joe Albanese or some of the other men who wanted the United Mine workers brought someone to Falcetti to ask them to hire them, that Falcetti always would hire them. I know this because I was standing around trying to get a job. I saw Falcetti hire men introduced to him by Joe Albanese and Jimmy Hale just after he had told me and other men that there were no jobs in the mine.

"Finally I got a job at Mine B. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I went to the meetings every now and then, mostly just to elections and to Special meetings. In those years there were several fellows who were causing trouble at the meetings and in the mine. I did not hear all of them, but I did hear Joe Albanese, Tony Plotch and Jimmy Hale say in the Progressive Mine Workers meeting, that is at local #54 that someday we would all have to join the United Mine Workers again, and that we would be better off if the local were connected with the UMW instead of the PMW.

"At other times in that year before the mine went on strike I overheard Domenic Pasquale say several times that we ought to join the UMW. I also heard [redacted] say the same thing.

"Those men I named and also others such as John Sirtout, Andy Schrekevious, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Cotton Ananias, Charley Bohannon, and the young Jacaway were tried by the union and expelled. They were tried a couple of months or so before the strike if I recall accurately.

"I attended the meeting of the local #54 the night before the strike. I think that it was a special meeting. I think that there was an announcement in the paper, but I am not sure. There was an announcement on the mine bulletin board. There were over 200 men there that night. We decided that we would not go back to work until these men had been fired. I think these men had been tried before, but the union decided that night to kick them out of the Union, and ask Falcetti to fire them. The next day we went to work, and went down into the mine. We did not want to work as long as these other men were working there, and we only put a little coal into each car. Finally they called us out.

"As far as I can remember there was no discussion about a contract or wages at the meeting the night before the strike. We did not quit work because of wages or the contract.

"At that time I was very well satisfied with the way the Progressive Mine Workers were running, and was satisfied with local #54. I did not want to change unions. I think everybody else was satisfied also with the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

local, except those few men who had been kicked out. I heard no complaints about assessments, dues, check offs and etc.

"After the mine went down I went back home. The next few days I went out to the mine with the rest of the fellows. I was ready to go to work if they would fire the men, and would recognize the Progressives as the union. I had heard that Falcetti had said that he would not recognize the Progressives as the union there any more. I do not recall every signing any papers about the strike, either for the PMW of A or the CUMW. After a while I tried to get another job, and I did get a job on the WPA.

"That summer I knew that a UMW local was formed for Mine B. I did not know that a contract had been signed with this union by the Mine B company. That summer both Joe Albanese and [redacted] asked me to join this UMW local, but I did not. I did not want to.

"In September, I went back with the rest of the men when they tried to open the mine. I did not want to go back to work unless they recognized the Progressives as the Union. There were a large number of us there that day. Oscar Falcetti got up and told us all that we could come back to work but that we would have to join the UMW in order to work at the mine because they had signed a contract. I did not want to work as a UMW because I was a progressive and wanted to stay a progressive. Only 12 men went down that day. The next day we all came back, and those 12 men did not go back into the mine. We stayed around the mine then for about 2 months until the Unitd States Marshall brought us an injunction. I heard about Elshoff trying to open the mine a few days after that, but did not go down to work because I was told that I would not be able to work unless I was a UMW.

"A few days after that I voted at the election. No one told me how to vote, bothered me, or threatened me in any way. I voted just as I wanted to. I think it was a fair election.

"I heard that they tried to open the mine again, but I did not try to go back to work because I did not want to work as a UMW. I got another job on the WPA.

"In the fall of 1939 they decided to reopen the mine. I guess Falcetti told the men that he would recognize the Progressives as the union. I never heard anything about it.

"I went back to work on the first day that the mine was open. I went back to where I had been working before. That part of te mine was in good condition. I know that there were a few falls in the mine. I guess there were a couple of bad ones, but they had not fixed them when I left.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"After two or three months or so they started hiring new men at the mine. I was not present but I heard that Falcetti was doing again the same things about hiring that he had done before, that is, telling the men who came to ask for work that they were not hiring, unless they were introduced by Joe Albanese or some of the other UMW men. I did not see this. After that several times I was asked to join the United Mine Workers. I was asked by Joe Albanese, and also by a man named [redacted] He had never worked at the mine before the strike. He was supposed to be a timberman, but he only worked a little bit each day, and the rest of the time he ran around the mine talking to men. He came to me several times to ask me to join the UMW. I told him that I would not, because I was a Progressive and did not want to change.

"I knew [redacted] in the mine. He never talked to me about joining the UMW. He had the job of air check man. He was supposed to go around and check the air. All the time I had been in the mine before there never had been an air check man in the day time. One of the men checked the air at night.

"Nothing unusual happened to me in the mine after it opened. I stayed right in my same room all the time. I know, however, that when a room ran out, that Falcetti treated a UMW better in giving him a new place than he did to a PMW. Falcetti did that quite a bit after the mine reopened. Joe Albanese seemed to run the place. He would be in the office, and it seemed that whatever he said was done. That was done to a certain extent before the mine went out on strike in 1932. Falcetti always seemed to give Albanese the best consideration in everything, and the men that Albanese brought to the mine got the best places to work, and were treated best.

"A couple of months before the second election, I came to the mine one morning to go to work, just as usual. It was cold, and dark. I was walking towards the wash shed with my bucket under my arm and my hands in my pockets. [redacted], who was a new man who had just been hired at the mine, walked towards me and knocked me down into the snow with his shoulder. Before I could get up he and 10 or 12 other men who were hanging around came up and kicked me and beat me. The only one I recognized and knew by name was Cudge Baumgardner. I recognized some of the other men but they had just been hired and I did not know them by name.

"I got a chance to get up and did, and got away from them, and went in and told Falcetti what had happened. He told me that he was sorry but did not do anything about it. I called my father up out of the mine that day, and quit. I never went back to the mine at all. The company clerk sent me to the company doctor. He checked on my back. The company sent me a letter telling me that the company would not pay my expenses. So I had to

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

go to another doctor. He told me that my back had been hurt pretty bad, and I had to take treatments for a month or so.

"I was never disatisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers. I did not want to join the United Mine Workers. I voted in the election held a couple of months after I quit. It was a fair election too. I could not get a job after that for more than half a year. I would have liked to stay on at the mine, but I did not want to stay on and work under those conditions.

"I have read the above statement on this page and five other pages. They are all true and accurate, and I am willing to go to court, if necessary, and repeat all or any part of it.

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] (signed) FBI"

[redacted] signed) FBI"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of August 26, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Mr. [redacted] is [redacted] having been born in [redacted] He is a naturalized American citizen. He cannot read or write. At the present time he is employed [redacted] is apparently an intelligent individual. He is extremely difficult to understand. He is very definite in his opinions, and would be very difficult to cross up on cross examination. Because of his speech difficulties he would not make a good witness. He gave the following signed statement, which was read to him by [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 26, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement t[redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing if necessary to go to court and repeat this statement because it is true and accurate.

"I was working at Mine B several years before 1932. I was a member of the United Mine Workers because I could not work at that mine unless I was a member of the United Mine Workers. In 1932 there was some trouble and all the men at Mine B joined up with the Progressive Mine Workers. I joined up too at that time, and was willing and anxious to do so. I belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers all the time until I quit working at Mine B in 1941. I never had any complaints against the Progressive Mine Workers. I was satisfied in every way with the treatment I got from them and the way they acted. They never trhreatened me with anything or asked me to do anything that I did not want to do.

"Then the mine went on strike in 1937 I was down I did not know about the strike until they told me that the strike was on. I came up to the top and they told me that the troulbe was about some contract, but I do not remember the details. After the stri e I came home and did not go back to the mine. I did not sign any petition.

"Then the men were called to go back to work in September of 1937 I did not go back. I told the men that I would wait and see if they actually did stay there before I went back. I had a job with the WPA so I wanted to be sure that the mine was going to work before I went back.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

I kept on working with WPA. I voted in the election in December 1937. No one told me how to vote or made me do anything that I did not want to do. I voted just the way I felt at that election.

"I only heard of the mine trying to go back once, between the time of the strike and the time that the mine actually started to work. When I went back to work I did not see any indication of any big cave in or fire. The mine was in good shape when we went back to work.

"After I went back to work it was a year before anyone asked me to join the United Mine Workers. About the same time my clothes were stolen, and my tools were taken. I talked to Elshoff, and Falcetti about it but they did not do anything. I quit work the day that [redacted] was beaten, which was just a few days before the next election at the mine. I voted at the election, but I never went back. I never joined the United Mine Workers but I had been asked to do so many times.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers. I never wanted to join the United Mine Workers. None of the Progressive mine workers ever threatened me or asked me to do anything that I did not want to do.

"The above statement on this and one other page has been read to me by [redacted] It is true and accurate.

[redacted]

[redacted]

F.B.I.

[redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon [redacted] August 26, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is a naturalized American citizen, having been born [redacted] He is presently employed as a miner at Panther Creek Mine #4. [redacted] was quite definite in his statement. He does not recall the details of what happened at the mine and apparently was not too interested, mainly just wanting to work. He is an aggressive sort of individual and would not waver on cross-examination. He requested one statement to be deleted from his signed statement because he did not want anyone to have the idea that anyone would think that any member of the Progressive Mine Workers would threaten or cause any violence. He speaks good English, is easy to understand and would make a good witness in every particular except that he does not have much information of value. Upon interview he executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ohio
August 26, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted], and [redacted], who have identified themselves to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind have been made to me to make this statement. It is true and accurate and I am willing to appear in court if necessary and make this statment again.

"I first was employed at the Mine B two or three years before 1932. When I first was employed there I belonged to the United Mine Workers because I had to belong in order to work. In 1932 there was trouble and I went over to the Progressive Mine Workers because that was what all the rest of the men at Mine B did. I had not objection to the United Mine Workers then, but I had no objection to joining the Progressive Mine Workers. Both Unions treated me alright, and I would belong to either one in order to work. I joined the Progressives because the majority of the men at Mine B joined. There was no trouble at the mine with the Progressives so far as I know. I was very satisfied with the Progressive Union. They were a fine bunch of men. I am still a member of the Progressive Mine Workers. When I was at Mine B I used to go to the Union meetings of the PMW regularly. For a while I was door keeper at the union meetings. Most of men when to all the meetings. I do not recall how many there were, but there were quite a crowd at many of the meetings. There were so many at the meetings because the men were interested in what was going on. There was no disatisfaction with the way the Union was being run.

"On the day the strike started I was working on the track below. I had not heard of any trouble, and was surprised when someone came down

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

and told me to quit working because there was a strike. I had not known anything about it. Some of the men told me what the strike was about afterwards, but I do not remember it very well, as to just what the reason was. I stayed around the mine for a week or so after that waiting to see if I could not go back to work. The men would not go back and I would not do anything that the majority would not do. While I was there I signed a petition for the Progressives, but I do not recall exactly what it was for.

"In September I was called back to work, and took my bucket and went out to the mine to go to work. When I got there there was a big bunch of fellows there all wanting to go to work. Oscar Falcetti told us all while I was there that we would have to join the United Mine Workers in Order to go to work. I did not want to join the United Mine Workers. The majority of the fellows wanted to work as Progressives and I was not going to go against the majority. I did not want to go against the majority because I was satisfied with the Progressives, and wanted to work with those fellows. When we could not work that day, I stayed there on the company property for a few days off and on while the other men stayed. It was a couple of months later that we got an injunction to keep us off. We all left right away. There was no trouble of any kind.

"I voted at the election for the mine to decide which Union we wanted. It was a fair election. There was no fighting or threats or anyt ng. None of the men from the Progressives threatened me, or told me how to vote. The progressives did not tell me to come to vote, furnish me with a ride or anything. I went to the headquarters, and they told us where to vote.

"I went there and voted. There was no trouble. It was a fair election.

"Soon after the election I got a job at the Panther Creek Mine. I never heard of any attempt to open the mine except the time I went to work and the ti e that they did reopen the mine in 1939. In 1939 I went to work at Mine B, but only worked one day because of the change in conditions in the mine and I thought I would be better off at the Panthe Creek Mine. If there had been any other times that I could have gone to work at Mine B I would have gone. I decided that I would be better off because I was digging coal at the Panther Creek mine, and was getting too old to lay track any more. My quitting had nothing to do with the Union situation.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. They treated me fairly, ~~never threatened me~~, or abused me in any way. I was never threatened or mistreated by anyone.

"I have read the above statement on this and two other typewritten pages. Everything on this statement is true and accurate.

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] (signed)

F.B.I.

[redacted] (signed) FBI"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS [redacted] b7C b7D 006460

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on August 30, 1943.

At [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, telephone [redacted] Agents interviewed [redacted] who advised he has never been arrested.

He appeared to be more intelligent than the average miner and it was noted that he fully understood questions when asked and he appeared to have a very excellent memory as he recalled many dates and specific instances. He speaks the English language but at times he is difficult to understand. He also appeared to be well versed with the mine conditions and it is believed he would make a good witness. He indicated a willingness to testify in the event it was necessary.

[redacted] gave Agents the following signed statement which he signed on the last page and initialed on the other pages:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943

"I [redacted] give the following signed statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Spec. Agts. of the Fed. Bur. of Invest. No threats or promises have been made me.

"My address is [redacted] Springfield, Ill., I was born [redacted] I came to U. S. in [redacted] and became a cit. [redacted] in Springfield, I first joined a union in [redacted] in Penna. this was a U.M.W. union. I have never held a union office. I started working in Mine B as a coal digger in 1936, I am still working there. I joined the Progressives in 1932 as that time I was working in the copper mine.

"During the year and half prior to the strike I knew of no trouble at Mine "B". I know nothing of anyone trying to cause any trouble at that time. I was always satisfied with the P.M.A. and felt they were O.K. I attended P.M.A. meetings about once a month, because I felt it would look bad if I didn't.

"I heard about the men being convicted of bombings but have no personal knowledge of it.

"I was satisfied that the P.M.A. officials were handling the union money O.K.

"While we had a P.M.A. union and before the strike I saw no trouble with U.M.W. men bothering us. I did not know anything about any U.M.W. spies being in A.M.W. and knew nothing about any body trying to swing A.M.W. miners

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

to U.M.W.

"I have no knowledge of Elshoff giving any parties for U.M.W. officials.

"I heard in April of 1937 that Elshoff didn't want to sign a contract with the Progressives. I don't remember of anyone trying to cause any disturbance or make us think that PMA couldn't get as good a contract as U.M.W.

"I don't remember any commotion at the mine over wages.

"I did not attend the meeting at which the spies were expelled, but I know there was to be a meeting. The next morning I heard talk at the mine that these men had been expelled. I don't remember the next morning what the argument was about. I think maybe it was about wages. I rember the miners being expelled from the union and that the management wouldn't expell them, the miners did not like this because it was a closed shop and they should have been expelled. I remember the cars being short loaded on May 12, this was done because the Company was not going to give back pay. I loaded one short, we miners did this ourselves just because of back pay. When I went to work that day I did not know there was going to be a strike. As I remember the strike was called both because of back pay & because they would not fine the expelled miners.

"I signed the P.M.A. petition in May of my own free will. We signed this petition on the road outside the mine to show the Co. we were all Progressives. I signed another petition for P.M.A. to show we were still all Progressive, I signed this of my own free will. I never signed any U.M.W. petition.

"Nobody asked me to join the U.M.W. local formed during the summer of 1937. I heard that some miners were visited at their home to get them to sign, but no one bothered me.

"In the summer of 1937 I heard that Elshoff had signed a contract with the U.M.W.

"I returned to the mine to go to work in Sept. 1937. Some U.M.W. men went down, the Progressives wanted to go down, FALCETTI told us that if we wanted to go down we would have to join the U.M.W. DOMINIC PASQUALE, CHAS. BOHANON, ANDY SCHRELEVIOUS, "COTTON" ANANIAS, JOE ALBANESE, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, and I believe JOHN SIRTOUT, and GEO. & EMORY JACKAWAY and JAMES HALE went down to work that day. [redacted] told FALCETTI that if he wanted P.M.A. men they would go down but he wouldn't let them go down. I don't know whether or not not P.M.A. had had a meeting to decide what to do.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"That day we had a meeting and decided to go back the next day to picket the mine. We stayed night and day after that. We stayed there and watched the place after that. We stayed there and watched the place after that. The men who had gone down the day before were in the office and the Sheriff came out and let them go home. We stayed about 55 days after this to watch the property. I was there every night. We were gaurding the property so that no one would hurt it and blame the P.M.A. No P.M.A. men were brought in from outside to aid in this. I went out of my own free will to protect my job.

"I was at the mine when the Marshall came & said we had to leave we all left without any trouble.

"I did not go out when an attempt was made to open the mine in Dec. 1937. I had heard it was to be opened.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. voting for the Progressives because they were the ones I wanted. I feel this was an honest election.

"When they tried to open the mine in Jan. 1938 I heard that it was to be opened but did not go out as I knew P.M.A. had an injunction at the time.

"I never went back after this until I got a registered letter in Sept. 1939. I do not remember anything unusual between Jan. 1938 and Sept. 1939. The mine was already opened when I got my letter. I had first learned the mine was to be opened through the papers. I went out when I got my letter. FALCETTI put my name on the list and told me he would call when they were ready for me. [redacted] came to my house and told my wife to have me come out the next day. When I went back they gave me a good room. When we went back nothing was said about the wage scale, we worked for what we could get after being off so long. No one asked me what union I belonged to. Someone from the U.M.W. saw me in the mine and asked me to sign over, about 2 months after I went back to work. I don't remember his name. Before I joined the U.M.W. three men came to my house to ask me to join the U.M.W. I told them to get out though they did not threaten me. No one ever put anything on my coal to cause me to get docked. The men I mentioned came to my home in July 1940, they were ANDY SCHNELEVIOUS, young JACAWAY, and a big fellow named GEORGE.

"I signed no membership cards between the time I went to work and the time I joined the U.MW. I don't remember anyone getting beat up or any trouble prior to the second N.L.R.B. election. When the second N.L.R.B. election was held I already had joined the U.M.W. but did not pay any dues till after the election. "CUDGE" was the man I signed up for the U.M.W. with. I did this because everybody was signing over to U.M.W. We signed over because we felt if we didn't they would fine us the first chance they got.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

When the second election was held I still voted P.M.A. because I felt this was the best Union, I still feel this way and wish they were back. I believe U.M.W. won the election because there were a lot of U.M.W. men had been hired at the mine. Many of these men still work there. I feel however that the election was fair and honest.

"When I went back to the mine there were lots of falls in it. I heard nothing of a big fire at the mine while it was closed. I don't know GLASCOW and did not attend the meeting at which he was kicked out.

"I have had the above nine page statement read to me and it is all true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am therefore signing the same and initialing each page thereof.

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted] Spec. Agent, FBI (Milw.)
" " " St. Paul

Springfield, Ill Aug., 30, 1943

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed by agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 29, 1943. It was noted that [redacted] appeared to be more intelligent than the average miner and that he can read and talk the English language rather well. He advised that [redacted] He stated that he has never been arrested in his life. When [redacted] signed the following statement, his wife said to him that she supposed now that they would have to go back on relief as her husband might lose his job at Mine B for talking to agents. It is felt by agents that if he were called to testify he would probably be a reluctant witness.

The following is the signed statement executed by [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 29, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, and no promises or threats have been made against me.

"I was born in [redacted] and I am an American citizen. I still am employed at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., where I am a company man and I have been with them for about [redacted] years. In [redacted] I first joined the UMW at Springfield, Ill. About [redacted] years ago I was financial secretary with UMW at Mine A in Springfield, Ill. As far as I know UMW got along with the management at Mine B prior to 1932, and things were alright. Back in 1932 I was neutral as it didn't matter to me if I had to join over with PMA but I did not like the idea of taking a cut at that time. I did not help organize the PMA in 1932 but I went over as the majority went over. I don't know of any trouble between PMA or Elshoff or the management of Mine B. I don't know of any strikes or any trouble between 1932 and 1937 when the mine closed. While with PMA we got the union scale and the contract was lived up to. I attended most of the PMA meetings between 1932 until the mine closed. The men themselves in PMA voted upon all matters that came up and there were not a few who ran the show. I don't know if those PMA men who were sent to jail for the bombings were guilty or innocent as I never paid much attention to that matter. As far as I know there never was any trouble over money affairs with PMA officials. To my knowledge no UMW men bothered us at the mine B prior to the strike in 1937, and I never saw any literature from UMW then. I never was approached by anyone to swing over to UMW prior to the strike. I never heard about any parties being given between Mine B officials and UMW men. I don't know anything about the contract expiring in March, 1937

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

as that matter was left to the officials of PMA. I don't recall the nature of the trouble over the wages between March 1937 and the strike but it seems to me that we got back pay for it but I am not sure. None of us were complaining about our pay as that matter is left up to the Scale Committee and we abide by their wishes. I don't recall of anyone telling us the PMA could not get a contract and that we should go over to UMW. Any wage question is left to the Scale Committee and the Pit Committee and the rank and file don't know much about those matters.

"I did not attend any meeting the night before the strike and I don't know if it was a regular or special meeting but I did hear something about a meeting to be held that night.

"On the morning of the strike I did not hear a thing and did not know anything about a strike to be called over the wage question. I did not know that some men were expelled the night before. I just went about my work and did not know about all things going on. About four of us were taking out iron in the old part of the mine and that afternoon word was sent into us to come on out but nothing was said then about a strike. After I got up on top I learned thru the gossip that there was a strike. This was the first I knew of it. I went right home and never learned why the strike was called that day, and I don't know who called the men out at all and don't know if it was called by PMA or by the management of Mine B. On that day while coming out of the mine I noticed several cars partly loaded with coal on the bottom of the mine.

"I don't recall if I signed a petition shortly after the mine closed or not but if I did I would have signed for PMA. I don't believe I signed any petitions during the summer of 1937. In summer of 1937 I heard that UMW had formed a new local and got about 18 or 20 members but I never was approached in regard to it. Nothing unusual happened that I recall of during summer of 1937 when mine was closed. It was rumored around that during the fall of 1937 the UMW was going to open the mine so about 40 or 50 of us showed up that morning and started to picket the mine. We were supposed to have the contract with the Mine B and we went out to protect our jobs. PMA did not bring in any outside men to picket but they were all from local 54. I recall of seeing about 12 or 15 UMW men in the office of the coal company that morning and they did not go down at all, and I don't recall who they were.

"No one at Mine B ever asked me to join over to UMW and I know Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, Geo and Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale but none of them ever contacted me and I never knew they were spies of UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b2 b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I went to Mine B to picket to protect my job and no one forced me to go there at all and I never heard of anyone being forced to go there. The strike was very quiet for those 2 months and there wasn't any fights there that I know of and we were just protecting the property.

"Early that morning I was at the mine on that strike and the Marshall came to me and took my name and then gave me a subpoena and then I went home. None of us complained at all after the Marshall told us we would have to get off the property and we all left peacably and there were no fights or anything like that. I was at the mine about one-half of the time during the strike.

"I Did not hear anything about the attempt to open the mine in Dec. of 1937, did not go to the mine at that time.

"I Voted in the first NLRB election voting for the PMA. This election was by secrect ballot and so far as I know was held in an honest manner. I voted for PMA because that was the union organization at the mine at that time. I was always well satisfied with the way they ran things.

"I did not hear anything about the attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938 and did not go to the mine at that time.

"I recall nothing unusual during the period from Jan. 1938 and the time the mine opened, during most of this time I was on the WPA and was not paying much attention to what was going on in connection with the mine.

"When the mine reopened in 1939 I recieved a letter from the mine to come back and go to work. reported for work understanding at the time that I was to be paid the regular Illinois wage rate. I went back to work that same morning working as always as a Company, man. When I went back to work no one asked men whether I belonged to the Progressive or the UMW and so far as I know no one else was asked. I still have in my possession the letter recieved telling me to go back to work and of the stipulation between the Mine "B" Coal Co. and the Union, which provided for our return to work.

"About 4 or 6 months after my return to work I joined the UMW, I joined this Union at that time because I felt this was the way the majroity was going. No one threatened me and I dont know of anyone who was threatened or beaten I did hear gossip around the mine about some men having been. I did not at that time care which Union I belonged to. I heard not statements on the part of the management as to which Union they wanted the men in the mine to belong to. I never saw any person favored by the management because of the Union to which they belonged, I was treated the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

same way while belonging to one Union as while I belonged to the other. I have no recollection of having signed any membership cards during 1940 for either the PMA or UMW.

"I know nothing about how the Company got the money to keep the mine up while the men were on strike, I dont believe it took a great deal to do this, so far as I know they only had one clerk and a watchman out there.

"I voted UMW in the second NLRB election, so far as I know this was an honest election.

"When we went back to work the mine was in pretty bad shape, I dont know how much it cost to start it back in operation, but I imagine right much. Boxes 2 and 9 have never been cleaned up and put back in operation.

"I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 2 pages, to the best of my knowledge and recollection it is all the truth. I am therefore signing this statement and initaling each page thereof.

Signed [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]
Spec. Agt. FBI
St. Paul

[redacted]
Spec. Agt.
MILW.

Springfield, Ill. Aug. 29, 1943"

006468

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on August 27, 1943.

In the rear of the home at [redacted] lives [redacted] who said his first name is not [redacted] It was noted that he could not speak the English language in an understandable manner and he advised he could not read it either. With him was a friend named [redacted] no relation, [redacted] Illinois, who was just visiting for the day. With the assistance of [redacted] who acted as an interpreter, it was determined that [redacted] has been working at Mine "B" continuously since [redacted] with the exception of the time when the mine was out on strike. It was learned that at the time of the strike in May 1937, [redacted] was a member of PMA and he said he had no choice as to which union they had at Mine "B" as he felt that one was just as good as another. He stated that during the period in question he took no interest in the union affairs as in 1937, at the time of the dispute, [redacted] He stated that these personal matters took up all of his time and he paid no attention to union matters.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 29, 1943. [redacted] stated he does not have a criminal record. He would make an unsatisfactory witness as he has a difficult time speaking and understanding English.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born i[redacted] emmigrated to the U. S. from Italy [redacted] I was natur[redacted]ized as a citizen of the U. S. in [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. [redacted]

"I was just employed as a miner in Ill. in [redacted] at which time I became a member of UMW, I was employed in several different coal mines in Ill. until [redacted] when I stopped mining [redacted]

"I have never been an officer in any union, nor have I taken an active part in any union.

"I was employed by th[redacted] Mine, [redacted] Ill., in 1932 at which time I discontinued my membership in UMW and became a member of PMA. The reason I changed from UMW to PMA was because I heard some representatives of John L. Lewis stole some votes cast in Springfield, Ill. in 1932 concerning the wage scale at mines.

"I did not take an active part in the formation of PMA.

"I was employed by Mine 'B' as a miner in about 1934, therefore I am unable to make a statement as to what occured at Mine 'B' prior to that time.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"From about 1934 to November 7, 1936 the management of Mine 'B' seemed to have been on good relations with PMA. No one attempted to make me dissatisfied with PMA during that period of time.

"I liked PMA and thought it was an honest union, there were no unusually high special assessments up until Nov. 7, 1936. I took no interest in the bombing cases and can furnish no information concerning the cases.

"During the time I was employed at Mine 'B' UMW did not set up a picket line nor did UMW distribute any literature. From 1934 to Nov. 7, 1936 no one contacted me concerning changing from PMA to UMW and I had no knowledge of an intended chance of Mine 'B' from PMA to UMW.

"I did not see any of the management of Mine 'B' with any officials of UMW during the time I was employed at the mine.

[redacted].

"I have had the three pages of this statement read to me which statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed: -

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I.

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

CO CO

006471

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 28, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] and is an American citizen. [redacted] has been in the mines all of his life, and is presently employed at Mine B. He is unable to read or write English. He speaks English poorly, and understands English poorly. He appears to be rather intelligent, however.

A signed statement was not obtained due to [redacted] express desire. He advised that he did not know that he understood interviewing Agents correctly. He stated that he had been at Mine B since [redacted] He belonged to the United Mine Workers when the contract was with the UMW and with the Progressive Mine Workers when the contract was with the PMA. He had no interest in the union and did not attend the meetings. He was unable to recall the day of the strike, and the events that occurred that day. He did recall that he had been on the picket line at the mine. He voted at the election in December, 1937, and voted in the manner that he wanted without any threats or compulsion of any kind. He was satisfied with the PMA prior to the strike and did not join the UMW at Mine B until after the second election and he was forced to join in order to continue at Mine B. He had no further information pertinent to this investigation.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, located at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born at [redacted] He has been in the mines [redacted] years, and at mine B since [redacted] He would make a fair witness, having good command of the English language, a fair ability to express himself, a fair appearance and an intelligence above average of miners. He gave information set forth the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I started working at Mine B in [redacted] When the local went over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America from the United Mine Workers. At that time I was not particularly anxious to join the PMW of A but I was working at the mine and the PMW of A had the contract, so I had to stay in the PMW in order to keep my job. In 1937 when the strike was called, however, I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and local #54. If I had a chance to have changed unions at the time of the strike, I would not have changed unions.

"I was not particularly interested in the unions affairs. I was never an officer of the local. I did not attend meetings regularly. When the strike was called in May 1937, I was down below working on recovering some track. I had not heard that there was going to be a strike. There had not been any discussion about wages or a disagreement, and so I was completely surprised when I was called out. When I got out of the mine I asked a little about it, and went home. I do not recall what they told me that the strike was called for. I was satisfied with the way things were going at that time. I went on home, and I do not think that I went out to the mine again after that. I was not interested in the quarrels out there, and did not want to go on a picket line. In the fall of 1937 when they attempted to open the mine, I was out in the country and did not hear about it until a few days later. I did not go out and sit on the picket line or stay on the company property. I heard about the formation of a UMW local, but no one asked me to join it, and I did not take much interest in it.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I voted in an election held in the fall of 1937 about the union for Mine B. As far as I know that was a fair election. No one tried to influence my vote, or tell me what to do. I voted at that election exactly as I wanted to. vote.

"I did not hear of any other attempts to open the mine.

"In 1939 when the mine was actually opened, I did go back to work at my old job, of working on emergency matters, etc., for the company. I traveled over most of the mine. There had been some big falls in the mine. Box 1 and 2 and box 9 had falls, and they have not been cleaned up yet. Box 5 had a fall, and it was finally cleaned up and opened. I do not know how big a fall it was because I did not help clean it up, but I did put in track afterwards.

"I knew [redacted] after the mine reopened. He was supposed to be a first aid man, or air check man or something like that. I never saw him do any work. My partner and I are supposed to keep track of air and first aid in the day time, and we kept on doing things just as we had before. There never had been a special man for that before the strike started, and after the strike and [redacted] left, no one else was hired to do that kind of work. I knew [redacted] He was supposed to be a timberman. He did a little timbering, but not much. All I ever saw him or [redacted] do was go around and talk to the men. [redacted], were working there. They spent a lot of time in the mine talking to the man and I thought that they must be organizing. The only favoritism that I saw of the company, in helping one union over the other was that the company seemed to favor these men, and let them spend time in the mine to help organize for the United Mine Workers. I did not see anyone beaten, or threatened in any way, although I heard that was being done.

"Cudge Baumgardner, and Jimmy Hale asked me if I was going to join the United Mine Workers. I told them that I would, but I put it off for quite a while because the men who I rode with were pretty much set against joining the UMW, and I did not want to be the only one in the car. Finally, [redacted] asked me when I was going to sign up, and I signed up with him. That was pretty late in the organizing out there, but was shortly before the second election. I joined up with the UMW because I could see that the mine was going to be UMW and I would have to join up to keep my job. It looked to me like the men were all switching, so I did too. I would just as soon have stayed in the Progressive Mine Workers, but it did not make too much difference to me which Union I belonged to. If things had

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

been different out there, I would have preferred to stay in the PMW. No one in the PMW ever asked me to do anything that I did not want to do. I liked that union.

"I have read the above statement on this page and two other pages. It is all true and accurate."

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted]
Special Agents F B I"

DR. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] and is a naturalized citizen. He has been in the mines all of his life. He is presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #4. [redacted] would not make a good witness. He has good command of the English language, but he is unable to give a coherent description of events. He have information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing to go to court, if necessary, and repeat any part of this statment.

"I worked at Mine B from soon after the last war until about 1941. I was a member of the United Mine Workers before 1932 and joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was a member of that Unio all the time that I stayed at Mine B, and I am still a member of the Progressive Mine Workers. I have always liked the Progressives, the local and the International. I never wanted to change to the United Mine Workers. Most of the men at Mine B were satisfied with the PMW of A.

"I voted in the election at the mine in 1937. No one told me how to vote or made me do anything that I did not want to do. It was a fair election, and I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"When the mine reopened, I went back to work. [redacted] I could have argued about it, but I did not want to work there any more under the United Mine Workers, and so I did not argue about it. When I went back after my pay [redacted] and another man I do not know beat me up and kicked my ribs in. I never got my pay.

"I have read the above statement on this page and one other page. It is all true and accurate.

[redacted]

F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of August 27, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] and was naturalized years ago through his father. He is presently employed as a miner at Mine "B". [redacted] stated that he could not read well. He, however, understands English well, and speaks English well. He is a little slow and his mentality may be somewhat dulled. He is very definite in the things that he does remember and would be stubborn enough to withstand cross-examination. He would make a fairly good appearance on the witness stand. It is believed that he would make as good a witness as the average miner. Upon interview he executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. It is true and accurate, and I am willing, if necessary, to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I have been working in Mines A and B since [redacted] I worked from A over into B, and have stayed at B ever since. I joined the United Mine Workers, and was a committee man on this union in [redacted] In 1932 I went over with the rest of the men at Mine B into the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was not involved in organizing the Progressive Mine Workers, but I was glad to go over into the new union. After that things went better. Things were better after that. I never was an officer of the Progressive Mine Workers, but I attended meetings about once a month. About 50 to 100 men attended meetings regularly. On special meetings a lot more men came to the meetings.

"I do not recall any trouble with the unions with Elshoff. I guess he got along alright with both the UMW and the PMW.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers. I liked the union. I had no complaints about the way it was being run, nor about the assessments, check offs or anything else. I think most of the men at the mine liked the PMW of A except about 12 men who wanted to change the mine over to the United Mine Workers.

"I recall that before the strike in May 1937 there had been some slow ups. I do not know what they were caused by, unless it was that there was not enough orders for the coal. There was no disatisfaction among the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

men about the wages then. I attended the meeting of the union held the night before the strike. It was a special meeting. I do not recall exactly how many men were at that meeting. I do not remember exactly what it was that they decided that night. There was some talk about having some men fired from the company, and some talk about short cars. I know I went to work the next day, and did not know that there was going to be a strike. There were short cars coming up that day, because the men would not leave a car in the room long enough to let it got filled up. I did not come up until about quitting time, and then learned that a strike had been called. I was told what the strike was for, but I do not remember exactly what they told me. I went home that night, and came back to the mine for a couple of days after that but did not work. I do not remember whether I signed any papers for either union at that time or not.

"I could not get any other job, and stayed at home. I remember when they had some trouble at the mine in September. I do not recall exactly what happened or what it was supposed to be about, but I know I went out to the mine. I did not expect to work that day, and there was something said about going down if those 12 men who had been wanting the United Mine Workers went to work. These men had never talked to me. I do not know what they said. Someone else told me that they wanted the United Mine Workers. I did not want to, and wanted to stay in the Progressive Mine Workers.

"After that day we had a picket line and stayed out there by the mine until the marhshall came out with an injunction and told us to leave the property. I stayed out there part of the time. A little after the injunction there was an election. I voted in that election, and voted exactly as I wanted to. No one told me how to vote, or threatnend me in any way. No one told me how to vote. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"Until the time that the mine reopened I did not have any work. I did not know of any time that they started to open the mine. If they had tried to open the mine I would have heard of it, and would have gone back to work, but I never heard of it at all.

"When I went back to work, which was the first day that the mine was opened, I did not see any evidence of any big fire. There had been some cave ins. Some of them were pretty bad, and they have not opened them up even yet. There were some that took two or three weeks to clean up.

"When I went back to work at Mine B, I still belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers. There were some men working in the mine who did not do anything but go around and talk to the men about joining the United Mine Workers. [redacted] was one of these men. He never talked to me. He did not seem to do any work. He just talked to the men. They called him an air check man. In all the years that I was at the mine, he was the first

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

aircheck man they ever had. Before that the man did that at night. After [redacted] left the mine, about the time of the second election, they did not have any air check man. He was the only air check man we ever had at Mine B. I do not know if there were any other men there.

"No one ever threatened me, beat me, stole my tools, put dirt on my cars, or took the tags off of my cars, but I heard that that was being done. I know some of the men got beaten.

[redacted] and some other fellows there asked me to join the United Mine Workers. I told them that I would not, and that I would wait until the very last chance before I would change to the United Mine Workers. I did not join the United Mine workers until after the second election, and they told us then that we had until the 16th to join or we would have to pay $25 to get into the United Mine Workers. I do not remember who it was who told me that. I waited until the last day and then joined the United Mine Workers. I joined the UMW because I had to in order to work in the mine. I did not want to join. I voted in the second election, exactly as I wanted to. No one threatened me or told me how to vote. Both of the elections were fair and honest elections as far as I know.

"I did not want to join the United Mine Workers. I would go back to the Progressives now if I could, because working conditions were better then than they are now under the UMW. I had no choice but to join the UMW, or lose my home, so I joined the UMW and am a member now. I go to the meetings about once a month.

"The above statement on this page and three other pages have been read to me by [redacted] It is all true and accurate.

[redacted] (signed)
[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] (signed)
[redacted] (signed) FBI."

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RE. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born at [redacted] He is presently employed at Mine A near Springfield, Ill [redacted] would make an excellent witness for what information he does have. He has good command of the English language; can express himself clearly; makes a good appearance, and appears to be quit intelligent. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

"My name is [redacted]. I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or consideration of any kind have been made to me to make this statement. It is true and accurate and I am willing to appear in court to repeat any part of this statement if necessary.

"I have been in the mines all of my life. Prior to 1932 I was a member of the United Mine Workers, but in 1932 I joined up with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was unable to get back into the ~~mine that~~ I had been working at because I was a PMW of A member. I did not get a job at Mine B until about 1934. I worked at Mine B until the time of the strike in 1937. I was a member of the union, but did not go to the meetings too often.

"I did not know much about what was going on at the mine. I was not particularly interested in the union matters. I was satisfied with the way that the Progressive union was being operated, and did not want to change unions. I did not particularly care, but I would not have changed as long as the majority were PMW of A. At that time it seemed to me that almost all of the men were satisfied with the Progressive Union.

"I had heard that there was talk about being a strike, but I had not been at any of the meetings just before the strike, and when it was called I was surprised, and did not know anything about it. On the day that the mine went out on strike, some of the men were loading short cars of coal. I heard afterwards that they were objecting to

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

working with some men in the mine who wanted the United Mine Workers. I did not particularly care.

"When the mine went out on strike, I did not come back I got a job with the city almost right away and stayed with the city during almost all the time that the mine was on strike. I did not go out and picket, but I did visit some of the men who were out at the mine on the top when they were occupying the mine property.

"I voted in the election of the unions in December 1937. No one told me how to vote, or threatened me in any way. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote at that time. I voted for the Progressive Mine Workers of America at that time because I preferred that Union at that time.

"I did not go to Mine A until about December 1941. At that time Mine A was a UMW mine, and I joined the UMW because that union was at the mine. I had not voted at any other election at Mine B because I was not working there.

"I am now a member of the United Mine Workers because I now prefer this union. No one connected with PMW ever threatened me, or bothered me in any way.

"I have read the above statement on this page and one other. It is all true and accurate.

[redacted]

[redacted] F.B.I."

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born at [redacted] He has been in the coal mines all of his [redacted] He is not considered by interviewing agents as a good witness due to his weak voice, and apparent disinterest in what occurred at the mine. Upon being interviewed he executed the following signed statement:

Springfield, Ill
August 28, 1943

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to or given to me to make this statement. It is true and accurate. I am willing if necessary to repeat this statement in court.

"I have worked at Mine B for many years. I do not recall when I first started there, but I was working there as a United Mine Worker when the Progressive Mine Workers were organized. I joined the Progressive ~~Mine Workers there~~. I never was an officer of any uuion, and did not attend the meetings of the union very often. I was always satisfied with the way the Progressive Mine Workers were being run. I never wanted to change to any other Union.

"I last worked at Mine B on May 12, 1937. I do not recall what it was that caused the strike. I was not interested in what was going on, and did not pay much attention to anyone. I just worked. I did not hear much about it. I do not recall over signing any petitions for any union after the strike. I was out at the mine on the picket line for a while in the fall of 1937. I voted in the election held down town about which Union I wanted at the mine. This was a fair election. No one told me how to vote. I voted exactly as I wanted to at that election. I never went back to work at Mine B when the mine was reopened.

"I have read the above statement on this apage. It is all true and accurate.

[redacted]

F. B. I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 27, 1943, at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] was present during the interview. [redacted] his memory is failing him and that he can recall incidents of years ago only with much time and effort. [redacted] was cooperative but exhibited a fear of "union ruffians". [redacted] it is believed that he would not make a good witness. He advised that he has never been arrested.

The following is a signed statement taken from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

"I [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"At present I am residing at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I am not working [redacted] I was born in [redacted]. I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in Springfield, Ill., on [redacted]

"I first joined a union when I was working as a miner in the mines at [redacted] Ill., about [redacted] This was the United Mine Workers union. I stayed in this union until I changed to the Progressive Mine Workers of America in [redacted] I never was an officer of any union.

"I started to work at Mine B in [redacted] From the time I started to work there until May 1937 there was no trouble at Mine B between the management and the miners to the best of my knowledge. I don't recall any efforts of the management to discredit the leadership of the P.M.A.

"As a member of the P.M.A. I attended the union meetings. I don't know of any member of the union feeling that the P.M.A. was run by racketeers. I do know that many miners felt that the P.M.A. was more considerate of its members that was the U.M.W.

"Prior to the strike which started in May 1937, I don't recall any pickets by U.M.W., or any propaganda being distributed by U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

I was working at Mine B on May 12, 1937, but I don't know what the true reasons for the strike were.

"After the strike was a few weeks old, I recall that I signed a P.M.A. petition. At this time I was in favor of the P.M.A. union.

"Some time later, I don't recall the exact date, I signed another petition which I had been led to believe was a petition of the P.M.A., but it really was a petition of the U.M.W. At that time I was living at 2029 N. 11th St., Springfield, Ill., One day two men, whose names I think are Tony Plotch and Joe Albanese came to my house. In the presence of my wife, they asked me if I wanted to work at Mine B. They said that I could not get work there unless I signed the petition which they had, and which they said they were taking from house to house for all miners to sign. They said they wanted me to sign the paper so the mine could reopen. The paper which they asked me to sign had the work "progressive" at the top of the page. The paper was one of a tablet. They talked me into signing the paper, and I did sign the paper not knowing that these men were really in favor of U.M.W., and not in favor of P.M.A. After I had signed the paper and they left the house, I learned from Joe Plumbo (PH), who is now dead, that these men were trying to break up the P.M.A. and were for U.M.W.

"In the fall of 1939 I recall that I signed another petition at the office of the P.M.A. At the mine I learned that I had been tricked into signing a petition for U.M.W. I did not like this because at this time I really favored the P.M.A.

tricked into signing UMW petition

"When I was living at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., I recall that Tony Plotch and Joe Albanese came to my house again. They again told me that I would have to sign their paper to get work at Mine B. They told me that if I signed with them my son could also get a job at Mine B. At the end of the week they again returned to my house, at which time I signed my name to a paper which looked like a receipt. I knew that this was a membership receipt of the U.M.W., but I really did not want to sign it. The reason I did not want to sign the U.M.W. was because I was in favor of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I felt that I had to sign with the U.M.W. in order to get a job at Mine B, which job I needed very much because I had been on public relief. I had no choice in the matter. I either had to sign with the U.M.W. or go without work.

"I don't recall the exact time or place, but I do remember hearing that some of the money which was received by the U.M.W. from the fines imposed on members for "dirty coal" was being used to pay trouble makers at Mine B.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"In the fall of 1937 I recall that I picketted Mine B for about 30 days. The purpose of this picket was to keep U.M.W. men out of the mine.

"In December 1937 I voted in the election at the State armory which election was sponsored by the National Labor Relations Board. I went to this election voluntarily. I don't recall how I received notice of the election. Nobody told me how to vote. I voted for the Progressive (P.M.A.) because I liked the Progressives better than the United Mine Workers. I felt that the P.M.A. was more considerate of its members than the U.M.W.

"When I returned to work at Mine B in 1939, I recall that some parts of the mine were in good shape, and others were in bad shape. I do not recall any fines at the mine after I returned.

"After I returned to Mine B in 1939, there was some trouble at the mine. I recall that one day I was fined $5.65 for sending up dirty coal. For several weeks after this I received fines almost as large as this for dirty coal. I feel that someone was dirtying my coal because I have always been a careful worker, and never before had been fined such large amounts, never over one dollar. This trouble at the mine was in contrast to the quiet working conditions that had prevailed at the mine prior to the strike in 1937. There was no trouble that I recall prior to 1937.

[redacted] If I had voted at this time, I would have voted for the United Mine Workers because I was afraid to vote for the P.M.A. I was afraid of losing my job. I also was afraid that I would be given a poor room in which to work. Prior to February I had been given good rooms, and the track was always laid close to the wall. However, just before I got sick, I was given a bad room in which to work, and on several occasions the track was not laid close to the wall. Because of these conditions I feel that I would have been compelled to vote for U.M.W. in the hope that the conditions would be changed for my benefit.

[redacted]

"Even after I was a member of U.M.W., I continued to get bad rooms in which to work. I don't know why these rooms were given to me.

"This statement consisting of this and three other pages

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

has been read to me, [redacted] I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have read this statement also.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnesses:
[redacted]
Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill."

The following is a signed statement taken from [redacted]

"Springfielf, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

wife? mother?

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"Some time late in 1939 I heard [redacted] PH), wife of [redacted] who resides on [redacted], Springfield, Ill., say that Dominic Pasquale had received $500.00 from the United Mine Workers for his actions in stirring up trouble at Mine B. Because of his accepting this money, Dominic's family had nothing to do with him. I also heard about this incident from other sources, but I can't remember when or where. I recall that similar information was received by me concerning Tony Plotch.

"After the trouble at Mine B in 1937 my husband, [redacted], was afraid that something would happen to him. When Tony Plotch and Joe Albanese talked with him in 1937, and later when he joined the U.M.W., they inferred that he had to join the U.M.W. for his own safety. My husband never has been in trouble, and did not want to get into trouble with these men.

"I have read this statement of one page and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/S/ [redacted]

[redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the home [redacted] of his father [redacted] where he is presently residing, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of August 27, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is an American citizen, having been born in Illinois on January 13, 1912. He is presently employed as [redacted] of Mine B. [redacted] is apparently a rather intelligent individual. He seemed to know what the scope of the investigation was and know what kind of answers he should give. Interviewing agents had some doubt as to the veracity of his statements, but he could not be wavered from the story as set forth. He is quick and firm in his opinion. He was unable to recall events which, [redacted], it would seem that he should have recalled. He would make a good witness because of his appearance, his ability to express himself and he would be very difficult to confuse on cross-examination. At the time of the interview, he executed the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or consderation has been made to me to make this statment. I make it completely voluntarily. It is true and accurate and I am willing to go to court and repeat it if necessary, because it is all true.

"I was first employed at Mine B in [redacted] At that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers because I had to belong to that Union in order to work. In 1932 the Progressives were formed and I joined that Union. I did not know much about what was happening, and was willing to join the Progressive Mine Workers of America in order to work. At that time I did not care much which Union I belonged to, just so I could work. In fact, that is the way I feel today. I don't care which one I belong to now, if I can work.

[redacted].

"Before 1932 there was no troulbe at the mine that I know of. After 1932 things went pretty well at the mine with the Progressive Mine Workers. Some of the men were complaining about the large assessments that the Progressives were making. They thought that the assessments and

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

deductions were too much. Some of them complained about the State officers of the PMW of A, saying that although they were only supposed to hold office for two years, that the same men kept control of the Union by switching offices. There was no complaint about the way the local was being run. It was not a racket run outfit. I was pretty well satisfied with the way the Progressive Union was being run. I went to the meetings. There was not a great deal of trouble at the meetigs. Not many men went to the meetings, unless it was a special meeting, but there was no complaint that the local was not being run by the men themselves.

"Before the strike I was satisfied with the way the Progressive Mine Workers were working, and the operation of the local. It did not make much difference to me, though, which Union I belonged to. In fact, when they had an election in December 1937 as to which Union we wanted, I voted for the United Mine Workers. [redacted] I voted for the United because I thought it would be a better union. The assessments were less, and did not come as often. That is the reason I decided that I would rather belong to the UMW. That election in December 1937 was a fair election. No one told me how to vote, or made any threats or requests of me in any way. I voted just as I pleased at that election.

"At the meetings of the PMW local, there was no complaint. There were a few personal fights among members once in a while, sometimes over things that arose in connection with the union business, but there was no compulsion, or anyone making anyone do anything that they did not want to do at any of these meetings. No one was forced to attend or do anything that they did not want to do. Before the strike I did not hear anyone complain particularly about the PMW. I did not hear anyone say anything about switching Unions. I know that several men were tried by the Union for saying things against the Union. I did not hear them say anything though. These men were tried one or two at a time. I do not know how long before the strike the were tried, nor if all of them had been tried before the strike. I do not know exactly who the men were who were tried and kicked out of the union before the strike. I know that Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Cotton Annias, Emeroy Jackway, Charley Bohannon, and Jimmy Hale were kicked out before the strike. I am not sure who else was tried. I did not hear any of thse men say anything about switcing Unions.

"I remember the days before the strike fairly well [redacted] the strike occurred on May 12, 1937. There was some discussion at the mine about a contract. I do not recall exactly what it was, but a few days before the strike actually started there was some talk about a strike then. I recall that Oscar Falcetti called me and asked

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

me to read a statement to the men. He asked me [redacted] I guess. [redacted] was there at that time. I asked him if it was alright if I read it. He said that it was and if I recall his name was signed at the bottom. I do not remember what was on the paper that I read, but it had something to do with the contract. After I read it the men all went back to work.

"The night before the strike, or shortly before the stri e there was a meeting of the local. I think this was a special meeting. It was so long ago, that I do not recall exactly what went on. There was a fairly large bunch of fellows there that night. They did not try any men, they had all been tried before. I was at the meeting and they decided that they would not go back to work as long as the men who had been tried and kicked out of the Unio were still at work. I remember that there was some discussion at that ti e. I do not rember exactly what happened, but I think the men decided to go to work the next day. I know we did. I was working, and had filled one car full. One of the drivers told me that they were not filling full cars that day, and I told him that if I couldn't fill a car I wouldn't work. I left and started home. I was on top whe [redacted] called the strike. I went home. I think the trouble was over the firing of those men who had been kicked out of the Union. I recall vaguely that Oscar Falcetti told a group of the men while I was there that he would not fire these men until he got some more information on the Wagner act. I do not reall if that was the day of the strike or the day before.

"After the stri e, I went home. I went back to work the next day, but none of the men were working so I went on home. I went out the next couple of days after the strike. While I was out there I signed some papers for the Progressives, I think. I remember signing something. I know that I did not sign anything for the United Mine Workers. I was a member of the Progressives at that time. I wanted them to get back to work as soon as they could. I was disatisfied with the deductions, but I was not doing anything about switching Unions or causing any discussion among the men. I was satisfied to stay in the Progressives if I could get back to work. After a few days I qhit going out to the mine, and started looking for another job. I did not take part in any discussions that were going on that summer. [redacted] I had a job, and I did not think that they would be working because there was a picket line. After the men stayed out there, I went out with them and stayed out there at night for a while. [redacted] and then men tried to talk me into staying there at the mine at night, telling me [redacted] and that it was my duty. I was not threatened or anything for not staying, the men just tried to talk men into staying there. After the job was over I went back out to the mine.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

I was at the mine on the day that the United States Marshall came out there and ordered us off.

"I did not try to go back to work at mine B at any other time until the mine was opened in 1939. I did not know that they ever tried to open the mine again. I know I did not hear about it. I was not working most of that time and would have gone back to work if they had tried to open the mine.

"I voted in the election a few days after the injunction was given to us. I voted for the United Mine Workers, but no one tried to tell me how to vote. It was a fair election. No one threatened me or anyone else that I know of. I voted just as to how I wanted.

"During 1938 I got a job at the [redacted] mine for a few weeks. That was a UMW mine, and I joined the UMW then. After I quit working at the [redacted] mine I had my membership in the UMW switched over to the local #7469 of the UMW AT mine B. [redacted]

"When I went back to work at mine B, which was the first day of the opening, I went right back to work at the same place that I had been working before. There was no evidence of a big cave in or fire in the mine in that part. There were a few small cave ins, but the mine in that part was pretty well kept up. There had been a big cave in on the South side of the mine, but that was never fixed up. In fact, it has not been fixed up even now. [redacted] I know that it has not been repaired yet. It is all blocked off now, and no one can get close to the cave in because of the black damp.

"I was a member of the UMW all the time after I went back to work at Mine B. I did not see anyone beaten or threatened. I did not pay much attenton to what was going on at the mine during that time. I do not know of any organizing that was being done in the mine. I did not talk to anyone about the union, ask anyone to change or etc. My brother and father were working out there. They did not swich unions and nothing was done to either of them.

"I have read the above statement on this page and five other pages. It is all true and accurate. I was never threatened or mistreated in any way by either of the unions at Mine B. I never cared much which Union I belonged to. I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine workers

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

when I was a member of that union. I am satisfied with the United Mine Workers now.

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] (signed)

F.B.I.

[redacted] (signed) FBI"

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~~00649~~

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, in the presence of and with the assistance of [redacted] as interpreter. The interview was conducted on the morning of August 27, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] and is a naturalized citizen. [redacted] He cannot understand English well. He cannot speak English well. He is ill and professed lapses of memory. He is not believed to be a good potential witness. Upon interview he executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill,
August 27, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make this statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themseovles to me to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats, promises or consdideration of any kind has been made to me to make this tatement. It is true and accurate, and I am willing if necessary to repeat this statement in court.

"I worked at mine B fr[redacted]ntil someti e in [redacted] I belonged to both the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers while I was working there. [redacted] I never went to any union meeting. I was walways satisfied with the unions. When I was a member of the United Mine Workers I was satisfied. When I was a member of the Progressive Mine workers I was satisfied. I did not care which union I belonged to. I voted in the election in 1937. I also voted in the election in 1941. No one ever told me to how to vote. I voted just as I pleased. Both of them were fair elections as far as I know.

[redacted] has read the above statement over to me. It is true and accurate.

[redacted]gned)
[redacted]igned)

[redacted] F.B.I. (signed)
[redacted] signed)

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed at his residence by Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 30, 1943. He was a willing talker, and cooperated. He admitted no criminal record. It is believed he would be a satisfactory witness.

The following is a signed statement executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live at [redacted], Springfield, Ill. I [redacted] do not work. I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in a Federal court in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] My certificate of naturalization is numbered [redacted]

[redacted] I was a member of the United Mine Workers. When I came to the United States, I was a member of the U.M.W. in the United States without having to pay any extra dues. I stayed in the U.M.W. union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America union in 1932. I stayed in this union until 1940 when I rejoined the U.M.W.

"I began to work in Mine B about [redacted] I took no part in the formation of the P.M.A. at Mine B. If the majority of the miners at Mine B were in favor of the P.M.A., that was satisfactory with me. It made no difference to me to which union I belonged. I just wanted to work so that I could make money to support me and my family.

"I don't remember any trouble at Mine B from 1932 to 1937 between the P.M.A. and the management of the mine. I don't think there was any trouble in the P.M.A. I did not attend many union meetings because I was not very much interested in union activities. Whatever the majority of the miners decided to do with O.K. with me.

Prior to 1937 I don't remember that any person asked me to join the U.M.W. I don't know of the activities of any persons who might have tried to get members for the U.M.W.

"I don't know the reasons for the strike in 1937. I did not attend the P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike, and I don't

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

remember if I knew about the meeting. On the day of the strike, I walked out with the rest of the miners because I wanted to be with the majority of the miners. I don't remember if I signed a P.M.A. petition in 1937, nor do I remember signing any petitions for any union. No one asked me to join the U.M.W. that year, and no one threatened me in an attempt to make me join the U.M.W. I did not picket Mine B in the fall of 1937 because I did not want to get into any trouble. I wanted to stay away until everything was settled.

"I recall that someone told me about an election in December 1937, but I don't remember if I voted in the election. I don't know how I would have voted in the election, but I probably would have voted with the majority in favor of the P.M.A.

"I don't remember getting any notices of the reopening of Mine B except the last notice. I did not go up to the mine because of the fighting that was going on between the members of P.M.A. and U.M.W.

"I went back to work in Mine B, as I recall, in 1939. After I returned to work I saw a man in the mine who was known as an "air checker." I don't remember his name. This man was permitted to go all through the mine in his job. As he did so, he talked to the miners trying to get them to join the U.M.W. He did not ask me to join the U.M.W., and I can't remember the names of the miners who told me what he was doing. Prior to the strike in 1937 there was no "air checker" in Mine B. I think that this man was only trying to get members for U.M.W. I think his name was [redacted]

"I rejoined the U.M.W. some time in the fall of 1940, as I recall. Then my wife died in [redacted] I went to the P.M.A. officials and asked them if they would help me pay for [redacted] They told me that they did not have any money to help me. They also told me that they could not do this because I had not paid any P.M.A. dues. The Mine B company had not checked off mine dues for either union, as I recall.

"Some time in 1940 Dominic Pasquale came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.W. He told me that if I would join the U.M.W. [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. and they paid me $100.00 with a check. I deposited the check to my account in the First National Bank of Springfield which is located on 5th St., in Springfield, Ill.

"From the time the mine opened in 1939 until the election in 1941 I saw no trouble at the mine. I heard that some men were beaten up,

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

b7D

but I don't know anything about the reasons for these beatings. I don't know the names of any of the persons involved in these beatings. In the election of 1941 I voted for the U.M.W.

"I prefer the U.M.W. because that union took care of me when the P.M.A. refused to help me. If the U.M.W. had not helped me [redacted] I think that I would have no preference as to what union to belong to. Unions are all alike to me; one seems to be as good as any other.

"This statement consisting of this and two other typewritten pages has been read to me and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his residence, on August 29, 1943, by agents [redacted] and [redacted] He gave information freely and willingly, and said he would be willing to testify, however, it is not believed he would be a satisfactory witness. He admits no criminal record.

The following signed statement was taken from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"At present I am living at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized on [redacted]

"I first joined a mine union when I joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] I first started to work at Mine B about 1926 or 1927. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. in 1940. At no time have I ever been an officer of any union.

"As long as I have worked in the mines it has made no difference to me as to which union I belonged to. I always have been interested in making a living, and have not taken much interest in union activities. I have tried to vote with the majority of the workers so that we would always be able to work.

"In 1937 I voted for the P.M.A. because I thought that the majority of the miners wanted that union. In 1941 I changed my vote to U.M.W. because at that time I thought the majority of the miners wanted that union. Some of the men had said that under the P.M.A. Mine B had remained closed, and they also said that under U.M.W. the mine would reopen. They said that if the U.M.W. got the majority of the miners, the mine would stay open. I don't remember the names of the men who were saying these things.

"I don't remember signing any P.M.A. petition in 1937. I was not interested in union affairs. I don't recall that I went to a meeting of P.M.A. on the night before the strike started in 1937. On the day of the strike all that I remember is that the men did not go into the mine. I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] don't know why the miners struck that day.

(continued) "I don't recall that anyone of the U.M.W. tried to get me to join that union in the summer of 1937. I remember that I was in the picket line at Mine B in the fall of 1937. I did not have to go to the picket line. I went because I wanted to, and because I had nothing else to do. I went to the picket line a couple of times with men from my neighborhood. I think that only Mine B men were doing the picketing. There were no outsiders.

"As I recall, I joined the U.M.W. about 5 or 6 months after I went to work in Mine B in 1940. No one forced me to join the U.M.W., but I felt that if I wanted to work in Mine B, I would have to be a member of U.M.W.

"This statement consisting of this and one other typewritten page has been read to me and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

[redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Springfield, Illinois.

This witness has a very difficult time understanding English and cannot express himself in English. [redacted] would not make a good witness because of his difficulty with English. [redacted] advises he does not have a criminal record. [redacted] telephone number is [redacted]

Following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill. make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] I emmigrated to the U.S. from [redacted] and I was naturalized as a citizen of the U.S. [redacted] I am employed [redacted]

[redacted] I was employed in a coal mine in [redacted] as a member of UMW and worked in several mines in [redacted] as a member of UMW from [redacted]

[redacted] was employed in a coal mine in Springfield, Ill. as a UMW and worked in several coal mines in Springfield, Ill. up until [redacted] when I was employed as a miner at Mine "B", Springfield, Ill. as a member of UMW.

"In September 1932 I became a member of PMA because the local UMW union wanted to change to PMA.

"I have never held any offices in any union and never took an active part in any union.

"Prior to September 1932 the management seemed to be getting along with UMW and after the mine, Mine "B", changed over to PMA the management of Mine "B" seemed to have no difficulty with PMA until May 12, 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"There were no strikes or close-downs at Mine "B" between September 1932 and May 12, 1937. Neither FALCETTI or ELSHOFF of Mine "B" mentioned to me or showed any partiality toward UMW. The management of Mine "B" so far as I know never showed any hostile attitude in settling grievances between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937.

"I and other members of PMA I know, felt that PMA was an honest union, not being operated as a racket, no measures of compulsion were used to force me to be a member of PMA. PMA did not make any unusual special assessments and so far as I know there was no kick-back to local PMA officials. I knew of the bombing cases, but I do not know how other members felt toward the conviction of PMA members. I took no interest in the case.

"Between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937, UMW never set up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did UMW distribute any literature at the mine. No one talked to me between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 in an effort to convert me from a member of PMA to UMW.

"I never saw or heard of any association between the management of Mine "B" and UMW officials between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937.

"In the spring of 1937 I did not know of any controversy about the wage scale at Mine "B", so far as I know employees at Mine "B" were satisfied with the wage scale at Mine "B" in the Spring of 1937 and no one made any mention to me about it.

"I do not rember a meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937 and could not say if I was notified of a meeting that night or not.

"On the afternoon of May 12, 1937 I was told by someone to stop work as there was a disagrument between PMA and the management of Mine "B" about the union contract. I do not know what the disagreement was nor can I furnish any information as to why the mine closed May 12, 1937.

"I do not know anything about five UMW spies being expelled from PMA.

"I did not load any coal cars short on May 12, 1937, on purpose, nor did I see any other miners loading coal cars short on May 12, 1937, on purpose.

"I did not know of an intended strike on May 12, 1937.

"I cannot say whether I signed a PMA petition of May 26, 1937 or not as I cannot remember such a petition.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I did not sign any UMW petition or any "wildcat" petition in the summer of 1937.

"I did not know of the formation of UMW local 7469, July 29, 1937. No one attempted to get me to become a member of UMW in the summer of 1937.

"I may have attended some PMA meetings in the summer of 1937 but I did not take an active part. So far as I know there was no violence in the Summer of 1937.

"I was informed by an agent of PMA that Mine "B" was to open. I do not know the date but it was sometime in September, 1937. I reported for work that morning and was told by some of the miners that Mine "B" officials had made the statement that anyone who wanted to work would have to be a member of UMW. I do not know the names of the miners who furnished me the information. I remained at the mine that particular morning as a picket and returned for a few hours the following morning as a picket. So far as I know PMA did not import any outsiders as pickets. I did not act as a picket but for the first two days after Mine "B" was to have opened in Sept. 1937. I did not see any violence at the mine nor did anyone threaten me if I did not act as a picket.

"I do not know anything about an attempt to open Mine "B" Dec. 13, 1937. I was not notified that the mine was to have been opened.

"I do not know anything about a Federal Court injunction Dec. 9, 1937 [redacted]

"On Dec. 15, 1937 the NLRB held an election to determine if Mine "B" should have been a UMW mine or a PMA mine. I voted PMA as I was satisfied with the union. So far as I know the election was fair and no one was threatened if they did not vote PMA. I went to vote at my own free will, no one carried me to the election or told me that I was to vote.

"I do not rember an attempt to re-open Mine "B" Jan. 4, 1938 and do not know if I received notice that the mine was to open on that date.

"I do not know if I attended any PMA meetings between Jan. 1938 and Nov. 1939, so far as I know there was no violence during that period of time.

"I received notice in Nov. 1939 that Mine "B" was to open and I returned to work a few days later. I do not know whether there was any question as to the wage scale when I returned to work or not. I do not know the attitude of PMA members because they could not get a contract. I did not care whether the mine was an open shop or a closed shop.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"When I returned to the mine, Mine "B", in Nov. 1939 there were many cave-ins in Mine "B". I heard of only two small fires in Mine "B" subsequent to Nov. 1939 but I did not hear of or see any large fires subsequent to Nov. 1939.

"Between Nov. 6, 1939, and Feb. 21, 1941 no one threatened me or attempted to persuade me to become a member of UMW or to remain a member of PMA.

"In the summer of 1940 a man the name of whom I do not know, informed me that I have to join UMW as the mine was to become a UMW mine. I knew I would have to become a member of UMW in order to work at Mine "B" as I heard many others were joining UMW and I heard violence was being used against PMA members because they did not join UMW. I never saw any violence and never saw any fights. On one occasion I heard a man hollow when UMW members were beating him, but I did not see the fight and could not furnish the names of the persons fighting. In the summer of 1940 I joined the UMW to prevent any violence being used against me by UMW members. I stopped paying dues to PMA when I joined UMW.

"I voted at the election Feb. 21, 1941 for PMA because I was satisfied with PMA before UMW attempted to organize Mine "B". So far as I know the election was fair. I did not see any violence during the election.

"I am unable to say whether the management of Mine "B" favored UMW or PMA.

"Up until the summer of 1941 I had good rooms to work in, but in the Summer of 1941 I got a bad room. I complained to the Board Members of UMW, the name of whom I do not know about the room at which time he told me that I was in sympathy with PMA and he would not help me get a good room.

"In [redacted] I stopped working at Mine "B" as I was tired of working in a coal mine and not because of the bad rooms I was getting.

"This statement was read to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed on August 27, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. He gave information willingly, but because of the limitation of his knowledge, it is not believed he would be a good witness. He stated he has never been arrested.

Following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and work at the Panther Creek Mine #5. I was born at [redacted] I came to the United States and was naturalized in [redacted] in [redacted]

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] in [redacted] I have never held an office in any union. In 1928 or 1929 I began to work in Mine B, and worked there until the strike in 1937. I returned to work in November, 1939, and stayed until [redacted] when I quit.

"I don't remember any trouble at Mine B from the time I began to work there until 1932, and don't know the reason for the trouble in that year. At that time the men started the Progressive Mine Workers union, and as most of the men seemed to want that union, I stuck with the majority. From 1932 until 1937 there was no trouble at Mine B, and I was satisfied with P.M.A.. It made no difference to me which union, P.M.A. or U.M.W., covered the mine because I was satisfied with any union which satisfied the majority of the miners in the mine. All during this time the miners seemed satisfied with P.M.A.

"During the period between 1932 and 1937 I went to some of the P.M.A. meetings, but not very many of them. I did not go to the meeting the night before the strike in May of 1937, and I can't remember now whether I knew whether or not there was to be a meeting. I didn't know anything about any U.M.W. organizers in Mine B, and I don't know the reasons for the strike.

"I did not go to the mine on the morning of the strike because the day before Benny Sontocrossa had told me that the miners were going to strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

He did not say why they were going to strike. Benny is now dead.

"I had to support my family, so instead of going to the mine for the strike, I went out to look for another job.

"I don't remember signing any petition for the P.M.A. and I don't remember signing any petition for U.M.W., although I might have. I just can't remember. As I said before, I was agreeable to what the majority of the miners wanted and did not care if the U.M.W. came back or if the P.M.A. stayed in the mine.

"I don't remember that I received any notice of the opening of the mine either in September or December, 1937. In December, 1937, I voted for the P.M.A. in an election at the State armory because I felt that was the union the majority of the miners wanted.

"In the fall of 1939 I received a letter from the mine operators advising that the mine was going to reopen in November. I went back to work in November, and was at that time a member of the P.M.A. Some time in 1940 or 1941, I think it was August, Joe Albanese and [redacted] came to see me at my home several times. They always came together. They told me that if I were smart and wanted to keep my job I should join the U.M.W. They showed me a long list of names of men who they said had already signed up with U.M.W. I agreed to join the U.M.W., and signed up with them at that time.

"In the election of February, 1941, I voted for the U.M.W. because I had signed up with that union, and because I thought the majority of the miners were in favor of that union. I had no preference for the U.M.W. at this time, but voted for them because I had been told that I would lose my job if I did not vote for U.M.W. I had nothing against the P.M.A. Joe Albanese and Dominic Bartolomeo were the men who told me to vote for U.M.W.

[redacted] when I came back to work at mine B, my face boss, [redacted] gave me a bad room. I examined the room, and when I saw that it was a bad room, I picked up my tools and quit my job. I don't know why I got the bad room because I had never caused any trouble with any of the men in the U.M.W.

[redacted] I began to work in the Panther Creek Mine where P.M.W. has a closed shop agreement, and I joined the P.M.A.

"This statement consisting of this and two other typewritten pages has been read to me by [redacted] and I state that it

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

(continued)

(s) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 27, 1943, by Agents [redacted] and [redacted] gave information willingly, but it is not believed he would be a good witness. He says he has no criminal record. The following signed statement was executed by him.

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"At present I am living at [redacted] Springfield, Ill, where my telephone number is [redacted] I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in Springfield, Ill, in [redacted]

"In [redacted] I joined a local union in Pennsylvania where I was working in a coal mine. I do not remember the name of the union. I came to Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] where I continued to work in the mines around Springfield. I joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] While in any union, I have never held any office. In 1932 I dropped my membership in the U.M.W. and joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. It did not make any difference to me to which union I belonged. I recall that in 1932 when we were allowed to vote as to the union which we preferred, I voted for the P.M.A.

"From 1932 to 1937 there were no strikes or trouble at Mine B to the best of my knowledge. I attended meetings of P.M.A. during this time. I would have been fined if I had not attended the meetings. All during this time I was quite satisfied with P.M.A. as a union, and with the men and officers of P.M.A. While I was a member of P.M.A. I know nothing about any attempts of the U.M.W. to organize the men from P.M.A. to U.M.W. No one ever asked me to join the U.M.W.

"From April 1, 1937, until the first of June, 1937, [redacted] and know nothing of the strike at Mine B until my wife wrote to me about it in a letter. I do not know any reasons for this strike. After the strike, I recall that I signed a U.M.W. paper, but I don't remember what the paper was about. I don't recall signing any paper for P.M.A. At that time it made no difference to me in which union I was a member.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"In the election that was held in December 1937 in the State arsenal, I recall that I voted for the P.M.A. union. Most of the miners were for P.M.A., and it did not make any difference to me which union was at the mine so I voted with the majority of miners. I voted for the Progressive Mine Workers also in 1939 for the same reason.

"In November 1939 I returned to work at Mine B, and at that time was a member of P.M.A. About 10 months later, as I recall, I changed over to the U.M.W. I recall that some of the men, whose names I don't recall, started talking about going back into the U.M.W. It seemed to me that most of the men wanted this union, so I went back to U.M.W. It made no difference to me. I had been satisfied with P.M.A. up to this time.

"This statement has been read to me [redacted] and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted]
Special Agents, FBI.
Springfield, Ill.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed on [redacted] August 28, 1943, at his residence by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He stated he had never been arrested. He gave information freely and voluntarily, said he would be willing to testify and it is believed he would make an excellent witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Illinois
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside on [redacted] Ill., I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in a Federal Court in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted]

"I first joined a mine union in [redacted] when I joined the United Mine workers in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] I was a member of this union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was not working in a mine when I joined the P.M.A. I joined that union because I felt that I wanted to belong to that union in case I started to work in the mines again. I started to work in Mine B, as I recall, in 1935. I was a member of P.M.A. until 1941 when I had to join the U.M.W.

[redacted]

"As far as I know the P.M.A. had no trouble with the management of Mine B from 1932 until 1937. As for myself, I was absolutely satisfied with the P.M.A. I was dissatisfied with the U.M.W. because I felt that John L. Lewis had not played fair with the members of that union. It seemed to me that he took all the money the miners made by means of assessments. Lewis and the U.M.W. said the miners would get back the money they paid in special assessments, but they never did. I believed at that time, and I still do believe, that the P.M.A. is a wonderful union. Whenever, the P.M.A. asked for a special assessment, which was not very often, the officers always explained just why the assessment was being asked. All of the men who were members of P.M.A. were fully satisfied with the union. If a man missed a P.M.A. union he was not fined, but in the U.M.W. union, a member

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

was fined 50¢ for each meeting missed. After the election of 1941 I was forced to join the U.M.W. to keep my job at Mine B. I joined because I had to and not because I wanted to [redacted]

In all the time I was a member of the P.M.A. I attended many meetings and know that the P.M.A. always did everything in their power to help their members.

"From the time I began working at the mine until the strike in 1937, I did not know of any time when the U.M.W. set up a picket line, although I do remember of one or two occasions when a man stood at the highway by the entrance of the mine and passed out handbills, telling the men to join the U.M.W., and that they could join without paying an initiation fee and that they would get a cut on their dues for a certain period of time.

"In June of 1936 an election of officers for P.M.A. was held. Just before this election, 12 men, namely, Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, George and Emory Jacamay, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale, all members of the P.M.A., had begun talking to the men and attempting to cause dissatisfaction with the P.M.A. to try to get the men to join the U.M.W. Approximately a year before the strike, because they were afraid that the above named men might be hurt, the Mine B company gave these men a separate wash room in the office building at Mine B. Some of these 12 men were drivers, some were company men, and some loaded coal. The drivers and the company men could get all over the mine and were in a position to talk to the miners and to agitate them to join the U.M.W.

"These 12 men were pretty thick with the management and were in with the management much of the time. They had the best of everything, and the diggers would get the best rooms. All of these men went around with Falcetti, and I know that they went out together. I heard that Falcetti was along at one time when some of these men tried to get miners to join the U.M.W., but I don't know if this is true or not.

"At the time the contract between the company and P.M.A. ended in 1937, the leaders of P.M.A. told the men that they had no contract, but that the men were working under an extension of the old contract until a new one could be signed. The members of P.M.A. were willing to do whatever the leaders thought was best. At this time there was some trouble about the back pay question, namely, the pay the men were to receive from April 1, 1937, until the new contract was signed at a higher scale. This question was finally settled, the union giving into the management, and agreeing that the wage scale would begin at the time the new contract was signed. The men were satisfied with this arrangement because they did not

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

want to make any trouble with the management and they did not pay any attention to the fact that the men working in U.M.W. mines got their raise in pay sooner, because the men in P.M.A. knew they were going to get a raise anyway. This matter was discussed at a P.M.A. meeting and the men said they were satisfied to let the leaders of P.M.A. work it out with the management. The wage scale and all other matters concerning the contract had been decided between the union and the management, and the men were just waiting for the management to sign the contract with P.M.A.

"On May 11, 1937, a notice was posted by the P.M.A. on the bulletin board at the mine, advising that a special meeting was to be held that night at Progressive Hall, 6th and Washington Streets, Springfield, Ill. This meeting was well attended, all the chairs being taken. Some of the members had to stand. I think there were about 450 men there. Although the notice did not say what the meeting was to be about, I had been told that the meeting was to ascertain what the members of the P.M.A. wanted to do about the 12 named men who were agitating for the U.M.W. Just prior to this time the company had stopped checking off dues for the P.M.A. for 12 men. The activities of the 12 men were well known to the P.M.A., and it was known that these were the 12 men whose dues were not checked off by the company. The meeting was called to draft a petition to the management saying that these 12 men should be forced to rejoin the P.M.A. or else be discharged from Mine B. The referendum vote on the petition resulted in a vote of all the men present for the petition. I believe that seven of the 12 men later agreed to rejoin the P.M.A. and their names were deleted from the petition. None of the 12 men was present at this meeting, although the notice was posted in the usual place and no restrictions were placed on the persons attending the meeting. I don't know how the seven men were advised of the action taken at this meeting.

"The next morning, upon arriving at Mine B, the petition was presented to Falcetti, and he was told that the remaining five men either had to rejoin the P.M.A. or be discharged from Mine B, because the P.M.A. men refused to work with two unions in the mine. Falcetti said that he would not fire the men, and that from that time on no dues for the P.M.A. would be checked off from the salaries of any of the men. When the management refused to fire the 5 men, the P.M.A. members began loading the cars short. This action had been decided upon at the meeting the night before and it was further decided at that meeting that if the loading of the cars short did not influence the management, the men would strike. The strike was called after the management refused to fire these five men.

"As far as I know this was the only reason for the strike. Nothing concerning the wage dispute had been mentioned, and I don't believe it had anything to do with the strike. We began to picket the mine because we did

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

not want the 12 men to go to work until the sheriff came, and after he told us that no one would go to work in the mine until the trouble was settled, we went home.

"I don't remember signing the P.M.A. petition in May 1937, and I don't remember anything about it, although I might have signed it. I don't remember signing any petitions that summer.

"During the summer of 1937 [redacted] (Ph), a U.M.W. agitator brought up from the South, who had been brought up to work in the mines a couple of months before the strike, asked me several times to join the U.M.W. I saw him several times in Springfield, Ill., and he asked me at those times. One day during that summer, [redacted] came to my home in [redacted] and asked me to join the U.M.W. I don't remember anyone else asking me. I was not threatened in any way by these men.

"During the summer of 1937 the P.M.A. paid me my gasoline and meal expenses, and I went around trying to keep the members of P.M.A. together. I talked to them on the streets, and I saw them in their homes, trying to keep them in the P.M.A. We had P.M.A. meetings about once a week, and the officers reported to them what was going on. Most of the men felt that even though they were out of work, the officials of P.M.A. were trying to do the best they could for them, and that they should wait for word from the officials as to what should be done. As time went on however, and men could not get work, some of them began to sign up with the U.M.W. I talked to several of them after they had joined the U.M.W., and they said that they wished that they could still be in P.M.A.

"In September, 1937, I received a notice from Mine B, saying that the mine would reopen. Later I received another letter from Mine B, saying that a closed shop contract had been signed with the U.M.W. We had a special meeting of the P.M.A. at which we decided that if the management gave the contract to P.M.A. we would work the mine, and if they refused, we would picket the mine when it was reopened. The P.M.A. did this because we had a majority at that time. The men wanted to work and were ready to work, but when the management would not give the P.M.A. a contract, picketing began. This had been decided upon by a referendum vote of the P.M.A. members. I was a picket, and all of the pickets were men who had worked at Mine B. The men were all in agreement that they would not work under a U.M.W. contract.

"At the time of the Federal injunction I felt, and I believe that the majority of the men did likewise, that the purpose of it was to keep the men from going to work. I don't remember getting any notices in December 1937, or January 1938.

"In the election of December, 1937, held at the State armory, I voted P.M.A. because I believed then, as I do now, that the P.M.A. is the best

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

union. I went to a window at the State armory, received a ballot, checked the union I preferred, and deposited the ballot in a box. I think the election was on the square because I think most of the men wanted the P.M.A. at that time.

"In November of 1939 I received a notice from P.M.A., or from Mine B, I don't remember which, that the mine was to reopen. I don't remember now that anything was said about the wages we were to receive. Most of the men I talked to were still satisfied with the P.M.A., but were mad at Elshoff because he would not sign a contract with P.M.A.

"When I returned to work in November, 1939, there was some fall in the mine, but I don't think it would have cost the company a lot of money to fix it. I don't remember any large fire or accident occuring since I returned to Mine B in November 1939.

"Between November 1939, and February 1941, when the U.M.W. gained a majority in the election I saw several men receive beatings, or rather the result of the beatings. Some of the men who were beaten were: [redacted] (Ph), and a man known as [redacted] There were several others who were beaten, but I don't remember their names. Each one of the men told me that he was beaten because he did not want to join the U.M.W. Bohannon, [redacted] and Baumgardner, and several others were the men who beat these men. I my self was never threatened, or beaten for failing to join the U.M.W. After the election of February 1941, Bohannon and Falcetti told me that if I did not join the union (U.M.W.), I would not be allowed to go into Mine B that day. During this period I never heard the management of Mine B say or do anything that favored U.M.W., but I do know that U.M.W. men got better rooms, better jobs, and better treatment, than the P.M.A. men.

[redacted] I had several meetings with Elshoff, and although he treated me nicely, he would not cooperate with me or give me anything. Just before the election in February 1941, if I presented a grieveance on the part of a P.M.A. man, Elshoff would not listen to me. I also had several conversations with Falcetti who acted the same as Elshoff. On one occasion when a P.M.A. man had his tools stolen, I went to Falcetti, and asked him to furnish or buy some more tools for this man as his tools had been stolen in the mine. Falcetti refused, and said 'I don't give the Progressives nothing. I'll give you everything if you will join the United Mine Workers. Why don't you join the United Mine Workers?'

"In the election of February 1941, when the mine went U.M.W., I know that the majority of the men who were P.M.A. voted U.M.W. because they

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

were afraid that they would be beaten and harmed if they did not vote for U.M.W. Since that time in talking with the men I have been told by many that they still favor the P.M.A. I favor the P.M.A. because it is a square, union, and the U.M.W. is not.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and 7 other typewritten pages, and state that it __ true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnesses:

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] professed to have a poor memory, and this seemed evident because of the difficulty he had in remembering incidents at Mine B. It is not believed that this man would make a good witness because of his memory and his limited knowledge. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following is the signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 30, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I give this freely, without any force or violence being used, and no promises made.

"I lived at [redacted], Springfield, Ill., and was born in [redacted] I came to this country in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizin at Springfield, Ill., in [redacted]

"I first joined a union in [redacted] the United Mine Workers, when I was working in [redacted] I became employed at Mine B in 1936, and joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America at that time. I joined the P.M.A. because they had a closed shop agreement, and I had to join to go to work.

"I was satisfied generally with the P.M.A., although to me, one union is just like another. I didn't attend very many meetings, because I wasn't especially interested. I don't remember attending a meeting of the P.M.A. the night before the strike in May of 1937. I might have seen the notice of the meeting, but don't remember it.

"I don't know the reason for the strike in May, 1937. I remember that I was told a strike had been called, so I quit with the rest of the men. I heard some talk before the strike, that some men were trying to agitate the men into joining the U.M.W., and I don't know anything more about it, and no one contacted me.

"I don't remember signing any petitions although I will not say I did not, for I might have. Neither do I remember anyone trying to get me to join the U.M.W.

"When the P.M.A. picketed the Mine B in the fall of 1937, I went to the picket line several times. I don't remember if I heard about the picket line at a union meeting or if some of the men told me, but I do

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

know that I was not forced to picket by threats or anything of that nature. I do not remember seeing anyone but U.M.A. men from Mine B on the picket line.

"In the election of December, 1937, at the arsenal, I voted for UMW because most of the men seemed to be in favor of that union at that time. I did not join the U.M.W. until after the election which they won, the one in February of 1941. I voted for U.M.W. because the majority of the men seemed to favor it, and also because the general feeling was that the mine would not stay open unless U.M.W. won the election. I do not know where I heard this, nor who I heard it from, but that was the feeling that the majority of the men had. The management seemed to favor the U.M.W., but I can give no instances of such favoritism.

"I was not forced to join the U.M.W., but knew that if I wanted to keep my job at Mine B I would have to as far as I am concerned, one union is as good as another, and I have no preference. The U.M.W. has more money, and can pay larger benefits, but, generally speaking, I have no preference.

"I remember that, when we returned to work, one man had a job as air checker. I don't remember ever seeing one in the mine before the strike. I don't know if he was agitating the men to join U.M.W. or not.

"I have have read to me the foregoing, consisting of approximately three hand written pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] in the presence of [redacted] is blind, and seems to have lost much of his memory. He was unable to recall many of the events which happened while he was employed at Mine B. Because of his poor memory, and because [redacted] did not take much interest in union activities because of his inability to speak and understand English very well, it is believed that [redacted] would not make a good witness. No attempt was made to have [redacted] sign the statement set out below, which was read by [redacted] who said that it represents the facts as they are today. [redacted] could not concentrate on the reading of the statement to remember it.

The following statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.

"I, [redacted], make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. [redacted] I was born [redacted] I came to the United States prior to [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted] in [redacted]

"I don't recall when I first joined a mine union. It was many years ago. I never held an office in any union.

"I have worked at Mine B on several occasions, and I don't remember the exact dates that I worked there. I don't remember when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I joined this union because it had a closed shop agreement with Mine B. I have gone to very few union meetings.

"I was working at Mine B when the strike started in 1937, but I don't know the reasons for the strike. I don't remember signing any petition in the year 1937. I was not asked to join the U.M.W. that year.

"In the election held in December 1937, I did not vote because I was sick.

"I don't remember when I rejoined the United Mine Workers, but it was after I started back to work at Mine B after the mine was opened in 1939.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I joined the U.M.W. because I thought they would have a closed shop agreement with Mine B. I can't tell which union is better.

"This statement consisting of this and one other page has been read to me by [redacted], and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Witnesses:

[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill.

[redacted] was not asked to sign the above statement because [redacted] who read it and said it was true so far as she knew, said that he would not listen to her read it because he did not understand English very well.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 31, 1943, by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] furnished his information in a cooperative manner. He admitted that he had been put in jail for drunkenness, but claimed to have no other criminal record. This admitted failing on part of [redacted] might injure his credibility as a witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live at [redacted], Springfield, Ill. I was born at [redacted] I am working at Panther Creek Mine #2.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] when I was working in Springfield, Ill. I stayed in this union until 1933 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. As I recall I began to work at Mine B some time in 1933. I quit working there in the first part of [redacted] I have never held any office in any union. I had no part in the formation of P.M.A. I joined the P.M.A. when I started to work at Mine B. That union had a closed shop agreement with the mine company.

"As I recall there was no trouble at the mine between the management and the P.M.A. I liked the P.M.A. union better than the U.M.W. union because the P.M.A. treated me squarely and fairly. I was glad to join the P.M.A. because I did not like the way the U.M.W. had been taking so much of my wages in special assessments. I did not think that this was right.

"Before the strike started in 1937 I recall that there were some men trying to agitate for U.M.W. and to pull members from P.M.A. I remember that Frank Austin talked to me in Mine B. He said he was tired of P.M.A. and suggested that we join the U.M.W. I was not in favor of this and told Austin that I was satisfied with P.M.A. I also remember that Jimmy Hale talked to me in Mine B. He said that the U.M.W. had over 100 members, and that I might as well sign up with U.M.W. No one else ever said anything to me about U.M.W. before the strike in 1937.

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INTERVIEW WITH HENRY [redacted] (continued)

"I did not know much about the controversy over the wage scale. I went about my work, and was confident that the P.M.A. officials would take care of the miners. I knew that we were working under a temporary agreement which had been signed by the mine management with the P.M.A. It was an extension of the old agreement which the P.M.A. had. I understood that the extension was to last until the wage problem was settled.

"I did not go to many union meetings, and I don't remember going to the P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike started in 1937.

"On the day of the strike I worked part of the day in the mine. Then the strike was called. I don't know who called the strike. The reason for the strike was that the P.M.A. men refused to work with the U.M.W. men in the mine. It was satisfactory with me if the leaders of P.M.A. thought it was necessary to call a strike. In that part of the mine where I was working, I don't recall that any of the coal cars were being loaded short. I think that the only reason for the strike was the presence of the U.M.W. men in Mine B, and I think there was no concern over the wage issue.

"I signed the P.M.A. petition in May 1937. I don't remember why the petition was brought around. I also signed a membership card for P.M.A., but no other petitions. I never signed any petitions for U.M.W.

"During the summer of 1937 no U.M.W. man ever contacted me about joining that union.

"In the fall of 1937 I received a notice of the reopening of Mine B, but I did not go out to Mine B because I was working at Panther Creek Mine #2. I went out to Mine B once in a while at night and did a little picketing. I went out to the picket line because I wanted to and not because anybody forced me. I saw only local men in the picket line; no strangers.

"I don't know the attitude of the miners about the Federal injunction in the fall of 1937. I felt that Elshoff got the injunction to keep the men off of his property.

"I did not go out to the mine on any of the attempted reopenings except the one when the mine did open in 1939.

"In the election of December 1937 I voted for P.M.A. because I felt that the P.M.A. had treated me fairly, and I did not want to go back to U.M.W. I think that most of the miners in Mine B felt the same way as I did.

"In 1939 I think I received a notice from the management that the mine would reopen, and advising me as to when I should come back to work. At this time I was still in the P.M.A. union.

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INTERVIEW WITH HENRY [redacted] (continued)

"After the mine reopened I stayed at Mine B only a couple of months. I could not get along with Charles Bohannon. Bohannon and John Sirtout were given fast mules in Mine B, and I was given a slow mule. Because my mule was slow I could not keep up with Bohannon and Sirtout, and because I was slow I always caught "hell" from the boss. Neither Bohannon or Sirtout ever tried to get me to join U.M.W. However, both of them did everything they could to make me look bad in my job, and get me fired. I think that they saw to it that I got the worst mules and the dirtiest jobs, while they obtained the easy jobs for themselves. Bohannon, Sirtout, and Carter would lay off 2,3, or 4 days at a time and nothing would happen to them. One time I laid off one day and Falcetti told me that if that ever happened again I would be fired. After a couple of months I became fed up with Mine B, quit, and went to work at Panther Creek Mine #2 where I am at the present time.

"I never saw any beatings taken by any of the miners, although I did hear that some of the men were beaten after I left.

"Falcetti, Bohannon and the other U.M.W. men were always hanging around together, joking and having a good time. I have seen Falcetti with some of the U.M.W. men in Springfield during the evenings, but I don't know how much they associated socially. I don't remember seeing Falcetti or any of the mine officials talking or associating with any of the P.M.A. men.

"I did not vote in the election of February 1941 because I was no longer employed in Mine B. However, I am still a P.M.A. man and still believe that is the best union.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and three other typewritten pages, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 29, 1943. He was free in giving information, and it is not believed he would be a good witness. He admits no criminal record.

The following signed statement was given by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., where my telephone number is [redacted] I was born on [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. at [redacted] I remained in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I rejoined the U.M.W. some time in 1940. I began to work at Mine B in [redacted] and then after a short absence from Mine B, I again went to work there in 1932. I have never held an office in any union. I did not help to organize P.M.A.

"During the period from 1932 to 1937 there was no trouble at Mine B. So far as I know there was no trouble in the P.M.A. The officers ran the union fairly and squarely. I don't recall any trouble with the men in U.M.W. During this period I don't remember any picketing by the U.M.W., or the distribution of any literature by that union. I don't know of any agitating.

"I have not gone to many union meetings. I have never taken much interest in union activities. I always have been able to get along very well with the men in any union.

"Before the strike started at Mine B in 1937 I heard from some of the men that there was going to be a special meeting of the P.M.A. on the night before the strike. I did not go to this meeting, and I don't know the purpose of the meeting. When I arrived at Mine B the day that the strike started I went to work, and some time later I was told there was a strike. I don't know anything about the causes for this strike.

"After the strike started, I recall that I signed a P.M.A. petition to the effect that the P.M.A. had a majority of the men in the mine and were ready to go back to work. I thought that the petition was being

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN L. LEWIS

PART 4 OF 13

FILE NUMBER: 44-845

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT John L. Lewis

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 4

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

sent around so that the P.M.A. could later present it to the management and show that they had a majority. I don't recall signing any other petitions in this year. No one asked me to join any union in the summer of 1937. At this time I was working in another mine.

"In the election in December 1937 I voted for P.M.A. because I liked that union, and I thought that the majority of the men were in favor of P.M.A.

"About a week after Mine B opened in 1939, when I was working in Panther Creek Mine #2, Mr. Elshoff asked me to come back to work in Mine B. I soon returned to work in Mine B, but did not join the U.M.W. until the [redacted]

"I joined the U.M.W. at this time because I wanted to continue working in Mine B, and I felt that I should join the U.M.W. I can't recall why I felt that I should join the U.M.W., and I can't remember any particular reasons for my joining U.M.W. In the election of February 1941 I voted for U.M.W.

"While I have been working at Mine B, I have never seen any trouble of any kind. I have never seen any violence of any kind.

"I state that I have read this statement consisting of this and one other typewritten page, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

[redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D 96538

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, on [redacted] August 26, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] appeared to be willing to cooperate and after giving the signed statement set forth below, advised that he would be willing to testify to the facts in this statement. It is believed that this person would make a good witness.

The following is the signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 25, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and I was born [redacted] Illinois.

"I joined the United Mine Workers, hereinafter referred to as the UMW, and became a charter member about [redacted], and I remained a member of the UMW until September, 1932. On about September 6, 1932 the UMW, local 2403 transferred to the Progressive Mine Workers, hereinafter referred to as the PMW at which time I was working at mine B near Springfield, Illinois. I also transferred over to the PMW at that time, and I remained a member of PMW and never went back to the UMW. I worked off and on at Mine B for about [redacted]

"While employed under the UMW, I served in that union as a pit committeeman in local 2403 for about [redacted] years. This was about [redacted] years ago. [redacted]

"Prior to September, 1932, it appeared that the UMW and Mr. Elshoff, Operator of Mine B, were getting along well together because they had a working agreement. When the PMW, Local 54 was formed at Mine B on September 6, 1932, I thought the viewpoint held forth by the PMW was correct, and feel that the rest of the miners felt the same at that time. I did not take an active part in the formation of PMW in this or any other mine, but I went along with the group, because I felt that the group was right.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Regarding the relationship between Elshoff and Local 54, PMW between September, 1932 and April, 1937, everything went along alright to start with, but about from 1936 on, Elshoff seemed to favor the UMW and wanted to deal with them and not the PMW. At this time I did not take an active part in union affairs and am unaware of the methods which may have been used by Elshoff to influence the men to join the UMW. I do know that in January, 1940, after the mine had re-opened, on three consecutive days I observed about fourteen miners, whom I knew to be members of the PMW, apply for work in the mine offices, but were refused with the statement that there was no work for them. They were at that time members of Local 77, PMW. I also observed that during the same period, a number of other miners were hired by the mine, all of whom were members of the UMW.

"As to the relations between PMW officials and PMW miners, I feel the members were satisfied and felt the union was being run well. There was no split in the PMW until the UMW and Elshoff attempted to persuade the PMW miners to join the UMW. I say this because several miners, whose names I do not remember, told me that they were approached and threatened if they did not join the UMW. This was accomplished by bringing in men by UMW who pretended to be working, but in reality they spent their time contacting the miners to get then to join the UMW. These men told the miners they had better change their minds and join the UMW. Some of these men had not worked in the mine until the trouble started. Their names are ------- [redacted] ------- [redacted] ------- [redacted], but I cannot recall all of their names. These men, whose last names are listed above worked with the following twelve men who were holding PMW union cards, but who formed a UMW local and tried to connect the miners with the UMW: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale.

"With reference to the relationship between Local 54 and UMW from September 1932 to April, 1937, I do not recall that UMW had a picket line or distributed any literature, but the UMW did have organizers in the Mine B who I mentioned previously in this statement. Those organizers worked harder on the miners who could not speak good English and it has been my understanding that some threats were used and some miners were beaten up as a result of this UMW pressure. I recall that [redacted], who reside of [redacted] and is employed by [redacted] now, as well as [redacted] were among those beaten up by UMW miners because they would not join UMW and leave the PMW. [redacted] resides at [redacted] Springfield Illinois. Two others were also beaten up for the same reason, and they are [redacted] and [redacted] Illinois. [redacted] is now working at the Panther Creek Mine, No. 2, [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I felt that the members of PMW who were defendants in the bombing cases were not responsible for their acts, but I do not know who did the bombing. The miners I spoke with thought these men were framed.

"I was satisfied with the financial administration of the PMW. If there were any special assessments they were voted for by the rank and file.

"I don't recall what the PMW officials said about the temporary agreement with Elshoff in April, 1937, but since the PMW, on a National Scale, was smaller than the UMW, I know that the PMW would go along on about the same basis as UMW, after the UMW made known their contract.

"I did not attend the PMW meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937. I recall that the announcement for the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the mine by the check weighman. I know that the five PMW miners who were expelled from PMW during that meeting were charged with recruiting for the UMW. I suppose the miners who did not attend the meeting were notified of the expulsion of the five miner, by word of mouth.

"I do not know why the coal cars were loaded short after the above five men were thrown out of Local 54, PMW. I signed the PMW petition on May 26, 1937 which was presented to Elshoff showing that the PMW had a majority and should be the sole bargioning agent. There was no compulsion used to enduce members to sign this petition, and the petition was presented to the miners at the mine. I do not recall that UMW issued a petition in the summer of 1937. I was not asked to join UMW local 7469 on July 29, 1937, but a miner named Lee O. Bumgarner who had been a member of the PMW, but who later joined with the twelve men whose names I have set forth in the above statement, including Dominic Pasquale, approached me and said, 'I'd like to see all you old fellows joined up with UMW as I'm afraid you will lose your jobs if you don't.' He did not otherwise threaten me. However, as already mentioned in this statement, other members were threatened and some were beaten.

"With reference to the attempt to open the mine on September 27, 1937, I believe I got notice of the opening by work of mouth. As I recall, prior to this opening, the PMW had a meeting and decided that if the mine opened it would only open as a PMW mine, because the PMW had a contract with the Mine B.

"The PMW did not consider that the Federal Injunction of December 13, 1937 was just, but all the PMW miners complied with it. The operatives attempted to open Mine B on December 13, 1937. I did not got to work on the first day, but went there on December 14, 1937. I heard that twelve men had gone below ground the day before. The PMW started picketing and I helped them picket a couple of days. We did not import men from outside

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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96541

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

the PMW to help in the picketing, although a few of the pickets, all members of PMW, were from other mines near Springfield, Illinois.

"In the National Labor Relations Board election held on December 15, 1937, there was a regular ballot cast. I believe this was taken at the Arsenal Building, in Springfield. To my knowledge, there appeared to be no fraud or strong arm tactics on the part of any member of PMW. After this election, I stayed on WPA as the mine was not open. I don't recall an attempt to re-open Mine B on January 4, 1938.

"At the opening of the mine on November 6, 1939, I understood that the regular wage scale would be paid. Elshoff did not want the PMW men on the mine property. He wanted to contract with the UMW at that time but could not do it because the majority of the miners were with the PMW.

"During the period from November 6, 1939 to February 21, 1941, when the election was held, as I was a regular member of PMW, and a miner, and did not have contact with the Operatives of the mine, I cannot say what evidence there might have been indicating that the Operatives were favoring the UMW. The UMW continued to try to convert PMW miners.

"In 1940 I was a member of the PMW, and so did not sign a union membership car. I remain a member of the PMW. I believe Elshoff favored the UMW.

"I have carefully read and fully understant the three pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed: [redacted] F.B.I. (signed)
[redacted] Spl. Agent, F.B.I." (signed)

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RE:
JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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96542

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on August 27, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] makes a good appearance, is sincere, and would make a presentable witness to the facts within his knowledge. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 27, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers of America who will be referred to hereinafter as UMW about [redacted] in [redacted] when I was about fourteen years old. I worked in the mines in [redacted] and later moved to Springfield, Illinois where I have lived for the last [redacted] years. My present residence is [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and I am employed by [redacted]

"I first started working in Mine "B" near Springfield, Ill. about [redacted] as a member of UMW. I worked in that mine as a member of UMW until September, 1932 until the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed. This last named union will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"On May 12, 1937, the day I recall the miners first struck at Mine "B", I left the mine and never worked there after that date. I never held any office in any union.

"From the time I started working in Mine "B" until September, 1932 relations were generally good between UMW and Carl Elshoff, the mine operator.

"I heard that Elshoff had visited Ray Edmundson's Office in the UMW building in Springfield, Ill, and had been seen a number of times leaving the UMW building. I heard Oscar Falcetti made trips to Auburn, Virden, Dawson, and Springfield, Illinois to try to persuade PMA members to change over to UMW. These trips were made after May, 12, 1937 after Mine "B" had struck. I have no personal information concerning this, but learned it by word of mouth; the origin of which is not known to me.

"During this period I am firmly of the opinion that Elshoff and Falcetti did not want to do business with the officials of the PMA union,

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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96543

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I was satisfied with the leadership of my union, Local 54, PMA at all times. I never knew of a PMA member who wanted to return to UMW while I was employed at Mine "B".

"I attended about one third of the PMA union meetings during the period between September, 1932 and April, 1937, but I was not active in union matters.

"I knew nothing of the activities of the twelve miners who were alledged to be acting as spies while holding Progressive Union cards and employed at Mine "B".

"Relative to the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937 the PMA officials in May, 1937 told the miners that they were supposed to get back pay dating back to April 1, 1937 on a retroactive agreement. This was never paid, and to my knowledge has never been paid to this time.

"To my knowledge, there was never any trouble in April, 1937, because of dissatisfaction over wages. As to the back pay, Elshoff stated he never had a contract to pay the miner retroactive pay and refused to have any more to do with that matter. I understand that there never was a written contract concerning the retroactive pay feature, but that there was an oral agreement on the matter with Elshoff.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937 at which time, I understand evidence was presented against some PMA members who were expelled from PMA. I understood these men held cards with the UMW as well as with the PMA and this was why they were expelled from the PMA. I believe the coal cars were being loaded short because Elshoff would not discharge the miners who had been expelled from the PMA union on the night of May 11, 1937.

There was a lot of talk at this time, that is, at the time the coal cars were being shorted, about the miners who had been ejected from PMA. As far as I know all the miners with whom I talked knew by May 12, 1937 that the miners had been ejected from PMA. As I recall the following men were thrown out of local 54, PMA at the PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937:

JOE ALBANESE	JOHN ADAMS
DOMINIC PASQUALE	JOHN SIRTOUT
PETER CARTER	EMORY JACKSON
FRANK AUSTIN	CHARLES BOHANNON
TONY PLOTCH	JAMES HALE

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"The miners learned of the ejection of the above men from Local 54, by word passed from one miner to another. I did not know of any miners who did not feel that these men should have been thrown out of the union, and they felt that these miners should not continue working at Mine "B". I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937.

"It was my understanding that Elshoff always contended that the UMW had a majority in this mine, and I signed this petition to show I was a progressive member. I signed it voluntarily.

"I remember that later on in 1937 I signed another PMA petition but I don't recall the character of it.

"I was personally approached in the business section of Springfield by Bill Sirtout, a member of UMW and he told me that he could get ten dollars ~~from Ray~~ Edmundson, who was President of UMW anytime he wanted it, because of the work he had done for UMW. This was on New Years Eve, December 31, 1937.

"I recall that Emory Jacaway came to my house two or three days before Mine "B" attempted to re-open in September, 1937. He told me that he wanted me to go back to work when the mine was to re-open and named the date it was to re-open. However, he told me that if I did not change over to UMW there would be no need for me to come to the mine at all.

"I have always been satisfied with the manner in which the PMA local 54 has been managed by its officials and at no time have I been desirous of returning to work under UMW.

"I have read and initialed each page of this statement consisting of two and one half pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witness:

[redacted] Special Agent F. B. I.

[redacted] Special Agent F. B. I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL 67C 67D 96545

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, [redacted] was jointly interviewed at his residence on August 30, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] appeared sincere, cooperative, and advised that he is [redacted] years of age [redacted] He stated he would not care to work under the UMW as he did not trust the present officials of that union.

[redacted] executed the following written statement:

[redacted] Illinois
August 30, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I am [redacted] years old having been born [redacted] Illinois.

[redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers of America at Mine #6, [redacted] This union will be referred to hereinafter as UMW.

"I first worked under the UMW in the State of Illinois in [redacted] To the best of my recollection this mine was operated by the [redacted] Later I worked at [redacted] under the UMW.

"I worked at the C.W.F. coal mine at [redacted] Illinois until [redacted] under the UMW.

"I went to [redacted] Illinois and worked there under the UMW from about [redacted]

"In [redacted] I came to [redacted] Illinois and worked under UMW at the [redacted] Mine.

"About [redacted] I started working under the UMW at Mine "B" near Springfield, Illinois. I last worked at mine "B" on May 12, 1937.

"The only union office I have ever held was on the Pit Committee at a mine at [redacted] Illinois sometime from [redacted]

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I remember that sometime from [redacted] there were four miners who were members of the UMW whose names were [redacted] and [redacted] who were discharged at the insistence of Carl Elshoff. These men were good union members, who had the interest of the miners at heart.

"John H. Walker during that period from 1929 to 1932 was the State President of the UMW. Walker did not seem to fight against the discharge of the UMW members. I think these men might have objected to the way Elshoff acted on the contract had between himself and the UMW at that time. [redacted] and [redacted] were officials of the UMW at this time. I think that Elshoff during this period would have acted beyond the contract in his own interests during this period if he had gotten the chance to do so. It seems to me that John H. Walker might have been afraid of Elshoff for some reason during this period.

"I remember one incident prior to 1932 when Elshoff and Falcetti wanted the men to take a half-hour lunch period instead of 15 minutes which would make the men work until 4:40 PM and not 4:15 PM. Elshoff would have benefited a few minutes on each company man by this arrangement. The company men all belonged to UMW. Elshoff did not get his way and the men did not have to work the extra time.

"In 1932 John H. Walker was strong for a reduction in the wage scale contract with UMW and the operators.

"The State officials of UMW held the first vote on the reduction at every local office. It appeared that the majority voted against it. Then another vote was taken and it went stronger against the reduction than the first vote. John H. Walker knew he could not handle the situation and it must have been important that there should be a reduction in the wage scale for Walker was then backed by John L. Lewis who claimed the second voting ballots were stolen and pushed through the reduction. It looked to me like the ballots were stolen by Lewis's own men.

"When the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed in September, 1932 which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA I went along with the others and joined. I was in favor of the New Progressive movement. I believe that the officials of the UMW might have conferred with the Illinois Coal Operator Assn. on the matter of reduction of the wage scale and that the UMW officials might have been getting financial assistance for putting this lower wage scale into effect. For this reason and the reason that I believed the ballots were stolen by the UMW themselves. I am glad to join the PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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96547

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I got along well with the FMA officials and as far as I know the other FMA members felt the same way. I heard no stories of chisling on the part of FMA officials.

"I attended a few FMA meetings. UMW did not picket the Mine "B" at any time from 1932 to April 1937 to my knowledge, nor was any literature distributed by UMW men.

"On May 11, 1937 there was a Special meeting called by the FMA. I believe I attended this meeting. I do recall the twelve men who held FMA cards, but who agitated for the UMW. I believe the following miners were the five who were thrown out of the FMA at this meeting on May 11, 1943:

JOE ALBANESE	FRANK AUSTIN
DOMONIC PASQUALE	TONY PLOTCH
PETE AUSTIN	

"From my own knowledge, I can not say that any of the twelve miners accused of agitating for UMW actually did do so.

"I heard that UMW money was paid to some of the twelve miners who were alleged to be agitating for the UMW prior to May, 1937.

"I know nothing about the relations between the UMW and the operators prior to 1937.

"I understood from FMA officials that if the contract was signed by Elshoff and FMA officials the miners would get the back pay to April 1, 1937.

"I heard Pete Carter say one morning during this period, in the Spring of 1937, when we were wondering if we were going to get our back pay, that we had no contract with Elshoff and what was the use of working without a contract. He said the miners ought not go down into the min and work because there was no contract.

"I know some of the coal cars were shorted on May 12, 1937, but I don't know why.

"I believe I signed the FMA petition of May 26, 1937. I believe Ray Edmundson claimed the UMW had the majority and FMA wanted to show that Edmundson was wrong. I signed this petition near the picket line at the mine.

"I signed the petition of May 26, 1937 voluntarily. I have

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

never worked since May 12, 1937. My doctor told me not to work in the mines again.

"In some manner I heard that [redacted] a miner at Mine "B" had been beaten up by [redacted] in 1939, after Mine "B" was finally re-opened.

"Under the present set-up I would not want to work under the UMW. I do not trust UMW officials. It is not a democratic organization as long as John L. Lewis or any other man holds such control.

"I have read this statement consisting of three and one half pages and have initialed the pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witness:

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

CQ. CQ

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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96549

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed [redacted] at his home on August 30, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This individual is of [redacted] origin and has been naturalized. He is unable to read the English language and had little understanding concerning the matter under inquiry, but was cooperative. He executed the following written statement which was read to him by [redacted]

[redacted] Illinois
August 30, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside on [redacted] Illinois. I was born on [redacted] I became a Naturalized citizen of the United States in September of [redacted] I arrived in the United States in [redacted]

"The first mining union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, hereinafter referred to as the UMW, at [redacted] Illinois about [redacted] I worked there under the UMW until April, 1932. This was in Peabody Mine #52. I was not working from 1932 to 1935. In April, 1932 this Peabody mine closed due to lack of a contract. Although I was not employed in September, 1932, I joined the Progressive Miners of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, at [redacted] Illinois, and I joined this union voluntarily as the local I had been working under all joined the PMA.

"From April, 1932 until 1935, month not recalled, I was not employed in coal mines. About August 1935 I went to work in Mine B as a member of PMA. I never held any office in either PMA or UMW. I took no active part in the formation of the PMA. I went to very few PMA union meetings as they were held in Springfield and it was not convenient for me to do so. I just went to work and minded my business, and I know nothing about the relations between Elshoff and Local 54 of PMA from August 1935 until May 12, 1937, when the mine closed. I never went back to Mine B after that date.

"I heard that the UMW had organizers in Mine B to get some of the miners to join the UMW, but I do not know who they were and they never contacted me. I heard that some of these men were expelled but I did not go to the meeting and know nothing about it.

"From May, 1937 until October 14, 1939 I was unemployed for WPA, and on October 14, 1939 I got a job at the [redacted] Mine near [redacted] Illinois as a member of the PMA. I have worked there ever since.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I did not picket at Mine B and never went back after May 12, 1937. I remember signing the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show that I was a member of PMA. I am not sure where I was when I signed this petition. I did not get in the union trouble. I liked the UMW but did not like to take the reduction in the wage scale in 1932. I am satisfied with the PMA. I think it is a good union and since I am a member of this union I would not care to change the union at all, or to join any other union.

"This statement consisting of one and one-half pages has been read to me by [redacted] since I do not read much English. I fully understand the contents of this statement, and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed)
[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent FBI
[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his home on August 30, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This individual is of [redacted] origin and has been naturalized. He is unable to read the English language and has little understanding concerning the matter under inquiry, but was cooperative.

He executed the following written statement which was read to him by [redacted]

[redacted] Illinois
August 30, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] and arrived in the United States in [redacted] I was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] I presently live on [redacted] Illinois.

"I first started working in a mine in [redacted] under the United Mine Workers of America, that will be referred to hereinafter as UMW, at the Peabody Mine near Dawson, Illinois. I started working in Mine "B" on [redacted]

"Mine "B" was operating under the PMW and so I joined that union. The full name of this union is Progressive Mine Workers of America, and it will be referred to hereinafter as PMA. I left the Peabody Mine because it closed down in April 1932.

"From 1932 to 1936 I was unemployed. However during two winters between 1932 to 1936 I worked at the Jefferson Mine at Springfield, Illinois.

"I have never held an office in a Mine union. I have never attended any union meetings.

"The last day I ever worked at Mine "B" was on May 12, 1937.

"I started back to work at the Panther Creek mine in October, 1937.

"I was satisfied working under PMA. No one ever told me to stay with the PMA or to join the UMW. I know nothing about the twelve miners who were supposed to be aggitating for UMW. I know nothing about

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

wage scale reduction problems and wanted only to be paid for my work. I saw no trouble of any kind in Mine "B" and paid no attention to troubles between the unions or between the operators and the unions.

"I went out to Mine "B" several times after it had closed with another man who I rode to work with, but the other miners did not go down into the mine, so I didn't.

"I never helped picket at Mine B. I have worked under the UMW and also the PMA. I now work under the PMA. I like the PMA, but I will work under either union. It makes no difference which one.

"I know nothing about unions or how they are run. I only want to work and earn a living.

"This statement consisting of one and ahalf ___ has been read to me by [redacted] and I fully understant it. It is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witness:

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

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b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 31, 1943, at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, where he is employed as a laborer. This individual was cooperative, but he makes a poor appearance, does not appear to be positive of his statements, and gives the impression of having a faulty memory.

Following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted]. I am registered with Selective Service Board No. 2, Springfield, Illinois, and I am presently employed at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, as a laborer which job I have held since [redacted]. I presently reside on [redacted], Illinois.

"The first mining job I ever had was with the [redacted] Coal Company at [redacted] Illinois. I worked there from [redacted] to March, [redacted]

"I began working at Mine "B" near Springfield, Illinois in March [redacted] and worked there until in closed in May, 1937. When the mine reopened in November, 1939 I started working in Mine "B" and continued working there until [redacted]

"At [redacted] Illinois I worked under the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. From March, [redacted] until September, 1932, I worked at Mine "B" under the UMW. I worked under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA from September, 1932, until one or two weeks before the second NLRB election of February 21, 1941, with the execption of the time when the mine was closed down which was May, 1937 to November, 1939. About February, of 1941, I signed a UMW card because I was forced to, and not because I wanted to do so.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"I wanted the PMA to be formed in September, 1932, because the UMW was always taking out too much money from our wages. I felt this was unnecessary and I felt the UMW officials were getting rich on the rank and

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b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] file miner under the UMW.

(continued)

"Before September, 1932, we always seemed to get along well with Elshoff and Falcetti. During this period Mine "B" closed down for about four months due to lack of coal orders.

"I was satisfied with the way the PMA was run, and I think the leaders of the PMA treated the miners fairly. I did not like the special assessment taken from my wages the first year. I worked under the PMA, but the PMA was newly organized and needed the money obtained by the special assessments so it was alright with me. I attended some PMA meetings, but I never had much to say about either union and took no active part in forming union policies.

"There were about twelve men in Mine "B" who worked there from 1932 who were UMW organizers although they held PMA cards. These men were as follows:

JOE ALBANESE	JOHN SIRTOUT
ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS	LEE BULGARNER ("Cudge")
DOMINIC PASQUALE	GEORGE JACAWAY
PETE CARTER	EMORY JACAWAY
FRANK AUSTIN	CHARLES BOHANNON
TONY PLOTCH	JAMES HALE

"A number of times I saw Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and Tony Plotch in Elshoff's office before the men went to work in the morning. These men and the other nine mentioned above all appeared to be very friendly with Elshoff. It looked like these twelve men were much more friendly with Elshoff than the other miners. This was before the mine shut down in 1937 and also after the mine opened in November, 1939.

"I do not remember much about the wage scale trouble, but I remember that after the mine had opened in 1939 that there was a lot of talk in the wash room that the UMW men would get the back pay, but the Progressive members would not.

"I was not at the PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937, but I heard about the meeting. I do not remember much about the results of this meeting, but I heard about the five men who were thrown out of the PMA for being UMW organizers. On the next day the coal cars came up shorted. They were being shorted by PMA. I don't know why they were shorted.

"The strike started because Elshoff would not sign a contract with PMA and because Elshoff wouldn't fire the five men who were thrown out of the PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937, because I wanted to show that I was a PMA member. I signed it near Mine "B" while I was on the PMA picket line.

"On September 27, 1937, when the mine tried to re-open only a few men attempted to go to work. The PMA men did not try to stop these few men from working, but no one else would work. I remember that the men who went to work on this morning were the men whose names I mentioned above in this statement who were UMW organizers, but [redacted] was not there.

"I believe I signed one or two other PMA petitions in 1937, but I don't remember what they were about.

"I can't remember if I went to the mine when it tried to open in December, 1937 and January, 1938.

"I went back to work when the mine re-opened on November 6, 1939. I understood we would get our back wages. When I went back to work in November, 1939, I worked in [redacted] of the mine. It looked like part of the mine had been cleared up a little so the men could work. I think one shift could have cleared it up. The air was bad.

"Before I left the Mine in May, 1937, I worked in [redacted] When I went back to work in November, 1939, I could not get in the [redacted] because there was a cave in there. All my tools were buried.

"It looked like Elshoff never tried to fix the cave-in on the [redacted] because the day I went back to work they were pulling the track out of the [redacted] and they would not have done this if they had intended to fix the cave-in and clear the [redacted] It didn't look like much work had been done to put the mine in working condition at the time I went back to work.

"When I returned to work in November, 1939, I worked as a member of the PMA union.

"One or two weeks before the second N.L.R.B. election held in February, 1941 I changed over to United Mine Workers union. Charles Bohannon and [redacted] or [redacted] came to my house tweice just before the second N.L.R.B. election and asked me to sign up with UMW. The first time I didn't sign. The second time they told me I was one of the last to sign with UMW and I signed. They did not threaten me or give me money, but I had seen Bohannon and Sirtout beat up a PMA miner just outside the wash house at the mine about a week before because he would not sign with UMW. // violence

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I know this other miner did not want to sign, but I didn't hear any conversation between him and Bohannon and Sirtout before he was beaten.

"I did not want this to happen to me, so I signed up with UMW.

"I have carefully read this statement consisting of three and one-half pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
Special Agent, FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on September 1, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was cooperative, had a fair understanding of the union difficulties at Mine "B" and he executed the following written statement, which he signed:

"Springfield, Illinois.
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted], and reside part of the time at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed in [redacted], at Springfield. I was born on [redacted] I arrived in the United States in [redacted] I derived citizenship in the U. S. through my father, [redacted] who was naturalized at Springfield Illinois in [redacted]

"I started working in Mine B near Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] and worked there until about [redacted] and then left that Mine for about a year. I returned to work in mine B sometime in [redacted] From that time I worked at Mine B continuously until May 12, 1937 when it shut down. I did not go out there again to try to go to work until after it re-opened in November, 1939. From November, 1939 I worked there continuously until [redacted]

"I first joined a mine union at Mine B in [redacted] This was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as UMW. I remained a member of the UMW until September, 1932 at which time Mine B signed a contract with the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I remained a member of the PMA until after the second NLRB election in February, 1941 at which time the UMW won the right to be the sole bargaining agent at Mine B. I joined the UMW and remained a member until [redacted] At the present time I am not a member of any mining union.

"I never held an office in any mine union. Prior to 1932 Elshoff got along alright with the UMW at mine B. The miners did not like it when it was reported that the ballot boxes had been stolen in the UMW vote taken in 1932, and it was believed that the miners had voted against the reduction in wages, and for that reason, the ballot box was probably taken by a member of UMW. The miners then started organizing the PMA. I voluntarily joined the PMA in September 1932, and felt that it was well operated. I did not have any fault to find with the way PMA was run.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"From September, 1932 until about three months before the mine closed on May 12, 1937, Elshoff seemed to get along alright with the PMA. I never heard Elshoff or Falcetti make any statement as to which union they preferred. However, about three months before the mine closed in 1937 there were about twelve men in the mine aggitating for UMW. These men were the following: John Ananias, James Hale, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Frank Austin, Charles Bohannon, Dominic Pasquale, Peter Carter, Tony Plotch and Andrew Schrelevious.

"These above mentioned men were members of PMA, but aggitating to get the men to join UMW. I heard Elshoff did not favor PMA as that union enforced the regulations stricter than the UMW. It seems the PMA had more committee meetings with Elshoff than the UMW had and Elshoff became dissatisfied with PMA. These UMW organizers talked to the men in the mine prior to May, 1937 to get them to join UMW. Charles Bohannon and [redacted] talked to me in the mine about signing up with the UMW. Bohannon said in a friendly way, 'you better sign up before it's too late'. I never thought this was a threat. I heard the men, whose names are given above as being former UMW organizers, had talked other miners about changing from PMA to UMW, but I never overheard any of these conversations.

"I only attended about ½ of the PMA union meetings. I attended the special PMA meeting at the PMA hall on 6th St., Springfield. I learned of the meeting from a notice at the mine. At this meeting, about five of the aggitators were accused of organizing for UMW, but I don't recall if they were discharged. There were about 125 men at this meeting. I believe the other miners heard about it the next day. On May, 12, 1937 one of the PMA Pit Committee men told me to make my coal cars short, and I loaded mine a little under average. I don't know why the PMA wanted them loaded short. I helped PMA picket for about three weeks in the fall of 1937. After that, I never did go back until it re-opened in November, 1939.

"I do not remember signing any kind of a petition for either union in 1937. When the mine re-opened on an open shop basis relations at the mine were rather quiet. Later, the men would be contacted personally by UMW members and I would hear that a miner had signed up with UMW. In the latter part of 1940 and early part of 1941, the UMW organizers worked hard organizing and set a dead line of January 16, 1941 to sign up by then or you would not get to work unless the miner paid a fee to join again.

"In January, 1941, the 'Face Boss' at Mine B named [redacted] (phonetic from [redacted] Illinois, who was a UMW member, told me in the mine it would be better to sign up with UMW as it would be a lot of trouble later and maybe I couldn't join up later. A few days before, a big organizer of UMW who came in from southern Illinois said it would be best to sign up as

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

most of the men were doing that. He did not threaten me. I signed up because I was afraid I might not have a job or have to pay $10.00 to join the UMW later if they would take me. I felt Elshoff and Falcetti favored the UMW, but I did not hear or learn indirectly why they favored UMW. The NLRB election in February, in 1941 was fair, because the UMW had already signed the miners with the UMW and they knew by then that they held a majority. The PMA did not try to influence the miners at this election.

"Just before January 16, 1941 a number of men were beaten up at the mine. All these men that were beaten up were PMA members. I did not see these beatings, but I saw a man named [redacted] who had just been beaten in the Wash House. I saw him bleeding about the head. He left Mine B and never came back. I heard that four men were beaten that morning. [redacted] and [redacted] of the UMW did most of this beating. I did not see it, but I heard it from the other men.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the two and a half pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] From his appearance and alertness he would make a presentable witness and he appeared cooperative, however his knowledge concerning the case was limited. He executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and I am presently employed by [redacted] Illinois. I was born [redacted] Illinois, on [redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers of America, hereinafter referred to as UMW, about [redacted] at Pleasant Plain, Illinois. I worked in mines near this place. I have never held an office in the UMW. I moved to Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] and have lived in Springfield ever since. I remained a member of UMW until September, 1932. At this time I was working at Mine B. I started working at Mine B about [redacted] and worked until May, 1937 when it was shut down because of the strike which started on May 12, 1937. [redacted]

"When Elshoff first came to the mine I thought he was a fine man, but later on, prior to 1932, he seemed to change. He was not as friendly as he had been and did not seem to get along with the men. The men were dissatisfied. The exact reason for this dissatisfaction was not known to me. [redacted]

"On September 6, 1932 I joined the Progressive Miners of America, hereinafter referred to as PMA. The men in Mine B wanted the new union. It made no difference to me which union I worked for. The men seemed to be disgusted with John L. Lewis.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

I attended very few of the union meetings [redacted]

"From May, 1937 until September 27, 1937 I [redacted] did not follow the difficulties at the mine as I was fed up with the mining situation.

"On September 27, 1937 I heard that Mine B. was going to re-open. I do not recall who told me this. I went out to the mine about 6:00 AM on this date. I wanted to start to work. There were some 15 to 20 men around the mine property. I talked to a miner whose surname was [redacted], who I later heard is an organizer for UMW. He said the mine was not going to re-open. I said 'I'm quitting for good'. I left the mine and never went back to work there [redacted] never did solicit me to join UMW and at that time I did not know he was in favor of UMW, as he was working on a PMA card.

"I did not follow the mine trouble as I never intended to go back to the mine. It appeared the Elshoff was not in favor of the PMA. The reason for this is not known to me.

"I was always satisfied with the management of PMA and I feel the majority of the men were satisfied. [redacted] Falcetti came up to me and said the mine was shutting down [redacted]. Falcetti, Elshoff or none of the management ever talked to me about union troubles as they knew I did not take sides in the union matters.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the one and one-half pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I."

R: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he executed a signed statement: [redacted] was born in [redacted] and is a naturalized United States citizen, but has difficulty in speaking English. He is working at Mine "B" [redacted] It is not believed he will make a good witness. He was cooperative during the interview but professed complete ignorance on many questions. He has no known criminal record. The following is the signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who I know are Special Agents of Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing it can be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted] I came to U. S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen in [redacted]

"I joined UMW in [redacted] when I went to work at Peabody #6 mine. I have not held any office in any union.

"I was working at Peabody when it closed in 1932 and in the fall of 1932 I began working at Mine "B" at which time I joined PMA because Mine "B" was running under PMA and I wanted to work.

"I had no difficulty with PMA and I did not see or know of any attempts by UMW to convert PMA members to UMW prior to the strike in 1937. [redacted] and did not see or know any 'spies' were working at Mine "B" although I heard from some of the other top men that there were some around but I did not see them nor did they approach me in any manner.

"On May 12, 1937 I saw some cars coming out of the mine with only a few hundred pounds in them and that afternoon the men all came out on strike. This was the first I had known of a strike. I did not attend any meeting the night before the strike.

"I don't recall signing any petitions in the summer of 1937. I saw in the paper in August 1937 that Elshoff had signed a contract with UMW and so when it was announced that the Mine "B" would open in Sept. 1937, I went out to work but instead we began picketing. I picketed at mine "B" off and on for a month or so. I was not present when the injunction was served on the pickets.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

All during the picketing no one was brought in to picket and all were Mine "B" workers. Sometime in the early part of December 1937 I went to work at Panther Creek Old West Mine and stayed there until Mine "B" opened up again in 1939 except that I was transferred to New North Mine.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in 1937 while I was employed at Old West Mine and I think it was a fair election.

"In Nov. 1939, I received a letter stating Mine "B" would reopen and due to a court ruling members of each union (PMA & UMW) began working at Mine "B". I was working at New North Mine at this time and because I liked the men on top at Mine "B" better than New North, I went back to Mine "B".

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941. It was a fair election as far as I know. At this time I was not a member of any union as I had quit paying dues to PMA 5 or 6 months before. As soon as the election returns showed UMW had won I joined UMW to hold my job.

"I am now working at Mine "B" and am a member of U.M.W. I think there is very little difference in PMA or UMW and would join either depending on which one had bargaining rights & contract with the coal company.

"I have had this three page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted] Sp. Agt. FBI."

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] has a difficult time understanding and speaking English and would make a very unsatisfactory witness. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record.

P.C. B
Now at

The following is a signed statement executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted] emmigrated to the U.S. from [redacted] I am a citizen of the U.S. I was naturalized in [redacted] I am at the present employed at Mine "B", Springfield, Ill. as a miner.

"I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] when I first began coal mining in Ill.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"I am unable to make a statement as to the relations between U.M.W. and Elshoff at Mine B prior to Sept. 1932.

"In 1932 I was employed at Panther Creek Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill.. In Sept. 1932 I joined PMA because most of the miners wanted to change from U.M.W to PMA. I do not know the reason for the change from U.M.W to PMA. I took no active part in the promotion of PMA.

"I was employed at Mine "B" as a miner in the middle part of 1935. Between 1935 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes or closedowns at Mine "B". The management of mine be seemed to be in favor of PMA between 1935 and May 12, 1937 and did not have a hostile attitude in settling grievances.

"I was in favor of PMA and thought it was a good union. So far as I know PMA was not operated as a racket. PMA did not make any unusual special assessments. I took no interest in union affairs. I took no interest in the bombing cases and I am unable to make a statement as to the attitude of PMA members toward the conviction of PMA members in the cases.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"Between 1935 and May 12, 1937, UMW did not set up a picket line and UMW did not distribute any literature at Mine "B".

"I know nothing about any alleged UMW spies at Mine B.

"I do not know if there was any relationship between UMW officials and the management of Mine "B" between 1935 and May 12, 1937.

"I do not know if there was a wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I do not know if there was a PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937. I cannot remember if I received a notice of a meeting on that night or not.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I was told by a member of the PMA pit committee to load the coal cars short. I do not know why. Later that day I was told by someone the Mine "B" was closed. I do not know why the mine closed and I did not ask any questions. Coal cars were loaded short on the morning of May 12, 1937 and I loaded coal cars short that day, but I do not know why and I do not know if there was a growing sentiment to strike that day.

"I signed a PMA petition of May 26, 1937. This petition was brought to my home for my signature by a representative of PMA. I think the petition was to show that I was for PMA, but I do not rember any details. The representative of PMA did not threaten me if I did not sign the petition.

"I did not sign any other petition in the Summer of 1937.

"I did not know of the formation of new UMW local 7469 July 29, 1937.

"I think I attended some PMA meetings in the Summer of 1937, but I do not know of any violence or statements by the management of Mine "B" during that period of time.

"I saw in the newspaper in Sept. 1937 that Mine "B" was to have opened. I went to Mine "B" to work, but no one went into the mine, I do not know why they did not go to work. I acted as a picket from time to time for about two months subsequent to Sept. 1937. No one threatened me if I did not act as a picket. So far as I know only miners at Mine "B" acted as pickets and no outsiders were brought in as pickets.

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b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Sometime in November 1937 someone informed the pickets that they could no longer picket Mine "B". I do not know why the miners could not picket any longer or the attitude of other miners concerning the fact that they could not picket.

"I had no notice to return to work at Mine "B" Dec. 13, 1937 and Jan. 4, 1938.

"I voted at the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. No one threatened me if I did not vote PMA and I went to vote voluntarily.

"In about November, 1939 I received notice , in an unknown manner, that Mine "B" was to open. I returned to Mine "B" as a member of PMA.

"A few years after I returned to Mine "B" to work an election was held and UMW won the election making Mine "B" a UMW mine. A short time after the election I joined U.M.W. as majority voted for U.M.W. I did not care whether I was a member of U.M.W. or PMA.

"No one threatened me after my return to work Nov. 1939 at Mine "B", and I did not see anyone being threatened or any fights.

"I voted in the election to determine if Mine "B" should have been a U.M.W. mine or a P.M.A. mine. No one threatened me during the election.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnessed:-
[redacted], Special Agent F.B.I.
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on August 27, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is an alien [redacted] he speaks English with a strong [redacted] accent, did not work at Mine "B" after May, 1937 and had little information concerning this inquiry. He submitted the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 27, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and I am presently employed [redacted] I was born on [redacted] I am not a citizen of the United States. I filed a Declaration of Intention at Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] I have not received my second papers. I arrived in the United States in [redacted] and came directly to Springfield, Illinois.

"I joined the United Mine Workers, hereinafter referred to as the UMW, in [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois. My first job as a miner was at the Peabody Mine #6, near Springfield.

"When I worked under the Progressive Miners of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, I was well satisfied. I voluntarily signed the PMA petition on May 12, 1937. During this period, including May 12, 1937, twelve men were working in Mine B, where I then worked, as members of the PMA, but I believe they secretly were members of the UMW and that they were trying to get members of the PMA to join up with the UMW.

"One of these twelve men, one Pete Carter, whom I knew personally, talked to me in Springfield in June or July, 1937, in the business section of Springfield, at which time Carter told me that if I wanted to work in Mine B, I would have to join the UMW. No other threats were made to me. I understand that the other eleven of these men were contacting members of the PMA in an effort to get them to change over to the UMW. I learned of this by word of mouth. I felt that these twelve men were being paid by the UMW for this specific job, that is, getting the men to join UMW.

"About May, 1937, James Hale, one of these men, started driving a new automobile and the miners said he got it from UMW, for the work he did for that union.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"It was the general opinion of the miners that Elshoff was paid by the UMW to keep the mine closed in order to break local 54 of the PMA. I do not have any facts to prove that but he wouldn't sign a contract with PMA and the PMA miners felt that Elshoff favored the UMW.

"I worked at Mine B from [redacted] to May 1937. About this time the trouble started and I left the Mine and later got a jo[redacted] and in December 1937 got a job with the Panther Creek Mine #5. This was the PMA operated mine and I worked there continuously until [redacted] and never did go back to Mine B, and therefore do not have any first hand knowledge concerning the conditions after I left Mine B, in May, 1937.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the one and one-quarter pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge and recollection. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to give the above statement."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agent, F. B. I.

[redacted]
Special Agent, F. B. I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] is [redacted] years of age, can scarcely speak or understand English, and is unable to remember anything. He was interviewed on August 26, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., on August 26, 1943, was contacted by [redacted] who identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They asked me questions about my work in Mine "B" during the last seven or eight years and to my knowledge of work in the mine back in the early 1930s, but I was unable to answer their questions because I cannot speak or understand English very well and because of my age I am unable to remember things that happened.

[redacted] (signed)

"WITNESSES

[redacted] (signed) Special Agent
FBI
[redacted] (signed), Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] came to the United States in [redacted] becoming a citizen in [redacted] in Springfield, Illinois. He says he has no criminal record. [redacted] is presently employed at Mine 'B'. He understands English fairly well, speaks English brokenly, but appears to have a good memory and thinks coherently. It is felt he would make a fair witness. The following signed statement was obtained from GANCI.

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Fed'l Bureau of Investigation & make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U.S. [redacted]. I started working in coal mines in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted] and I joined the United Mine Workers of America union in [redacted] I stayed a UMW until 1932 when the UMW went Progressive, that is joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America and I became PMA in 1932.

"In [redacted] I started working for Mine 'B'. When the PMA was organized in 1932 I joined it because the majority of our local wanted to and it didn't make any difference whether I was UMW or PMA. I took no active part in the organizing of PMA.

"During the time between 1932 to 1937 I did not notice that the company, Elshoff, or Oscar Falcetti favored either PMA or UMW. During this time I noticed no attempts of UMW to organize in Mine 'B' and no one ever tried to get me to join UMW during this time. I thought PMA was a good union and I did not think any one in PMA was crooked. I thought PMA was an honest union. [redacted]

"Between 1932 and 1937 I never saw any effort by UMW to picket, organize or distribute literature at Mine 'B'.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

about two or three weeks before May 12, 1937 two members of PMA were expelled from PMA. One was Joe Albanese but I can't remember the other man's name. At the next meeting of PMA some more members were kicked out. John Ananias, Charlie Bohanon, Tony Slotch, Frank Austin, Dominic Pasquale, Andy Schelevious, and a man named Jacaway were all kicked out. But I do not know why these men were kicked out. I never heard of any of these men being spies for UMW-

"I do not remember going to a PMA meeting May 11, 1937. About this time I knew we were having a little trouble with the company on our wage scale, and the PMA officials told us they were trying to sign a contract with the company and try to get a wage increase. I thought the PMA could get us just as much as the UMW and it didn't make any difference to me whether UMW or PMA would try. No one from the company ever talked to us about the wage trouble that I know about.

"On May 12, 1937, I went to work as a digger just as usual. I was dressed but did not go down into the mines. The Pit Committee of PMA was in talking with the company and they came out and told us that there would be no work because the company would not sign the contract. It was our PMA leaders who told us this. On May 11, 1937 we had gone down into the mines, and I had loaded two half cars of coal. The reason I only loaded half cars was that the driver would pull the cars before I could load them. I was called out at 2^00 PM the afternoon of May 11, 1937, but I do not know why or who told us to go home. It was that the drivers told us that was all, and we should go home.

"Some time after we went out on strike, I signed a PMA petition and I think it was about a month after the strike. I signed the petition at PMA headquarters. That was the only petition I signed and I never signed a UMW petition.

"I heard a UMW local was formed in the summer of 1937, but I do not know anything more about that. Those same fellows who were expelled from PMA were the ones I heard organized the UMW. No one ever asked me to join this UMW.

"During the summer of 1937 the PMA just had its regular meetings. I heard of no wildcat meetings going on.

"In the fall of 1937 I read several times in the newspaper that Mine 'B' was going to re-open, but I was never notified to come back to work at Mine 'B' in the fall of 1937. I never reported for work until about

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Sept. 26, 1937 I read in the paper that
(Continued) 'B' was going to open the next day so on

the 27th I reported for work. I waited on top with the rest of the men and the PMA officials had a meeting with the company officials. Our leaders came out and told us we were going to stay on the Mine 'B' Property until the company recognized the PMA. We had our picket line, or sit-down for about 56 days and the day or so before Thanksgiving, the U. S. Gov't came out and told us to leave. I was in the picket line all of the time. The PMA did not have any outsiders come in and picket with us. - The PMA leaders never used any force or threats to keep us in the picket line.

"I do not remember an attempt to have the mines re-opened in Dec. of 1937, but I remember reading in the paper that the mines would re-open in January 1938. I went down to PMA headquarters and they told me they had heard the mine was going to open and if I wanted to report I could. [redacted] and I decided to wait a day to see how many men would report to work the first day. The second day I heard only five or six had reported for work so I did not bother to _ up to Mine 'B'.

"I remember in December of 1937 the National Labor Relations Board held an election which the PMA won. I voted and no one forced or threatened me in any way.

"In November of 1939, I got a letter from the company telling me to come back to work. About the next day the PMA had a meeting at which we decided to go back to work. This was decided by a motion. We went back as PMA but without a contract but we were told a contract would be signed in thirty days. I thought the PMA could get us a good contract, but after thirty and sixty days when we didn't get a contract, I began to lose faith in the PMA lawyer. I never thought about whether the UMW could get us a contract until the next summer.

"From the time we went back to work in Nov. of 1939 until 1941 no one ever tried to influence me in any way to join the UMW. No one ever threatened me or beat me or gave me any UMW literature. I heard some of the fellows were beat up and hurt by UMW men but I never saw anything like that. During this time I never noticed anyone from the company try to influence me. I got my same room back and no one bothered me.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"After we went back to work in Nov. of 1939, I noticed no unusual cave-ins or fires and did not notice there had been any. Everything looked all right to me, and I went right to work.

"In July of 1940 I saw that the PMA would not be able to get a contract with the company so I voluntarily joined the UMW by getting a card from the UMW committee. I never had any trouble with the PMA after this and I am certain no one forced me to join UMW. I joined UMW because I wanted to keep my job and not lose my home and I could see the majority of men in July of 1940 were ready to join UMW and I wanted to be with the majority.

"I voted in the NLRB election in Feb., 1941, and no one forced, threatened or promised me in any way in this election. I went to vote by myself and was not afraid.

"I am still working in Mine "B" and have been since Nov. of 1939. I am satisfied with everything.

"This statement of seven pages has been read to me by Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge_

/S/[redacted]

"Witness.

/S/[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.

/S/[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was jointly [redacted] interviewed at his residence on August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This individual worked at the Mine "B" on May 12, 1937 when it closed and the first day in November, 1939, when it opened. He was cooperative, appeared sincere, and is presently employed at Mine "B". He executed the following statement:

[redacted] Illinois
August 30, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] Illinois. I presently reside at [redacted] Illinois. I joined the United Mine Workers of America, hereinafter referred to as the UMW, in [redacted] and started working in the Peabody mine #52 at Riverton, Illinois, when I was [redacted] years old. I worked at the Peabody mine for [redacted] and then started working at Mine B, near Springfield, Illinois about [redacted] which was under contract with UMW. I continued working at this mine under the UMW until 1932. At this time I was not in favor of the wage scale reduction which the officers of UMW wanted to sign us under and later the ballots were stolen. Therefore, I was dissatisfied with UMW management and I voluntarily joined the Progressive Miners of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I have never held an office in any mine union.

"As far as I knew, Elshoff was on good terms with UMW at Mine B. prior to 1932. I willingly joined PMA when Mine B went Progressive in 1932 and I was well satisfied with the management of the union. Elshoff seemed to get along with PMA local 54 from September, 1932 to April, 1937. I worked [redacted] in the mine from [redacted] to May, 1937. I went to few union meetings either UMW or PMA as I lived too far away to attend. I was not familiar with what was going on except talk I heard at the mine. I still work at Mine B, and now under UMW.

"I never heard Elshoff or Falcetti say they favored UMW but I felt they wanted to sign a contract with UMW because they let a group of men organize in the mine. I noticed this aggitation and organizing for UMW start about April, 1937 and continued until the mine closed on May 12, 1937. The group of men I recalled that did this organizing were as follows: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrolovious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Cotton, who was also called John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, who was also known as Charles Bowlingreen, and James Hale. At this time these men were members of PMA but were organizing for UMW. After the mine closed in May,

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

1937, James Hale, Charles Bohannon and Cudge Bumgarner, whose true name is Lee Bumgarner all got new cars. I heard they were paid for organizing for UMW, but I do not know how much they were paid or who paid them. These men, who were UMW spies never contacted me to get me to join the UMW, but they did contact other miners. I heard such remarks being made by some of these twelve men to Progressive miners after the mine opened under open contract after November, 1939, and before the UMW won the NLRB election sometime later as follows: "Why don't you join the UMW. The PMA is no good for you. You won't be able to work much longer if you stay with the PMA".

"I did not attend the meeting of PMA on May 11, 1937 when the five men who were UMW organizers were thrown out of the PMA. However, the next day when Elshoff would not discharge these five men, the miners were dissatisfied and the cars were loaded short. I think the cars were loaded short because Elshoff would not discharge these men, and not because there was any trouble over the wage scale controversy.

"I signed the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member and to show the PMA had the majority of the miners working at that time. I signed this petition voluntarily at the mine.

"In May, 1937, I helped in the PMA picket line for about a week. I was at the mine every time it attempted to open from September, 27, 1937 until it did open in November, 1939. When I went back to work in Mine B in November, 1939, I went in as a member of PMA. I am still working at Mine B, but now under the UMW. I saw notices in the newspapers and heard from the miners about the attempt to open the mine, but I don't remember just what the dates were.

"I remained a member of PMA until after the NLRB election in 1941 when the UMW got the bargaining rights and then joined UMW merely because I wanted a job. I have no fault to find with the PMA. They treated me fine and that union was well managed as far as I know.

"In November 1939 when Mine B opened as an open shop Charles Bohannon and the other eleven men I mentioned in this statement as well as [redacted] or [redacted] and Cudge Bumgarner and others were still organizing for UMW, but they did not try to convert me. The PMA did nothing about this organizing, except expelling the five men from the union. The PMA did nothing about this after the mine opened in November, 1939, but just waited for the law to take care of it, but the law was too late.

"In the NLRB election on December 15, 1937, I think the election was run fairly and I never heard from anyone that there was any fraud. The

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

PMA won the election, but Elshoff would not sign a contract. In the next NLRB election in February, 1941 the UMW won and Elshoff signed a contract right away with the UMW. I felt that Elshoff got paid off for keeping the mine closed. The PMA had the bargaining rights in May, 1937 and still had the bargaining rights after the first NLRB election, and the men always wanted to work, but Elshoff would not sign a contract but instead let the mine stay idle.

"I worked at Mine B on May 11, 1937 when it shut down and I went back in November, 1939, and worked the first day the mine was open. The mine was in bad shape with cave-ins and bad air. When I went back to Mine B in November, 1939, I saw nothing that looked like there had been a fire or a big flood in the mine. I went back to work in the West section of Mine B.

"In my opinion, there was no maintainance work done in the mine during the time it was shut down except pumping done by [redacted] from the top of the mine. Some company men worked in the mine to get it in better shape about two days before it re-opened.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the two and a half pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

[redacted], Special Agent, FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was [redacted] jointly interviewed at his residence on August 29, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is a man [redacted] years of age [redacted] who resented the tactics used by the UMW. Most of the information he furnished was hearsay. He executed the following written statement:

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside on [redacted] Illinois. I was born in [redacted] Illinois on [redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at [redacted] and never held any office in the union but have been a member of the pit committee, UMW while I worked at [redacted]

"From [redacted] I worked in the mines near [redacted] Illinois as a member of the UMW. About [redacted] I went to work in Mine B and continued to work there until the strike closed the mine in May, 1937. From May, 1937 to November, 1937 I was unemployed, and in the latter part of 1939, I believe in November, I started back to work in Mine B, and continued to work there until [redacted] I quit mining at that time [redacted]

"From 1927 to 1932 the UMW and Elshoff got along fine, but when John L. Lewis favored a reduction in the wage scale and a vote was taken and some of the thugs working for him made off with the ballot box and Lewis signed up with the operators on an emergency contract. I was glad to get out of the UMW and join the Progressive Miners of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. The rest of the miners felt the same was and the PMA was formed.

"From 1932 to about January 1937 Elshoff got along alright with the PMA. About 1937, in January, a number of men holding PMA cards, but who were organizing for the UMW went through Mine B trying to convert the men to UMW. The men they were trying to convert were members of the PMA. Some of these

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

PMA they tried to convert to the UMW were beaten up, and 'Cudge' Bumgarner, who lives at [redacted] Illinois, and whose true name is Lee Bumgarner beat up a young Italian miner with a pick handle while he was in the mine so bad that he was in the hospital for months. Before this Italian miner was beat up he told me that Charles Bohannon and 'Cudge' Bumgarner had told him that he had better sign up with the UMW.

"Carl Elshoff and Oscar Falcetti wanted to sign up with the UMW and they got a bunch of thugs in the mine to swing the men over to the UMW membership. As best as I can recall, this happened about three months before the strike in May, 1937. These men were members of the PMA but also working for the UMW. Some of these men were 'Cudge' Bumgarner, Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Cotton, whom I also knew as John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale.

"Falcetti and Elshoff were very friendly with the above mentioned thirteen men and the others who helped them. Falcetti and Elshoff had these men at the Mine B. company office where they had drinking parties at night. I did not personally see this, but Bill Compton, President of PMA and John Schneider who also holds an office in the PMA, saw this association.

"I never heard Falcetti or Elshoff say they wanted to sign up with UMW, but Charles Bohannon, who Elshoff and Falcetti were friendly with, told me I had to sign up with the UMW or else I could not work, as the miners were going over to UMW.

"I thought PMA was a fine union, and that it was well run. I recall that the officials of PMA got along well with the members of that union, at mine B.

"In the spring of 1937 when there was a wage scale controversy, I don't recall what the PMA officials said what the contract with the operators consisted of and there was a slowdown. I believe the slowdown was due to Elshoff's thugs who by their trying to organize caused hard feelings, and I do not believe the slowdown was due to any wage scale trouble. These thugs I mentioned before in this statement were big men, and pretended to be air testers but they walked all over the mine organizing for UMW and trying to sign up the miners with UMW. One of these so-called air testers was named [redacted], or a name that sounds like that. I know him when I see him.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

"I attended the meeting of the PMA on the night of May 11, 1937. This was held at the PMA hall on North 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois, and I learned of this special meeting because I saw it posted on a bulletin board at the mine. I voted to expell the five men who were expelled from the PMA, because it was shown that they were UMW spies and disloyal to the PMA. I believe I remember that one of the five even voted to have himself expelled from PMA. PMA had a closed shop agreement with Elshoff at this time, and Elshoff should have discharged these men after they were expelled from the union. As a matter of fact, I think he should have fired them before that for their activities in the mine. Four of the men who were expelled did not attend this meeting, as near as I can recall, and did not say anything in their own defense.

"The rank and file were advised of the expulsion of the five men the day after it happened, by word of mouth. The rank and file thought these men should have been expelled. Later, when Elshoff would not fire these men the miners were mad and loaded the coal cars short and later in the day, May 12, 1943, very little coal was coming up from the mine, and the mine went on strike. This was not due to wages. It was because Elshoff would not fire these five men, who no longer belonged to PMA.

"I voluntarily signed the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show that I was a member of PMA. The petition was to show that PMA had a majority and should have the bargaining rights in the mine. I signed this petition near the mine where there were about 100 automobiles parked, to see that UMW did not take over the mine.

"From May 1937 to November, 1939 I assisted in picketing this mine from time to time.

"In the summer of 1937 I signed another PMA petition but I forget what it was for. [redacted] (phonetic), brought this one to my house and I voluntarily signed it.

"I did not attempt to go back to Mine B until November 1939 at which time it had been working about a month.

"I was not in favor of the Federal injunction of December 9, 1937 which prevented the PMA from picketing and the miners did not like it, but I thought and believed the miners thought the NLRB election held on December 15, 1937 was fair. I don't see how it could have been otherwise.

"From November 1939 to February, 1941 the UMW and the PMA were at odds, and they both had their own check weighman. PMA had a

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] check weighman named [redacted] who lives
(Continued) at [redacted], Illinois. CHARLES BOHANNON

and TONY PLOTCH, who were both UMW men ra[redacted] off the road and tried to kill him, so [redacted] never came back to work at Mine B. The PMA could not get another check weigher as the men were afraid to take the job, and gradually the UMW signed the miners up with UMW and hired UMW members and when UMW felt they had enough membership built up like this, they called for another NLRB election. This time the UMW won the election, so I felt I had to sign up with the UMW.

"I heard that Elshoff and Falcetti associated with UMW officials and I heard the PMA watchers saw Ray Edmundson at the Mine B office in May, 1937, after the mine had shut down due to the strike. I don't trust John L. Lewis. I dont trust Elshoff and Falcetti because they would appear to cooperate with the PMA, and would secretly deal with the UMW, while the PMA had a closed shop contract with the mine. I would not rejoin the UMW if I could have obtained a job anywhere else at that time.

"I have read and fully understand the three pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

"/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed: /S/ [redacted], Spl. Agent, F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] On August 27, 1943, [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] was born [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] He is employed as [redacted] and may be reached through a neighbor's telephone, [redacted] speaks English brokenly and can understand English fairly, but his coherency, especially in fact recollection is not very good. His value as a witness is good but his ability to be a satisfactory witness is extremely doubtful and it is felt he would not make a good witness. He advises he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in about [redacted] I became a U. S. citizen in [redacted]

"In about [redacted] I first started working in coal mines and at this time I became a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union. I remained a UMW man until 1932. In about [redacted] I started to work in Mine 'B' in Springfield, and I was a UMW then.

"In 1932 a wage scale question came up and the UMW had a vote at which time I voted. The result was about 5 to 1 against taking a cut, but John L. Lewis, or the District UMW, called for another election in which I also voted, but the ballots were stolen and I heard they had been put in [redacted] car and he took them. There had been an injunction in Illinois against John L. Lewis but at this time in 1932 the injunction was lifted and Lewis signed the contract which called for a wage cut. So the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union was organized and I joined the UMA in 1932 when I went back to work in Mine 'B'.

"Between 1932 and May 1937 I can remember no strikes or shut downs and during this time no one tried to influence me either by talk or force into joining the UMW. I had no trouble with the PMA during this time either-and I never knew of any unfair assessments against us. I trusted the PMA officials and I thought it was a good union.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"In about 1936 Jack Falcetti who was the bottom boss at that time was talking alone with me at the bottom of Mine 'B' and he said if we all belonged to UMW it would be better. But I told him a fellow had no voice in UMW and he said nothing more about it. Between 1932 and 1937 no one tried to get me to join UMW and during this time I thought that the company favored UMW but I can remember nothing to substantiate this except that it was just a feeling I had. Between 1932 and 1937 a man John Mahoney who was a motorman at Mine 'B' - but who is now dead - told me that Oscar Falcetti had told him he, Oscar, didn't think I, [redacted] was on the right side. I thought the were talking about the fact that Falcetti thought I should belong to UMW. But nothing more was ever said or done about that.

"When some of the PMA men were convicted of bombings along about this time, I really felt they had been railroaded and were not guilty, and I still really believe they were not guilty. I think most of the men who belonged to PMA at that time felt the same way.

"A few weeks before May 12, 1937, some of the PMA men were expelled from the PMA union for spying for UMW. There were about six men expelled, but they were not expelled all in the same day but probably over a period of a week. These men were Charles 'Bowling Green' Bohannon, Elmer Jacaway, who was one of the last ones to be expelled because I remember him voting to expel 'Bowling Green', Frank Austin, Pete Carter, and I can't remember the rest. I had never noticed these men acting as spies for UMW.

"I remember there was a wage trouble between PMA and the company in the Spring of 1937 and the conditions at the mine were bad. The company would refuse to talk with the PMA committee. I think the committee, PMA, tried to get the company to fire those men who were expelled from the PMA but the company would not do this. During this time, the Spring of 1937, I noticed no slow downs or work stoppages - and paydays were no different from any other day. We were working pending settlement during this time and I felt the company was trying to force trouble so they could close the mines. But I cannot remember now what caused me to believe that. But I still feel that way about it.

"I do not remember whether I went to a PMA meeting May 11, 1937. I went to work the morning of May 12, 1937, and sometime during the morning the cager told me that work was to stop and that everyone was to come out. When I got on top, or rather in the cage on the way up I was with Elmer Jacaway and [redacted] a track layer and [redacted] said, 'They finally got them'. But I did not know what he meant. On top I heard rumors that the company refused to meet with the committee and I thought that was why we were striking.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I was [redacted] and I noticed what I thought was an unusual number of cars loaded short.

"After we went out on strike for a period of several weeks or more, several petitions were circulated by PMA and I remember at least two of them and I signed both. I also heard UMW sent a petition but I never signed it.

"Sometime in the summer of 1937 I remember hearing that [redacted] I do not know how to spell his name, but he lives at [redacted] in Springfield, and [redacted] were shot by [redacted] whose name I do not know how to spell. [redacted] were chased by the police and caught and [redacted] went to jail for 6 months but [redacted] got off and I heard it was because he threw his gun away. I saw [redacted] and [redacted] after they were shot and [redacted] told me they were shot because he would not sign up with UMW.

"When the Mine 'B' was opened, or they tried to open it, in September 1937, I did not know the mine was being re-opened and I didn't get there until two days after they tried to re-open it. I heard they would only let UMW men down in the mine and would not let PMA men work. We started a picket line and had a sitdown for about 56 days. I was in the sitdown most of the time until the U. S. Marshall told us we would have to get out, just before Thanksgiving of 1937.

"During the summer of 1937 no one tried to get me to join UMW and the company did not try to influence me. The PMA officials did not use any kind of force, threat or promise to make me stay in the picket lines. I wanted to be in the sitdown because I thought the PMA was right. I remember nothing unusual during the sitdown, but we guarded the mine and bldgs very well during this time because we were afraid UMW would try to blow things up and blame PMA.

"The PMA and myself, did not feel good about having to get off the sitdown because we thought it was unfair that we, PMA, could do nothing and UMW could do anything, but it was a Federal order and we knew we had to obey it.

"After that I went to work for several construction companies until the Mine 'B' reopened in 1939.

'I was never notified to come to work at Mine 'B' until about Nov. of 1939, when on Nov. 2, 1939, I received a registered

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

letter from the company to come back. I do not remember any attempts on the part of the company to re-open the Mine 'B' before that time.

"No one tried to contact me in connection either with the UMW or the company or the PMA from Dec. of 1937 until Nov. of 1939.

"When I returned to work at Mine 'B' in Nov. 1939, I believed the wage scale would be the same as the rest of the mines. I thought the PMA would have a contract with the company in the near future and I was still a member of PMA.

"From the time I went back to work in Nov. 1939, until Dec. 31, 1940, I did not vote in any elections for union certifications, and I do not remember of there being any election.

"After I went back to work in Nov. 1939 on or about Aug. 2, 1940 a fellow named [redacted] who was UMW and was a driver but did not do much work and had not worked in Mine 'B' before Nov. 1939, approached me in the wash house and said I would have to join the old one. I told him I didn't know what he was talking about and he said I'd find out. He might have said it was the United Mine Workers, but I cannot definitely remember.

"Right after that, maybe the next day after [redacted] talked to me in the wash house, I'm not quite certain of the date, [redacted] jumped on the motor I was running in Mine 'B'. I asked what he was doing & he said it was none of my damn business and he told me he'd knock my block off. But my boss was there and told [redacted] to keep quiet and told me to take [redacted] out on the motor. My boss was [redacted] whose name I do not know how to spell. [redacted] a PMA worker at that time heard this arguement.

"About this same time a fellow named [redacted] who was a UMW man and had just come to mine 'B' asked me to join UMW and said if I didn't join then I might not be able to get in later. I told him I didn't want to join then but would wait.

"During this time the company also discriminated against me by not letting me work as often as I should have. When I went in to complain to Oscar Falcetti he said I didn't want to work, that I was running around with the progressives.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(Continued)

"About in the summer of 1940 [redacted] told me I had better sign up with UMW but that was all that was said or done.

"Also about that same time Oscar Falcetti told me to show [redacted] the runs in the mine. One time when [redacted] Bill Surtock and I were together, Bill told [redacted] that [redacted] was still a Progressive and to watch out for him. [redacted] I believe rode with other motormen who were PMA but after he rode with them they became UMW, but I cannot remember this very well. The other motormen were a man named [redacted] whose name I cannot spell, and a man named [redacted] and one named [redacted]

"On the day before I was hurt which would be Dec. 30, 1940, I was working in a room as a coal digger, I saw someone go by my room. I asked him what time it was but he wouldn't answer me. A few minutes later I saw him with a sheet next to his head and a pick handle under his arm. I recognized him as 'Cudge' or O. L. Bumgarner, or Baumgartner. I am not certain as to the spelling. But I cannot remember any UMW man trying to talk me into joining UMW that day.

"On Dec. 31, 1940, I went to work as usual and went to my room. Some time just before noon a driver notified [redacted] and [redacted] PMA committeemen that they were wanted at the district and that was the last I saw of them that day. They were the entrymen nearest me. At about noon I heard some one coming and as I looked up I saw someone with a pick handle and sheet just like 'Cudge' had been carrying the day before that. This man who I am positive was 'Cudge' started beating me with the pick handle. He broke my arm and jaw and really messed me up. 'Cudge' was a UMW organizer, and only once before had he tried to talk me into joining UMW.

"As a result of the beating I was in the hospital about two weeks or more. I never returned to Mine 'B' after Dec. 31, 1940.

"When the National Labor Relation Board held an election in about Feb. of 1941 I voted PMA but UMW won. I never had anything to do with Mine 'B' after that. I still belong to the PMA and pay my dues, but I have never worked in a mine since Dec. 31, 1940. I stay in the union because I like the group and because I like the democraticness of the organization.

"When I went back to Mine 'B' in Nov. of 1939, I heard there had been some fires but I never saw anything to show there had been a big fire. There had been some small cave ins but I noticed no unusual cave-ins. I never signed anything for UMW after 1932. I believe I signed a membership card for PMA in the summer of 1940.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"About a week or so after we went out on strike in May, 1937, I remember the UMW had a meeting on Monroe St. at Redman's Hall. They invited all Progressives but I cannot remember how. I was in front of the hall before the meeting and I saw a clerk from Elshoff's office whose name I cannot remember, but he is small & wears glasses and I would recognize him if I saw him, go into the meeting. I think there were more company men there, but I cannot remember who. After the meeting [redacted] whose name I cannot spell, came up to me, [redacted] had been at the meeting, and hit me. He gave me a black eye, but I could not hit him because he had several men with him.

"Agent [redacted] has read this statement of twelve pages to me, and I acknowledge it to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. He stated that he was born in [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] He was naturalized in [redacted] He speaks English very poorly and cannot write. He would not make a very good witness [redacted] advised that he has no criminal record. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I first started mining in [redacted] in Pennsylvania and first joined a union in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] when I became a member of United Mine Workers of America.

"I started working in Mine 'B' in Springfield in about [redacted] and when the UMW local turned and started with the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, I became PMA.

"Between 1932 and 1937 neither the Mine 'B' company nor the UMW tried to make me change back to UMW. I liked the PMA and I did not think they were crooked. But I was afraid the UMW was crooked.

"I remember the bombing cases and I don't think the men who were convicted got a fair trial. I think John L. Lewis sent in a lot of witnesses.

"During the time between 1936 and 1937 some of the men in PMA were trying to get us to go over to UMW. They were Bumgarner, Bowling Green Bohannon, Pasquale, Tony Plotch and some others I cannot remember. These men were kicked out of PMA because of this.

"I did not go to a PMA meeting the night before we went on strike on May 12, 1937. But when we went on strike our PMA leaders told me we were striking because of the wage scale. They didn't say we were striking, they said the company just didn't want to pay us our back wages.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I don't remember signing our petition of either the PMA or the UMW after we went out on strike. In about Sept. 1937, the PMA set up a picket line, or a sitdown strike, at Mine 'B' for about 56 days because we didn't want the UMW to try to work the mine. I was there the whole time, until just before Thanksgiving, 1937, the U. S. Marshall told us we had to get out. I never received notice in Sept. of 1937 from the company to come back to work. I didn't go back to any mine after that until in Nov. 1939 when I got a letter to come back to Mine 'B'. This letter was from the company. I was on WPA all the time the Mine 'B' was closed.

"Right after we went out on strike in 1937, I voted in an election which the PMA won over the UMW. No one threatened or forced me to vote and no promises were made to me.

"After we went back to work in Nov. of 1939, there would be men come to work for a few weeks and then leave. They weren't from this part of the country and had not worked at 'B' before. While they were there they tried to talk me into joining UMW, but they never hurt or threatened me. During this time I heard Oscar Falcetti tell us that Mine 'B' would be UMW and he didn't want any PMA. During this time I saw these UMW men beat up the PMA men but I can't remember any names except I know [redacted] was one of the UMW men who was fighting. No one ever hit me.

"When we had an election in about February of 1941, Bowling Green and these other UMW men told me I had to vote for UMW or they would beat me up. I told them I would vote the way I wanted to.

"I kept on working at Mine 'B' from Nov. of 1939 until Jan. of 1943, except for about a month and a half and in Jan. 1943 I went to work at Panther Creek mine.

"When UMW won the election in Feb. 1941 I joined UMW and was UMW until Jan. 1943, when I went PMA.

"I have had this statement of four pages read to me by Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I cannot write.

"His X Mark.

"Witness

/S/ [redacted]

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I,
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, 8-28-43 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was partially deaf and unable to speak or understand English well enough to be interviewed. [redacted] advised he did not have a criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement.

"I am unable to understand English and cannot speak English very well, therefore, I am unable to make any statement. I am also almost deaf and find it almost impossible to understand English.

"I was born in [redacted] I emmigrated to the U. S. from [redacted] I am a citizen of the U. S.

"I have had this statement read to me and understand what has been read, this statement is true and correct.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:-

[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] advised he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] has a fair knowledge of English. It is not thought [redacted] would make a good witness as he is a member of UMW.

The following signed statement was executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] emmigrated to the U. S. from [redacted] I was naturalized as a citizen of the U. S., Springfield, Ill. in [redacted]

"I was employed in [redacted] by the Sangamon Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill., at which time I became a member of UMW. I was employed in the Sangamon Mine until the Fall of [redacted] at which time I was employed by Mine "B", as the Sangamon Mine stopped operating. I have no information concerning Mine "B" prior to the Fall of [redacted]

"I have never been an officer in any union.

"In 1932 Sangamon Mine changed from a UMW mine to a PMA mine at which time I became a member of PMA as majority of the employees wished to change to PMA. I do not know the reason I changed from UMW to PMA in 1932 and I do not know the reason majority of the miners wished to change. It did not make any difference to me what union I was a member of. I took no part in the formation of PMA.

"The management of Mine "B" seemed to be on good relations with PMA between the Fall of [redacted] and May 1937. There were no strikes or close-downs during that period of time. The management did not have a hostile attitude in settling grievences nor did the management express any partiality to U.M.W.

"I considered PMA an honest union, one that was not being operated as a racket. No measure of compulsion was used to keep

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

members of PMA in line. I took no interest in union affairs. During the depression PMA had unusually high special assessments for unemployed miners, which I did not like, but there were no unusually high special assessments during the time I was employed at Mine "B". I know nothing about the bombing cases as I took no interest in them.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" UMW did not set up a picket line nor did UMW distribute any literature. No one attempted to change me from PMA to UMW although [redacted] Springfield, Ill., a former employee of Mine "B", with whom I resided advised me I should change from PMA to UMW as working conditions would have been better. I informed him I would do what majority of the miners did as I did not care whether I was PMA or UMW.

"I never saw any officals of UMW with the management of Mine "B".

"I do not know of any controversy of the wage scale at Mine "B" in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937 and I do not know if I got notice of a meeting on that night.

"Sometime during May 1937 a member of the pit committee told me that there was going to be some trouble as some men at the mine wanted to change from PMA to UMW. A few days later a member of the pit commitee advised me that there was to have been no work the next day as there was to have been a strike. I was not told why there was to have been a strike nor did I ask. The following day I returned to Mine "B" as a picket but I did not return as a picket any other day.

"The last day I worked at Mine "B" in May 1937 I did not see any coal cars loaded short nor did I see any other person load coal cars short. I did not know many persons at the mine as I had worked there only a short time, therefore, I did not know what was going on and I knew no one who would tell me.

"I did not sign any petitions in the Summer of 1937 and no one threatened me in the Summer of 1937.

"I obtained employment at the Peabody Mine, Springfield, Ill. in August 1937 and lost all interest in Mine "B".

"In Sept. 1937, [redacted] advised me Mine "B" was to open as a UMW mine so I returned to work as I had to join UMW when I was

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

employed at the Peabody mine. When I went to work at Mine "B" I saw many pickets and only a few miners entered the mine as members of UMW to work. I worked about four hours and left the mine as I had worked the night before at the Peabody Mine and could not complete the day. I did not return to Mine "B" the following day as I could see that there was going to be trouble with the pickets so I returned to the Peabody mine. I never attempted to work at Mine "B" again and took no interest in the activities of Mine "B", therefore, I am unable to furnish any information subsequent to the day I worked at Mine "B", Sept. 1937.

"At the time of the strike at Mine "B" in May 1937 I was satisfied with PMA and had no desire to change to UMW, but I wanted to work so I joined UMW so I could work at the Peabody mine.

"I have had the five pages of this statement read to me which is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:-

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] August 31, 1943. [redacted] is able to speak English and would make a fair witness. [redacted] furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] who I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in making this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] Ill., [redacted] I have been employed by [redacted] Springfield, Ill. since [redacted] I was employed until [redacted] at Mine 'B', Springfield, Ill. I was employed at Mine 'B' in 1930. I became a member of UMW in [redacted] when I was employed at a coal mine in Springfield, Ill. and remained a member of UMW until I became a member of PMA in 1932. In 1932 John L. Lewis reduced the wage scale and the UMW local in Springfield, Ill. changed to PMA. I changed to PMA because majority of the UMW members changed.

"Elshoff at Mine 'B' was on good relations with UMW prior to 1932.

"Between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine 'B' nor did the management close-down Mine 'B'. No one attempted to discredit PMA to me prior to May 12, 1937. So far as I know the management of Mine 'B' was on good relations with PMA prior to May 12, 1937.

"I thought PMA was a good union and an honest union, no unusual special assessments were made against me. I took no interest in union activities.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases and can furnish no information about them.

"In about [redacted] I was a member of UMW Pit Committee for one year.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"Between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 UMW never set up a picket line at Mine 'B' nor did UMW distribute any literature at Mine 'B'. No one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW prior to May 12, 1937 nor did I see or hear of anyone attempting to convert PMA members to UMW.

"I never saw a UMW official with the management of Mine 'B' between 1932 and May 12, 1937.

"In the spring of 1937 I understood that PMA was attempting to get a contract with Elshoff to increase the wage scale ten cent per ton. Neither the officials or the management of Mine 'B' made any statement to the employees of Mine 'B' prior to May 12, 1937, so far as I know there was not any slow down about the wage scale.

"I do not know of a meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937.

"On May 12, 1937 I worked all day and did not know of a strike. On the morning of May 13, 1937 I returned to work at Mine 'B' and someone told me that the Mine was on strike. On the morning of May 13, 1937 I heard an argument between Oscar Falcetti of Mine 'B' and [redacted] a board member of PMA, about the signing of a contract to increase the wage scale, therefore, I thought the strike was over the wage scale. No one informed what caused the strike.

"I did not sign any petitions in the summer of 1937.

"Sometime in the summer of 1937 I talked to ANDREW SCHRELLEVIONS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTONT, CHARLES BOHANNON and JAMES HALE all of whom informed me that they had been expelled from PMA because they were UMW. I did not know the above men were expelled until they told me, all of whom informed me that I should join UMW, but they did not threaten me if I did not.

"I knew new UMW local 7469 was formed in the summer of 1937 but was never approached concerning joining.

"In Sept. 1937 I was informed by some miners who formerly worked at Mine 'B' that the mine was to open. I went to work on the morning the mine was to have opened, but only some UMW members were present to work, so I did not go into the mine. No one told me I could not work. That day I started to picket at Mine 'B' and acted as a picket for two weeks. Only miners at Mine 'B' acted as pickets and no one threatened me if I did not picket. I was not present at Mine 'B' when an injunction was

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

served to prevent picketing and I do not know the attitude of PMA concerning the injunction.

"I did not know of an attempt to open Mine 'B' in December 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. This election so far as I know was a fair election.

"I received notice to report to work at Mine 'B' in Jan. 1940 and went to work about Jan. 6, 1940. I joined UMW in the summer of 1940 as I could see majority of the miners were joining UMW. I did not want to join UMW as I wanted to be a member of PMA, but I thought it necessary to join UMW in order to work at Mine 'B' as Mine 'B' was to become a UMW mine. Between Jan. 1940 and the summer of 1940 numerous miners at Mine 'B' asked me to join UMW but no one threatened me. I heard that some miners were threatened and beaten if they did not join UMW, but no one threatened or beat me.

"Between Jan. 1940 and Feb. 21, 1941 the management of Mine 'B' did not indicate in any way they were in favor of UMW.

"I voted in the NLRB election of Feb. 21, 1941 for PMA, this election was a fair election and there was no violence or threats at the time of the election.

"I worked at Mine 'B' until Oct. 6, 1942 at which time I stopped work because of bad air in the mine. I was always treated fair at Mine 'B'. I have had the six pages of this statement read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed: -

/S/ [redacted] - Sp. Agt. F.B.I.-Springfield, Ill.

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence on August [redacted] 26, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] was born in [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] being naturalized in Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] He resides at [redacted] Springfield, and has telephone number [redacted] He has a small trucking business which he operates from his home. He understands and speaks English without difficulty and indicates he would be a willing witness. He is of average intelligence and informs he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement t[redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Fed'l Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"In [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers in Springfield, Ill., and remained a UMW man until 1932 when the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed, [redacted] time in 1934, when I went to work in Mine "B". When the PMA was formed in Sept. of 1932, I automatically became a member of PMA. I was not forced or coerced in any way to join PMA and I wanted to join PMA at that time.

"I started work in Mine "B" in 1934 as a PMA man and worked until 1935 when I went to [redacted] I went back to work in Mine "B" about a month after that mine re-opened in 1939. [redacted] I have not worked at Mine "B" since.

"While working in Mine "B" during 1934 and 1935, I noticed no threats, coercion, force violence or favoritism of any kind shown by the company to either the UMW or the PMA.

"When I returned to Mine "3" on [redacted] I went in as a PMA. During the time that followed until about April of 1940, the UMW tried several times to get me to join the UMW. A fellow named [redacted] who was a driver and a UMW talked to me several times in an

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted] (continued)

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effort to get me to change to UMW. He never used any force or threats on me. During this time several of the PMA boys were beat up, one of them was [redacted] During the entire time I was a member of the PMA I never noticed any crookedness on the part of the PMA officials and I never noticed any of the fellows who thought the PMA was a racket. We all felt the PMA was a good union. I never had any feelings against the UMW until 1939 when they started using thug practices. But I never noticed any labor stools or spies for UMW at the mine while PMA had the majority.

"No one ever tried to get me to come back to the mines from the time I quit in [redacted] until I returned in 1939.

"I have known the Falcettis since [redacted] and the management of Mine "B" never bothered me. But between [redacted] of 1939 and April of 1940 I noticed that the company would not hire any one unless he was a UMW man and had a letter from the UMW headquarters or were a well known UMW man. But I cannot remember the names of any of these men. During this time I noticed the company, thru Falcetti, would give the good rooms to the UMW man and give the PMA men the pooor rooms. I also noticed the PMA men would be given no consideration in regard to grievances & other things, but the UMW men would be given pretty much consideration.

"During the winter of 1940 I saw [redacted] whose name I cannot remember, and a PMA get beat up by a check wayman who was helped by several other UMW men, but I cannot remember any of their names. The fight was over the weighing of a car. There were two check wayman in this tipple - and the PMA men thought it was wrong that the UMW should have a check wayman there because the company had no contract with the UMW.

"In [redacted] I wanted to go back to Mine "B" but I knew I would have to join UMW to get a job so I joined UMW in [redacted]

"I have read this statement of four pages including this page and state it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

"Witnesses

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of employment, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted], August 30, 1943. [redacted] stated he does not have a criminal record. [redacted] would not make a good witness as he is old and very vague in his answers.

"Springfield, Ill.,
August 30, 1943.

"I, [redacted] [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] I am now employed by [redacted] Springfield, Ill.

"I joined the U.M.W. in about [redacted] at which time I was a coal miner. I remainded a member of UMW until 1932. I was employed at Mine "B" Springfield, Ill. in 1930. In 1932 UMW stole votes cast in Springfield, Ill. concerning the wage scale in coal mines for that reason I joined PMA, when it was formed in 1932. I took no active part in the formation of PMA.

"In about [redacted] I was a committeeman in UMW for one year. I have never been an officer in any union since that time.

"Between 1930 and 1932 the management of Mine "B" seemed to have been on good relations with UMW.

"Between Sept. 1932 and April 1937 Mine "B" did not go on any strikes and the management did not close Mine "B" down. Elshoff and Falcetti seemed to have been on good relations with PMA until May 1937, the management was not hostile in their attitude in settling grievances.

"I always believed PMA was operated as an honest union and not as a racket, there were no unusual special assessments. I took no interest in union affairs. I took no interest in the bombing cases and can furnish no information concerning the cases.

"Between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 UMW never set up a picket line at mine "B" and I do not rember UMW distributing any literature at Mine "B". I did not know of any alleged UMW spies working at Mine "B" prior to May 12, 1937 nor did anyone attempt to convert me from PMA to UMW prior to May 12, 1937.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I never saw the management of Mine "B" with an official of UMW prior to May 12, 1937.

"I know nothing of a wage controversy at Mine "B" in the Spring of 1937.

"I received a notice in an unknown manner that there was to have been a special meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937. I was not told the purpose of the meeting and did not attend.

"As well as I can rember I heard someway around May 12, 1937, state that several of the miners at Mine "B" were thought to have been spies for UMW and were expelled from PMA. The names of those I know are as follows: ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, EMORY JACAWAY, CHARLES BOHANNON and JAMES HALE. I do not know whether there was any difficulty having the above men discharged.

"On May 12, 1937 I worked all day, on coming on top of the ground I was told that the mine, Mine "B", was on strike. I was not told why the mine was on strike. I do not know why Mine "B" went on strike May 12, 1937. I did not load any coal cars short on May 12, 1937 nor did I see anyone loading coal cars short that day. So far as I know there was no intent on the part of the miners to strike May 12, 1937.

"I do not rember signing any petitions in the Summer of 1937.

"I know nothing about the formation of a UMW local in the summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937, PMA had a meeting and decided to picket Mine "B" which was suppose to have opened that day. I acted as a picket from time to time, voluntarily, from Sept. 1937 until sometime in November 1937 when an injunction was obtained to prevent the picketing. I was not present when the injunction was served.

"I do not rember an attempt to open Mine "B" in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1 938.

"On Dec. 15, 1937 NLRB held an election to determine if Mine "B" should have been UMW or PMA. I voluntarily went to vote and voted PMA. So far as I know the election was fair. There was no violence at the time of the election.

"I received notice to return to work at Mine "B" about Nov. 6, 1939. I returned to work about a week later. At the time I returned to Mine "B" to work I noticed the results of no large fires although the mine

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

was caved in, in numerous places. I returned to work as a member of PMA. I had no understanding as to the wage scale. After my return to Mine "B" the management did not show any favoritism toward UMW nor did the management make any statements to indicate they prefered UMW over PMA.

"In about 1940 [redacted] saw me in my room at Mine "B" and told me I should join UMW as Mine "B" would soon be UMW. A trackman the name of whom I do not know also told me a little later that I should join UMW. In 1940 TONY PLOTCH and JOE ALBANESE came to my home and told me I should join UMW as Mine "B" would soon be UMW. Sometime in 1940 prior to the time I joined UMW one morning UMW members by the name of [redacted] beat [redacted] A short time later in the Summer of 1940 I joined UMW as I knew it was necessary to join UMW to work at Mine "B" or I would be discharged or beaten by members of UMW.

"I voted PMA on Feb. 21, 1941 at the NLRB elections which election I considered fair. There was no violence at the time of the election and I did not see anyone threatened if he did not vote.

"I still favor PMA over UMW as PMA is more democratic and I consider PMA a very honest union.

"I was employed at Mine "B" until [redacted] I stopped working at Mine "B" voluntarily.

"I have had this six page statement read to me. It is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted], Sp. Agt. FBI Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] his home at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, at which time he executed a signed statement. He was very cordial and was cooperative except that his wife who was also present, appeared to control his remarks which then became cautious and not too pertinent although direct answers were given by him at all times. [redacted] hasn't worked at Mine B since the miners struck there in 1937. Due to his age he was unable to recall clearly events in any manner of sequence, and it is not believed, therefore, that he will make a good witness.

The following signed statement was executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943

"I [redacted] do voluntarily make the following signed statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. No promises or threats were given to cause me to make this statement.

"I reside at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, and I was born [redacted]

"I started working at Mine B long before Mr. Carl H. Elshoff ever took it over. Before I ever started at Mine B I belonged to the United Mine Workers of America, and remained a member until Mine B all joined up with the Progressive Miners of America. I don't know why the new Progressive Union was formed and have no knowledge of what caused the strike at Mine B in 1937. Disagreement of some kind I suppose.

"I personally never had any trouble at the mine either with the Union or with the mine officials. No one ever threatened me or forced me to join one union or the other, and I don't recall ever having signed any petitions showing that I was for either of the unions.

"After the strike in 1937 I never went back to work at Mine B because I was getting old and didn't think I could work in the mines any more. I took no part in the picketing or union activities at Mine B.

"I recall voting in one election held by some government agency I believe I think the Progressives won out in that election but don't remember the tally.

"I have never held an office in either union and very seldom attended union meetings. I am no hand to talk and didn't take part in union arguments.

"Right now if I could work I would rather work under the Progressive Union.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"The above statement consisting of about 3/4 page typewritten was read to me by Agent [redacted] The statements are true to the best of my knowledge and I do hereby sign my name.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEWS WITH [redacted] and his son, [redacted] and [redacted] were interviewed at the home of [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on August 29, 1943, at which time a separate signed statement was executed by each. Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] conducted the interviews and it is believed that [redacted] will not make a good witness inasmuch as he does not read, write or understand English very well, and although he understands and speaks [redacted] he cannot read or write it. He has been a naturalized citizen since [redacted] having been born [redacted] He appeared to be definitely in favor of the UMWA and displayed a ribbon showing his membership in such union in [redacted] and was very proud of this emblem. He was very cooperative in every way and was at no time hostile to the interview. He had difficulty in remembering dates and events and frankly admitted that he was never too concerned over the controversies inasmuch as he was more interested in making a living for his family. He is presently employed at Mine "B".

[redacted] who aided Agents by acting as an interpreter for his father, was also very cooperative but repeatedly pointed out that he had followed the advice of his father in all of the disputes and stated that his information was hearsay. He is a native born and reads and speaks both English and [redacted] He experienced difficulty in recalling certain events in their proper sequence or exactness except that he worked at Mine "B" for 30 months after it opened under an open shop agreement, but has since left this kind of work to take employment with [redacted] where he is presently employed.

The following is the signed statement of [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 29, 1943.

"I [redacted] do voluntarily give the following signed statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have made themselves known to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born [redacted] I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois on [redacted] My naturalization certificate number is [redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers of America in [redacted] in Coal City, Ill. I have been working at Mine B since [redacted] off and on, and am still employed there as a digger. I continued my membership in UMWA while at Mine B until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I don't

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INTERVIEWS WITH [redacted] and [redacted] (continued)

read English or speak very well and only went to meeting when I had to and so I don't know why the Progressives started. I don't know why the strike started in 1937 and don't know anything about the relations between Mr. Elshoff and the union officials. I don't know anything about a PMA meeting on the night before the strike but did hear something about a few men wanting to go back to UMWA.

"I remember signing some petitions but don't know how many or who I signed for on all of them. I believe I signed for UMWA once. I didn't take any part in the picketing or activities because my wife was sick at the time and I stayed home to take care of her. I was on WPA most of the time. I remember voting for the Progressives in the first election in 1937. At the second election I voted for UMWA. No one forced me to vote - all I was interested in was working, as I wanted to eat and take care of my family.

"The above statement was read to me by Agent [redacted] in the presence of my son [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted] Special Agt., FBI, Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, Springfield, Ill.

The following is the signed statement of [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943.

"I [redacted] do voluntarily give the following signed statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born at [redacted] and I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed at [redacted]

"I first joined the United Mine Workers of America in [redacted] while working for the Peabody Mine Co. I started working for Mine B just before Christmas in the same year. I retained my UMWA membership until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America along with all the other miners at Mine B. I switched back to UMWA after the second election in 1941.

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INTERVIEWS WITH [redacted] and [redacted]
(continued)

"Both the UMWA and the PMA unions got along with Mr. Elshoff so far as I know. The theft of the ballots on the wage scale was the reason for the new Progressive union so far as I heard the men talking. I had only been in the mine a little over a year and wasn't very interested in unions. My father and I worked together much of the time and naturally we didn't talk about the union situation very much. The Progressive Union seemed alright to me and I was treated the same by both unions. I didn't attend very many meetings and never held an office in either union.

"I didn't attend any meeting the night before the strike, but I do recall hearing some of the men say that a few fellows were "on the carpet" for being spies. I do remember that the day of the strike the men were supposed to be loading small cars - I don't remember whether I loaded small cars or not. I didn't know anything about the strike until I was calle to the surface. I didn't stick around but drove home almost at once. I took part in the picketing about half of the time. I personally never saw any force used or trouble at the mine during the picketing. I have no knowledge of any attempts to open the mine during the picketing. I don't know anything about any attempts to reopen the mine. Heard that they tried to operate it but that there wasn't enough of them or something.

"I remember signing petitions both for Progressives and later after the mine reopened for the United Mine workers. I signed as I did not because of fear or force but because the general talk each time was that most of the men were going to vote Progressive the first time and UMWA the second time.

"I voted in both of the NLRB elections and switched my vote. The first time I voted for the Progressives and the second time I voted for the United Mine Workers. I voted just the way I felt like. No one told me how to vote or used any force against me. However, I heard others say men were going around electioneering- those men were from both sides, just like any ordinary election.

"After I started back at Mine B under the "open shop" I wasn't paying dues to anyone. When I rejoined I joined up with the UMWA because my father favored that group and signed up before I did. I rejoined UMWA before the election. No member of either union threatened me to get me to join their side.

"I have read the above and it is true to the best of my knowledge."

WITNESSED: [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I., Springfield, Ill.

/s/ [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed on August 28, 1943, at his [redacted] home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was cooperative and expressed a willingness to testify if this case comes to trial. [redacted] speaks in a very low voice, and it is not believed that he would make an effective witness. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

[redacted], Ill.
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"At present I live [redacted] Ill. I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted]

"I first joined a union when I worked in the mines at [redacted] This was the United Mine Workers union. I stayed in the U.M.W. until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the United Mine Workers some time late in 1940 or early in 1941. While I have been in these unions, I never held an office.

"I started to work at Mine B, Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] I had no part in the formation of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, but I joined the P.M.A. when it was organized because I wanted to be with the majority of the miners at Mine B who favored the P.M.A. I, as well as the other miners, felt that that the U.M.W. was docking its members too much without showing the members what they were getting for their money. After I joined the P.M.A., that union always explained why they docked us, and they did not dock us very much.

"In the period from 1932 until the strike at Mine B in 1937, there was no trouble at the mine to my knowledge. I don't remember any strikes or shut-downs during this time. I don't remember any efforts on the part of the mine management to influence the miners about their union. No members of the U.M.W. asked me to join this union during this time.

"All during the period from 1932 to 1937 I liked the P.M.A. union very much. I always thought that the leaders of the P.M.A. were trying to help the members. I attended a few meetings of the P.M.A., and I could have spoken at any one of them if I had wanted to speak. At the meetings

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

none of the leaders of P.M.A. ever attempted to compel the members to do anything. Another reason I liked the P.M.A. better than the U.M.W. was that the P.M.A. did not fine the members for failing to attend meetings, but the U.M.W. did fine the members 50¢ for each meeting missed. I don't recall that there were any extra assessments by the P.M.A. during this time. I don't remember if any U.M.W. men tried to persuade me to join the U.M.W. during this time, and I don't remember if I received any literature from the U.M.W.

"In the early part of 1937 when it came time for P.M.A. to get a new contract with Mine B, the miners in P.M.A. felt that their union would get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. could get. After the P.M.A. obtained a temporary agreement with Elshoff, the P.M.A. leaders told us that they had obtained a temporary agreement and that Elshoff had agreed to pay the back pay of the P.M.A. miners when the permanent contract was signed.

"I recal that in 1937 before the strike in May, men known to me as Andy Schrolevious, Dominic Pasquale, and Joe were trying to get members for the U.M.W. They were telling all the miners in Mine B that they should not work for P.M.A. until that union got a contract with Mine B. They also said that if they turned over to U.M.W., U.M.W. could get a contract with Mine B right away. I don't recall that the management made any comment at this time which would indicate that they preferred the U.M.W. I don't recall that the P.M.A. officials gave any explanation for their getting only a temporary contract with Mine B.

"Before the strike on May 12, 1937, I heard from [redacted] weight checker for P.M.A. at Mine B, that there was to be a special meeting of P.M.A. on the night of May 11, 1937. I did not go to the meeting, and I don't know if all the members of P.M.A. were invited to this meeting. I don't know why the meeting was called or what was discussed at the meeting.

"When I went to work on the morning of May 12, 1937, I first learned of the strike. No one told me that I could not go into the mine, but I went to the wash house to get my clothes and tools. I recall that I stayed on the road near the mine that day and did not go into the mine to work. I don't remember if anything was said about wages at this time, but I do remember that everyone was saying that the strike would be settled in a few days. I don't recall hearing anything about why the strike was called.

"Prior to the strike I knew that [redacted], weight checker, had claimed that the scales at Mine B were not weighing accurately, and that he intended to call the State Scale committee to check the scales at Mine B. I don't know if the scales were checked.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"Shortly after the strike started I recall that I signed a petition for P.M.A. I signed this petition because I felt that P.M.A. was a better union than U.M.W. I don't remember if any reason was given for the petition which I signed voluntarily. I don't recall any other petitions being circulated at this time.

"During the summer of 1937 I worked on a farm, and I don't remember receiving any notices of any attempts to open Mine B. In the fall of 1937 I went on the picket line at Mine B. for P.M.A. on several occasions. The purpose of the picket was to keep out U.M.W. men. P.M.A. men could not have worked if they had wanted to because Elshoff would not let them.

"From [redacted] I learned of the National Labor Relations Board election in December 1937. I heard that the election was being held so that the miners could vote for the union they wanted so that the mine could then reopen. I voted for the P.M.A. in this election which was held in the State arsenal in Springfield, Ill., and voted for P.M.A. because I felt that P.M.A. was the better union. I think that the majority of the miners at this time favored the P.M.A. because they always talked in favor of P.M.A. I think that the election was fair and square. I was not compelled to go to the election, and I was able to vote as I wanted.

"During the period from November 1939 to February 1941, I recall that Klotch (Baumgartner) tried to persuade me at Mine B to join U.M.W. This man had been strong for P.M.A. in 1937. I don't know why he turned to U.M.W., but I heard that he was paid by U.M.W. I don't remember exactly when he came to me, but I do recall that he said that P.M.A. had no contract with Mine B, and that if I wanted to work at Mine I ought to sign up with U.M.W.

"I think it was some time in December 1940 that I joined the U.M.W. One afternoon three men came to my room in Mine B. One of them was known as [redacted] and another was known as [redacted] These men were not regular employees at Mine B. I, together with other miners, felt that they had been brought to the mine by the U.M.W. to help organize for that union. As I recall, [redacted] said that I could not work the next day unless I signed up with U.M.W. I joined U.M.W. because I wanted to keep on working.

"I don't remember the exact date, but I remember seeing [redacted] give [redacted] a beating in the blacksmith shop at Mine B. I don't know what caused the fight, but I heard that [redacted] tried to persuade [redacted] to join U.M.W. I also heard that [redacted] gave a beating to an Auburn, Ill., man by the name of [redacted] for failing to clean up the slate in his room. I don't know if [redacted] tried to persuade [redacted] to join U.M.W.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"After joining the U.M.W., I voted in the election held in February 1941. Althought I was a member of the U.M.W. at this time, I voted for P.M.A. because I thought it was a better union. I remember that Klotch told me about this election, but he did not tell me how to vote.

"This statement has been read to me by [redacted], and I state that is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnesses:

[redacted] (signed)
[redacted] (signed)
"Special Agents F.B.I.
"Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home on [redacted] in [redacted] Illinois, on the afternoon of August 31, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] and is an American citizen. He was at Mine "B" from 1930 until the strike on May 12, 1937. He is presently bedridden. [redacted] would not make a good witness, due to an extremely heavy accent. He is extremely difficult to understand, and he has difficulty in understanding questions put to him. Because of this a signed statement was not obtained.

[redacted] was not particularly interested in the affairs of the Union, prior to the date of the strike on May 12, 1937. He did not attend union meetings regularly, and did not know of the cause of the strike. He did not know that there was to be a strike until it was called. He spent some time at the mine property during the sit down. He voted in the election in December, 1937, and was not molested in any way. He has always been satisfied with the PMW and never wanted to change. He still considers himself as a PMW. [redacted] is still bedridden.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he executed a signed statement. He appeared to be quite cooperative and mentioned at the outset of the interview that he was cognizant of the purpose of same. He speaks and writes English, and appeared to have an average education. He should make a satisfactory witness except that his knowledge of pertinent facts is limited due to his working on the night shift at all times. He demonstrated an animosity for [redacted] and [redacted] and repeatedly stated that the rank and file of the miners did not know what it was all about (refering to the union controversies). He is presently working at Mine "B", and considers OSCAR FALCETTI as his personal friend.

The following is the signed statement of [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

"I, [redacted] do make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make this statement.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and was born at [redacted]

"The first union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America when I was just a kid working at the Old North Mine out north of Springfield. I remained in that union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America while working at Mine "B" in 1932. I never held any offices in either union.

"Prior to 1932 so far as I know the relations between Elshoff and the UMWA were fine.

"The Progressives started because the UMWA stole the election and because a number of men like [redacted] and a few others wanted offices and figured that they could get it if they formed a new union.

"Towards the last, that is before the strike in May of 1937 there was considerable trouble between Elshoff and the Progressives represented by [redacted] I should mention that ever since I was employed at Mine "B" about 1930 I have worked nights, as mine examiner, and most of my information is not first hand but comes from hearsay. To my knowledge there were no strikes or close downs or attempts by the management to discredit the Progressives before the strike in May of 1937.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Because I worked nights, I never attended any Progressive Union meetings and have no knowledge of the relations between the Progressive officials and the PMA membership. Night men were exempt from union meetings.

"Never heard or saw anything of any alleged union spies or was approached by anyone to change my union affiliations before the strike.

"My only knowledge of the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937 was what I saw in the papers. I never knew of any meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937 at which any members were expelled. The first I knew of the strike was when I reported for work on the afternoon of May 12.

"I have no knowledge or memory of ever signing any petition showing preference for either the PMA or the UMWA.

"During the time the PMA was picketing the mine in 1937 I spent about two weeks out there off and on. After a while I went over to the Panther Creek #2 mine where I worked until Mine B started up again. I retained my PMA membership over at Panther Creek #2 - securing a transfer.

"When I returned to Mine B it was working under an "open shop" agreement. But after working a while I saw that all the men were joining UMWA and I decided that I might as well get on the bandwaggon to save my job. I didn't care which union I worked for_ all I wanted was to work and didn't care who I paid dues to.

"I heard that the mine was going to reopen in the fall of 1937 but I was working already at Panther Creek #2 and didn't bother to go out.

"I remember the election held in the fall of 1937 (which the agents tell me was on December 15)_ I voted in that election and thought that it was conducted fairly and squarely. I remember that the United Miners got only 25 votes and I believe that represented the feeling on unions at the mine at the time. However, I don't think that most of the miners knew what the election was all about.

"I also remember the second National Labor Relations Board election early in 1941. I also voted in this election and believe that it was also conducted on the square.

"I don't care who knows how I voted. The first time I voted for PMA and the second time I voted for UMWA.

"I was never at any time intimidated, threatened or coerced by either union at any time during all these years.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I am still employed at Mine B working nights as a mine examiner.

"If I had a free choice of unions I would choose the UMWA because I feel that it is a real organization.

"The above page and one half have been read to me by Agent [redacted] and the same are true to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I., Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I., Springfield, Ill.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is of slight build and very nervous. He held back information for fear of retaliation by UMWA members, inasmuch as he was badly beaten by them during the labor trouble. His wife often interrupted him and gave information that he attempted to hide. For this reason it is not felt that he would make a good witness.

The following signed statement was given by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943.

"I, [redacted], do voluntarily make the following signed statements to [redacted] and [redacted] Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born at [redacted] My present residence is [redacted] Springfield, Ill. [redacted]

"I started working at Mine "B" on [redacted] joining the United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started as a "dirt picher" and am presently employed at Mine "B" as a car blocker.

"Between [redacted] and 1932 the UMWA and the mine management got along fine. In 1932 the mine turned Progressive Mine Workers of America and I joined up with them. So far as I know the theft of votes on wages was what started the new Progressive Union. Relations between Mr. ELSHOFF and the Progressives seemed alright to me until the contract troubles in 1937 when the old contract expired the Progressives & Mr. ELSHOFF couldn't seem to get together. I don't know whose fault it was.

"I never attended any Progressive meeting the night before the strike and I never heard any of the men talking about 5 of the Progressives being expelled for being spies.

"The first I knew about the strike in May of 1937 was when I heard the men talking about it about noon and the strike was called that afternoon.

"I don't recall signing any petitions for either union during this trouble.

"During the picketing of the mine by the Progressives in the fall of 1937 I was out there occassionally at nights on picket duty. I spent about

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

3 nights a week on picket duty. During this period I never saw any violence by either union nor witnessed any destruction of property.

"I was at the mine on one occassion, I believe it was in Sept of 1937 when 13 UMWA men tried to open the mine. There were between 200-300 Progressives there picketing, but I never witnessed any violence or threats. The opening didn't succeed as more men were necessary for operation. The Progressives wouldn't work with UMWA and as I understand it the 13 UMWA and 300 PMA members represented the men's actual feelings on union membership at that time.

"I remember voting in the NLRB election in December 1937. I thought that it was an honest and fair election. I recall that UMWA received only 25 votes, and believe that at that time the great majority of the men at Mine B favored the Progressives as shown by the great majority the had in this election.

"I can only explain the failure of the Progressives to sign a contract with Mr. ELSHOFF during the 2½ years that we were out on strike to the fact that Mr. ELSHOFF didn't seem to care to deal with the Progressives but preferred the United Mine Workers. I recall a conversation with Mr. ELSHOFF way back in March of 1932 during which he said that JOHN L. LEWIS was a very good friend of his. During the same conversation he said that [redacted] didn't want to work and was just looking for an easy job.

"When I went back to Mine B about the first of 1940 I was still a member of the Progressive Union, although the mine was working under an open shop agreement. On Jan 25, 1940 [redacted] a UMWA organizer came to me and asked me to join UMWA. He filled out the application and I signed it, because I thought that the majority was going that way. No force or violence of any kind was used on me. I got sick, however, and was unable to attend the initiation and the next morning while I was changing clothes in the wash room I was hit on the temple, knocked over a bench, and kicked while I was down by UMWA men. I didn't see my assailants but know that I was beaten for not showing up at the UMWA meeting. I only saw one other beating at the mine and didn't hang around to see who the parties to it were.

"I voted in the 2nd NLRB election in the Spring of 1941. This election was held fairly & squarely in my opinion. The majority was for UMWA and 108 for Progressives.

"Very shortly after the above election Mr. ELSHOFF and UMWA officials reached an agreement and there has been no real trouble at the mine since that date.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I have no knowledge of any financial dealings between JOHN L. LEWIS or the UMWA and Mr. ELSHOFF and never heard any talk to that effect.

"I don't care who know - I voted for PMA in both NLRB elections.

"I have read the above 3 3/4 pages of statements made by me and they are true to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESS:

[redacted] F.B.I. Special Agent, Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] F.B.I. Special Agent, Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the home which he owns, [redacted] located at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born at [redacted] He has been in the mines for [redacted] years. He was at Mine B for a year or more before 1932 until January 1941. He is now employed at Panther Creek Mine No. 5.

[redacted] is considered by interviewing Agents as a good potential witness. He is confused as to the sequence of details which he recalls. His interest was passive for several years between 1932 and 1939 and he does not recall events occurring in that time clearly. He recalls, clearly, however, events surrounding the establishment of the Progressive Mine Workers in 1932, and the events occurring at Mine "B" in 1939 and 1940 when he was being abused there. He is quite apt to confuse the things which happened in 1932, with those which happened in 1939 and 1940. Events occurring in between those dates evidently did not greatly concern him, and he cannot recall them vividly. [redacted] is vindictive against JOHN L. LEWIS, and OSCAR FALCETTI. He would be a stubborn witness and would not be easily confused on cross examination except as to sequence and dates of events. He makes a fair appearance, has good command of the English language, and can express himself clearly. He would be easily understood. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to get me to make this statement. It is true and accurate. I am willing, if necessar to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I have been in the mines for [redacted] years. I first went to Mine B about 1928 or 1929. I do not reecall exacly when it was, but I was at Mine B when the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized. I was on the picket line when we struck to make the company accept the PMW of A and get away from JOHN L. LEWIS and the United Mine Workers. At the time I was picketing there in 1932 I heard JOHN SCHNEIDER talking with OSCAR FALCETTI. FALCETTI would not hire the men who had been fired before the strike, and said something about not being able to keep his job if he could. I always though since then that FALCETTI did not like the Progressive Mine Workers of Americ

"I was never an officer in any labor union. I did not go to the meetings of the unions very often. I remember the day that the strike sta

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

in 1937. I do not remember if I was at the meeting of the union the day before the strike. I remember that I was loading small cars of coal that day, but I cannot remember why it was that I was loading them small. I was not told to load them small. Something happened that made me see that I should load them small. It was something that the company did, but I do not recall what it was. After the strike was called, I do not remember exactly what it was that did happen. I know that one day they tried to open the mine. I was out there. There were about 10 men who went down into the mine with OSCAR FALCETTI. After a short time they all came up. We had a union meeting the next day or that night. I remember that we went back out to the mine and stayed on the property to keep the United Mine Workers from coming in to go to work. I stayed out there a lot of the time during the sit down. The men who were on the sit down were men who had been working at Mine B. After the injunction I left the mine property. I did not hear of any more attempts to open the mine.

"I voted in the election in December 1937. No one told me how to vote, or tried to influence my vote in any way. It was a fair election as far as I know, and I voted exactly as I pleased.

"When the strike started I was satisfied with the Progressivem Mine Workers of America, and the operation of local #54. I did not want to join the UMW. I was off of JOHN L. LEWIS for what he had done to us miners in 1932.

"During the strike I did not have any other job.

"I do not recall exactly what happened to reopen the mine, but when it was reopened as an open mine. There were men who belonged to both unions. I knew that they were trying to organize the United Mine Workers as a union there. I had heard of that. I told everybody that said anything to me about it, that I would never join the United Mine Workers because of the things that JOHN L. LEWIS had done to the coal miners in 1932. I talked about that quite a bit, and was not afraid to let anyone know how I felt about it.

"When I went back to the mine, I got my old room, but when it ran out, I was given a very bad room. It was full of slate, and it was so hard to work that I do not believe that the company ever made any money out of it at all. I began getting "docks" for having dirt in my coal. I had had very few docks before the troublble with the unions. They ran up $50 of docks against me. They charged docks of $.40 for the first car with dirt in it each day, $1.40 for the second, and $3.00 for the third car with dirt in it each day. Most of these times I found out that the dirt in my car would be sulphur or dirt, and there was no sulphur or that kind of dirt in my room at all. The company began giving me the bad end of the deals. They treated

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

some of the other men that way too. I remember that they fired me one day for taking an empty off the track in front of my room. In [redacted] years of coal mining I had always taken the car that was laying in front of my switch. There was no rule against that. Sometimes when there was a shortage of cars, the drivers would say which car belonged to which digger, but there was no such shortage that time. OSCAR FALCETTI fired me for taking another digger's car. The pit committee got me my job back again, after making me promise that I would not take anybody elses empties again. The very next day, I was fired again by FALCETTI, for leaving an empty car on the track in front of my room. The situation was exactly the same as before as far as I could see. The pit committee got me my job back again.

"About six weeks before I was fired, I went to the window one day to get my money. I handed in the stub of the statement to FALCETTI. He pulled the peg out of the window, and let it fall, and almost caught my hand. I told him that if he had hit my hand I would have sued the company. That was about the time that the other things I have mentioned were happening to me at the mine.

"Several days before I finally quit, I was having shirts stolen from the wash house. That happened several times to me. That never happened before the troulble with the Unions and the organizing of the United Mine Workers. The company knew that that was going on, and could have stopped it, but never did. The day before I finally quit my tools were all stolen. That was the first time that my tools had been taken from my room during the entire time that I was working there. I had a hard time working there that day, and borrowed enough tools to sort of finish up what was loose. I had to quit early because of it. The next morning when I went to work I went into the wash house to change my clothes. I saw [redacted] coming towards me, but did not know what he was going to do. He hit me in the eye, and about the same time [redacted], came up on me from behind. When I was knocked down, [redacted] tried to kick me in the face. They ran me off of the company property and did not even let me go back to get my pay. That was before the second election at the mine.

"One Day I saw [redacted] walking around in front of the office. He was cursing and saying things about the Progressives. He said several times, "the Progressives are no good. They have got to go." OSCAR FALCETTI was standing right there where he could hear, and did not say anything. He just laughed like he thought that it was a good idea.

"When I went back to the mine after it reopened, I noticed that there had been some falls. I did not see any evidence of any big fires that had occurred during the strike.

C - O

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

[redacted] was working in the mine, or was supposed to be working there. I do not know what he was supposed to be doing, because I never saw him doing any work. He never talked to me about joining the United Mine Workers. In fact, no one ever talked to me about joining the UMW except a man from Colorado who I saw at the mine only a few times. I never learned his name. He came to me during the first few days that the mine was reopened. I told him that I would not join up with JOHN L. LEWIS. He told me that that was what he was there for, to get us to join the UMW. He came to see me in my room when I was drilling a hole. He was the only one who ever asked me to join the UMW but everybody else knew how I felt about it, because I told them.

"I do not recall signing any petitions, although I may have.

"I voted in both elections, even though I had been kicked out of Mine D before the second election. I voted exactly as I pleased in both elections.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers, and never did want to join up with the United Mine Workers, nor having anything to do with JOHN L. LEWIS.

"I have read the above statement on this page and four other pages. It is all true and accurate."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted]

Special Agents FBI"

C - O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the home which he owns located at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He is an American citizen. [redacted] probably would not make a good witness due to a heavy accent and the factor that he is extremely hard of hearing, and cannot understand well the various questions put to him. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or consideration of any kind has been made to me to have me make this statement.

"I have worked at Mine B from [redacted] until [redacted] I did not intend to ever return to Mine B, and therefore did not take part in any of the activities concerned with the strike. I did not go to the union meetings and did not know what was going on. I was always satisfied with the way the Progressive Mine Workers were being operated, and with the operation of local #54 at Mine B. I did not want to change unions. I belonged to the union at the mine that was there, and was satisfied with the PMW of A union while I was at mine B.

"I have read the above statement on this page. It is true and accurate.

(Signed) [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted] Special Agent FBI
Special Agent FBI"

C O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and who is presently employed by [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed [redacted] on the morning of August 31, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] stated he was born at [redacted] Illinois [redacted] He was employed at Mine "B" from [redacted] until May of 1942. [redacted] would make a fair witness, has a fair appearance, and is able to express himself fairly well and has an intelligence above that of the average miner. He furnished information as set forth in the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill
August 31, 1943."

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to have me make this statement. It is true and accurate. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I have been a miner all of my life. I first joined the United Mine Workers when I was [redacted] years old. I went to work at mine B in [redacted] as near as I can remember. I used to go to the Union meetings quite regularly, but I was never a union officer at mine B. In 1932 when the entire local joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, I was willing to switch over. I had no objections at all to the formation of the PMW. The relations between the company at Mine B and the unions continued to be about the same both before and after the formation of the PMW. Before the strike in 1937, the relations of the union and the company were satisfactory as far as I was concerned. I did not pay much attention to what was going on. I just did my work and did not pay much attention to what went on at the office or at the union meetings. I went to the important union meetings, but was not interested in what went on among the union generally. I did not go to the union meeting the night before the strike. It was a complete surprise to me. I was completely satisfied with the operation of the Progressive Mine Workers of American and local #54. I did not know know that there had been any discussion about switching uions. I knew before the strike was called that there was some trouble over some men having been fined by the union or something like that. I did not know the details, but I had heard about it.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

I did not know that it was serious enough to call a strike over. I do not remember that there was any quarrel about the wages or rates at the time that the strike was called.

"After the strike was called, I went home. I did not go back out to the mine. I was not interested in union affairs. I was never on a picket line or anything like that except that I did stay on the picket line at the sit down for one night at Mine B. After the strike I stayed at home. I do not recall every having been asked to sign any papers for either union. I was in favor of the Progressive Mine Workers, and if I signed any papers it was for them. I did not know any of the men who were in troulbe with the union except one who is dead now. He had not said anything to me about changing unions.

"I did not know anything about the formation of the UMW local during the summer of 1937, nor about a contract with the UMW by the Mine B coal Company. I was not at the mine on the day in September when they tried to open, and when the sit down started. I stayed at the sit down only one night. The men there were all men who had worked at Mine B before the strike, except one [redacted]

"I voted in the election about the unions in Decmeber 1937. That was a fair election as far as I know. Non one tried to influence my vote or make me do anything that I did not want to do. It was a fair election I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"I did not hear anything about trying to open the mine at any time about an attempt to open the mine until they did get it opened, except that one time in September 1937 when the sit down started. During the time of the strike I was on WPA part of the time.

"When the mine reopened, I did not get to work until about November 17. There was bad air in my section and it was a while before things got cleaned out. There was no big fire or fall while the mine was closed that I know anything about.

"When the mine reopened there was no contract with any union. Several men came and talked to me about switching over to the UMW, but the only ones who asked me to join the UMW were [redacted] and a man whose name I do not know. [redacted] and Joe Albanese came to my house once and asked me to join the UMW. Albanese did not say anything, he just came along. [redacted] was one of the men who came to the mine after the strike. Several fellows talked to me about chaning, but none of them asked me to join the UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

[redacted] was one of the men who came to the mine after the strike. I do not know what he was supposed to be doing in the mine. I never saw him doing any work. He came to my room a few times and talked to me about switching unions. I told him that I did not want to switch but I would join any union which had the majority. No one bothered me, although I heard that some of the other men at the mine had been bothered about joining the UMW and that there had been some beatings. I wondered what [redacted] was supposed to be doing in the mind. I never saw him doing any work, and I asked somebody what he was supposed to be doing. They told me that he was supposed to be an Air Examinier. I had never heard of an air examiner at Mine B before. The mine examiner checked the air at night. They had never had a man to do that in the day time before [redacted] came to the mine. After he left, there was no one as an air inspector in the day time.

"I joined the UMW on the last day that I could join and not have to pay a new initiation fee. [redacted] came to me and told me that all the fellows had joined up, and that they had a majority and that the mine was going to be UMW entirely. He told me that if I did not sign up by a certain date that I would either have to leave the mine or join up with the UMW. So I joined the UMW on the last day. I did not want to join the UMW. If any other jobs had been available at the time I would quit and gone to work somewhere else, but I had to have a job, so I joined the UMW even though I preferred the PMW.

"In the second election no one tried to influence my vote. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"In May or April 1942 there was a fire at the mine and I could not work in my section. They asked me to work someplace else in the mine and double with some one, but that was against the union rules so I went home. When I went back there was some quarrel about it, and I decided to quit.

"I have read the above statement on this page and three other pages. It is all true and accurate.

/S/ [redacted]

"/S/ [redacted]
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents FBI"

C - O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home which he owns, [redacted] located at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] was born at [redacted] He has been in the mines all his life. He is considered by interviewing agents as a good potential witness because of his appearance, his ability to express himself and apparently has above average intelligence. He gave the information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943.

"My name is [redacted]. I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to get me to make this statement.

"I have worked at Mine B since about [redacted] off and on, and steadily since about [redacted] Since that time I have been a bottom man. That is, I work at the bottom of the shaft, stop the cars, and put them on the lift etc. That means that I am one of the last men to go down in the mine in the morning, and one of the first to come out at night. I do not go to the mine early, and leave as soon as I can at night. Thus, I do not get to know the men at the mine very well. I do not see the men who work back in the mine unless they happen to come out during the day. I joined the United Mine Workers first when I was [redacted] years of age. I was never particularly interested in Union affairs, but I did keep track of things in the Union. I did not go to meetings often. I was never and officer. In 1932 the entire local went over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was not particularly interested in going over to the PMW of A, but I was willing to follow the majority. It did not make much difference to me which union I belonged to. I did not go the PMW meetings, because [redacted] and they meet the same night.

"I did not attend the meeting of the union the night before the strike. I did not know what the strike was about. I was called out. I did not know that there was going to be a strike until I was called.

"I did not stay around the mine after the strike started. I do not think that I signed any petition for any union.

"At the time th t the strike occurred I was not disatisfied with the operation of the Progressive Mine Workers of America or the local at Mine B. I did not particularly care which union I belonged to. I was still

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

interested in the UMW and was keeping track of the things that they were doing, but I would not have wanted to change unions at that time.

"I did not know of the formation of the UMW local at mine B. I did not go out to the mine the day that it was opened in the fall of 1937. I did not stay out at the picket line when the men stayed there for several months. I was asked to go out, but I told the men that I would go around to the houses and talk to the men but I would not go to a picket line, because I did not think that it was a fair way of running things.

"I voted in the election of December 1937. I met up at the Progressive Hall, and went down to vote in a group. No one told me how to vote, or tried to influence my vote in any way. It was a fair election as far as I know. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"During the strike, I was unemployed except for what work I could get on WPA.

"I went back to the mine soon after it opened and went to the same job tht I had before. I still continued to go to the mine late in the morning, and leave early at night, and i did not know much about what was going on out there. I understood that several men were beaten up out there and th t there was a lot of organizing going on. I knew [redacted] I do not know what he was supposed to be doing in the mine. I always thought that he was an organizer for the UMW. I talked with him several times in the mine. No one ever asked me to join the UMW. I heard that Falcetti had said that he did not want anyone to bother the bottom men. None of us working at the bottom of the shaft were approached to join the UMW. Several of us decided a few days before the second election that the mine was going to be UMW and so we went up and signed up with the UMW. We had not been asked to join, but the old Progressives had been run out of the mine or had left, and it looked as if everyone there was a United Mine Workers, and I always wanted to be with the majority, so I joined.

"I never heard anyone connected with the management say anything about wanting the mine to change unions or anything like that. I did hear Oscar Falcetti say three or four times before the strike or any trouble started at all, that he thought that the mine would go back to the United Mine Workers. I did not pay much attention to him. I did not hear anything about that afterwards.

"When I went back to the mine when it was reopened, there was no indication as far as I saw of any fire. I heard th t there had been a few falls. I do not know of any big falls.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have read the above statement on this page and two other pages. It is all true and accurate.

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] signed)
[redacted] (signed)

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the home which he owns located at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] was born in [redacted] He is considered as a good potential witness by interviewing agents due to his appearance, ability to express himself, and an apparent above average intelligence. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943.

"My name is [redacted]. I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to have me sign this statement. It is all true and accurate. I am willing, if necessary to go to court, and repeat any part of it.

"I have been working at Mine B since 1929 as a digger. I was a member of the local when it changed over from the UMW to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was not too anxious about the switch in the beginning, but afterwards I did not want to change back to the United Mine Workers. I was living at [redacted] Ill, at the time, and did not come back to town to attend the union meetings. I did not go __ the meetingws very often.

"At the time of the strike in 1937, I was very much satisfied with the way the things were going out there at the Progressive Mine Workers and the local #54. I did not want to change. As far as I know all the men were satisfied with the union as it was. There were a few men who had always been for the UMW ever since the PMW was organized, and they did not switch over as we thought they would, and kept talking about going back to the UMW. No one of them talked to me about it though, and I did not hear them say anything personally.

"I did not attend the local meeting the night before the strike. I was down in the mine and did not know that a strike was being called. It was all a surprise to me. I did not stay around the mine, and I have forgotten now, just exactly what it was that the men struck for. I signed a petition or some kind of paper for thee Progressives. They brought it to me at my home in [redacted] Ill. I did not sign anything for the UMW because I was not interested in joining the UMW. No one approached me to join the UMW or to sign their petition.

C O

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I did not go out to the mine the day that the sit down started. I did got out there three or four days later, and stayed there on the company property for several days, until the injunction came and we had to leave. The men who were on the sitdown were miners who had been working at mine B. There were not a new bunch of men brought in.

"I voted in th_ election in the December 1937. That was a fair election as far as I knew. No one asked me or tried to influence my vote in any way. I voted exactly as I wanted to, and no one said anything about it.

"I did not know that they ever tried to open the mine except that one time in 1937 when the sit down started. During the stri_e I was unemployed most of the time, and worked on the WPA part of the time. When the mine reopened, I went out there to work, and worked two days when I finished my room. It was about a month before I got a new room. When I went back I saw no indication of any big falls or fires in th_ mine.

"When I went back [redacted] was working there in the mine. I do not know what he was supposed to be doing. The only times that I saw him he was walki_g around with the air testers, etc. He was talking most of the time to men about joining the UMW. He never had a man going around with the air testers before the mine went on strike. We do not have any now. [redacted] was the only man at the mine I have ever seen going around in the daytime making such tests. [redacted] talked to me about joining the UMW. I told him that I did not want to at that time. He was the only one in the mine who approached me on the matter until the day that I signed up as a UMW. On that day I was approached by [redacted] We had been told, by ads in the paper, etc, that we had until the 17th of Januray 1941 to join the UMW. I joined up on that day when [redacted] approached me, because I felt that I would h_ve to join in order to keep my job at the mine. I knew at that time that I would have a chance to vote on which union that I wanted, and knew that if the election went for the Progressives, that my application to the UMW would not mean anything. I signed up for the UMW even thought I really wanted to stay and be with the Progressives. That occurred before the second election about the union at the mine.

"At that election, they told us to go to the United Hall and go up to vote in a body. I went directly from my home, and voted exactly as I pleased. No one influenced me in my vote at all.

"I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America and wanted to stay in that Union, and only joined the UMW in order to keep my job at mine B.

"I have read the above statement on this page and two other pages. It is all true and accurate.

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted] F.B.I.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, which he opofates and where he resides. He was interviewed on the afternoon of August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born at [redacted] is considered as a fair witness by interviewing Agents. His intelligence does not rank above the average, but he can express himself fairly well, has a fair memory, and a fair appearance. He would not be easily confused on cross examination. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943.

"My name is [redacted]. I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. It is true and accurate and I am willing, if necessary, to repeat any part of this statement in court.

"I worked at Mine B as a digger from sometime in [redacted] until May 12, 1937, when the strike at Mine B started. I was a Mmber of the United Mine Workers until 1932 when the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized. I did not have to much to do with the organization of the PMW, but I was glad to join the organization because I wanted to get rid of John L. Lewis. I was a member of the Pit committee of the PMW union at Mine B for a year and a half sometime between 1932 and 1937. I had not been on the committee for a couple of years before the strike started. I attended the meetings of the Union quite regularly. The attendance at the meetings varied from very large numbers to very small numbers, depending on what was to come up at the meetings.

"I did not attend the meeting of the union the night before the strike started. There had been some discontent about the mine but I do not know exactly what it was about. There had been some discussion in the mne about going over to the United Mine Workers. Charley Bohannon, Tony Plotch, and [redacted] talked to me and asked me to join the United Mine Workers, and asked me what I thought about it. Frank Austin also talked to me about joining the United Mine Workers, before the strike started. I had not intention of joining the United Mine Workers. I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and with the operation of local #54. I have never wanted to change over to the UMW. No one connected with the PMW ever asked me to do anything tht I did not want to do. After the str e I did not go back to the mine because I decided that I would get out of the mines if I had to fight for my life for a right to work. I had quit the

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

pit committee when one of the other men had been shot. I did not want to get shot.

"I was down in the mine the day that the strike was started. I sent up short cars that day because I was almost finished with my room, and knew that there was some discussion about quitting until a new contract was fixed up. I had finished cleaning up my room and was on top and in the wash house when the strike was called. I was out at the mine shaft a few days after the strike started. I think I signed some sort of paper for the Progressives. I know that I never signed any paper for the United Mine Workers.

"I never heard anything about the formation of a UMW local for Mine B. I never heard anything about a contract with the UMW.

"I was not at Mine B the day that they started to open the mine in September 1937. I went out there on the second or third day after that. I stayed there at the mine about two thirds of the time after that when the men were there on the company property. The men who were there on the property were men who had worked there all the time before that. I heard that they tried to open the mine a few days after the injunction, but I did not go to work and do not know what happened. I voted at the election held at the Armory in December 1937. That was a fair election as far as I know. No one attempted to influence my vote, or tell me what to do. I voted at that election just exactly as I wanted to vote.

"When the mine reopened I did not attemt to go back to work. I got a letter to go back, but I was doing alright and decided not to work any more. I went out to the mine, and told them, and asked them to send my tools up. I sold the tools right there to someone else.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. No one in that organization ever threatened me or asked me to do anything that I did not want to do. I would have liked to have continued to work at Mine B if I could have without all that troulble. I had a hard time getting a job after that.

"I have read the above statement on this page and two other pages. It is all true and accurate."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted]

F.B.I.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the home which [redacted] he owns, located a[redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] is considered by interviewing agents as a good potential witness. He is sincere, makes a distinct effort to be accurate, and would be difficult to confuse on cross examination. He makes a good appearance, and can express himself quite well. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill
August 30, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary to go to court to repeat any part of this statement.

"I first went to Mine B in 1932 when I was [redacted] years of age. At the time that I went to Mine B the local there was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I liked that union. I was very much satisfied with the way the PMW of A and local #54 was being operated. I would have stayed in the PMW if I could have. There was nothing wrong with that union as far as I know. I did not go to the union meetings very often. I was not at the meeting of the union the night before the strike was called. I did not know anything about the strike until the day that the strike occurred. I was working on top of the mine, and noticed that the men were sending up small cars. I did not knw anything about it until then, and thought then that there might be a strike. I did not know why, but I recall that someone told me afterwards that the quarrel was because the company would not discharge some men, or something like that. I did not know any of these men before the strike.

"After the strike I went back out to the mine on the days afterwards for a short time. I do not remember that anything happened out there. I do not recall signing any papers, but if I did they were for the Progressive Mine Workers. I could not get a job at that time.

"I did not know anything about the formation of the UMW local in the summer of 1937 nor anything about a contract that Elshoff was supposed to have signed with the UMW.

"I was at the mine the day that they tried to open it in the fall of 1937. I went out the first day expecting to work. I do not recall

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] exactly what happened. We did not go down in the mine, and stayed there at the mine property for 54 days. At the day of the start of the sit down no one told me anything about why the men were not going to go back into the mine. We stayed out at the mine in order to keep the UMW from going to work at the mine. We were protecting our jobs. The men who were out at mine during the sit down were almost entirely men who had worked at the mine before the strike.

"I voted at the election in December, 1937. That was a fair election as far as I know. No one tried to influence my vote. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote. I did not know of any attempts to open the mine either soon before the election or after it until the mine actually did open.

"During the strike I did not have a job most of the time. [redacted] I got to talking with one of the customers. I told him that I was a Miner at Mine B. He asked me to join the UMW, but I told him that I was satisfied with the Progressives. I do not know who this man was.

"I went back to work at Mine B the first day that it was reopened. I resumed my same job on top of the mine. I did not go down into the mine. I did not hear about any large cave ins or falls, or fires that had occurred at the mine while the strike was in progress. They brought up quite a bit of dirt after the strike, but I do not know what they were doing below.

"After the mine opened, I was treated alright. [redacted] and Charley Bohannon asked me a couple of times to go to the meetings but no one asked me directly to join up with the UMW. I did not see any fights, or have anything done to me, but I did see some of the men after they had been beaten up.

"I joined up with the UMW on the last day that I could join and not have to pay a new iniation fee. No one told me that there was any deadline, but I used to hear the men talking about it in the wash room, and decided to join the UMW in order to keep my job. I joined up shrotly before the sencond election. If jobs had been plentiful then as they are now I would not have signed up with the UMW but would have changed and gotten another job, because I preferred to stay with the Progressvie Mine Workers.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers and would have liked to still be a member of that organization. No one in the Progressives ever bothered me or made me do anything that I did not

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

want to do.

"I have read the above statement on this and two other pages, and it is true and accurate.

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted], F.B.I.
[redacted] F.B.I. "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at the residence of [redacted] on August 30, 1943, by Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was born [redacted] and is employed at Mine "B". He became employed at Mine "B" in [redacted] and joined the PMA at that time. He quit work at Mine "B" in April of 1937, and became employed again at the mine in September of 1941, becoming a member of the UMW at that time.

He said he was satisfied with the PMA, and that he knows nothing concerning the goings on at the Union, not having been connected with it or either union during the period under investigation.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] was interviewed at his home on August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was cooperative and willing to give his information freely. He speaks in a very slow and low voice. It is believed that he would make a good witness to the extent of his knowledge of events at Mine B. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [redacted] I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted]

"I first joined a mine union in [redacted] when I joined the United Mine workers in [redacted] I stayed in this union until 1934 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. some time after February 1941. I have never held an office in any union.

"I started to work in Mine B some time in 1934 or 1935. I took no part in the formation of P.M.A. at Mine B.

"Prior to May 1937 I don't remember any strikes at Mine B. To my knowledge there was no activity by U.M.W. organizers. I don't remember any expressions of favoritism by the management for U.M.W.

"I was always satisfied with P.M.A. and I thought that the officials were fair and square with the members. I went to the P.M.A. meetings occasionally, and I was not fined for the meetings that I missed. I don't remember many extra assessments by the P.M.A.

"Prior to the strike of 1937 I don't remember any picketing by U.M.W. men. But I heard from the miners that the following men were agitating in Mine B for U.M.W.: Joe (Sam) Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, and Charles Bohannon. I also heard that these men were going on parties with the management of Mine B, but I can't remember

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH the persons who told me about this.

[redacted]

(continued) "In 1937 the P.M.A. were getting angry about the activities of the men I have named above. They did not want to work in Mine B with these men because these men were organizing for U.M.W. I think that the only reason for the strike in 1937 was that the P.M.A. men did not want to work with the U.M.W. organizers. The members of the P.M.A. felt that their leaders could get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. leaders, so I don't think the wage scale had anything to do with the strike.

"I did not know of any meeting just before the strike in 1937. On the morning of the strike, the officials of P.M.A. and the men themselves said that they would not go into the mine if the U.M.W. men went in. The U.M.W. men stayed in the office of Mine B that morning, and the P.M.A. men stood around the shaft to prevent the U.M.W. men from going into the mine.

"Prior to the strike I heard something about the activity of 5 or 6 U.M.W. spies in Mine B, and that the P.M.A. had fined them and discharged them. I don't recall from whom I heard this. When the management of Mine B let the U.M.W. men go into the mine on the day of the strike, the P.M.A. men, who did not want to strike, began to load their coal cars short. I don't know if this action had been decided on in advance of the strike. I think the men just decided to do it on the spur of the moment.

"I signed the P.M.A. petition in May 1937 voluntarily because I wanted to. As I recall I was told that the petition was to be sent to Washington to show that P.M.A. had a majority of the miners in Mine B. I think I signed the petition in the vicinity of the mine.

"I recall signing a second petition for P.M.A. just before the election in December 1937. I think that the purpose of this petition was to send it to Washington with the request that an election be held for Mine B. I think this petition was started by the P.M.A. officials.

"I was not asked to join the new U.M.W. local that started up in the summer of 1937. I don't recall any incidents of violence in the summer of 1937.

"I received a notice from the management of Mine B about the opening that was scheduled for September 1937, but I don't recall getting any other notices of an opening of the mine. I don't recall any comment by P.M.A. officials about the mine reopening in Sept. 1937. In the fall I was in the picket line at Mine B for about 30 days. The purpose of this picket was to keep U.M.W. men out of the mine. I was not forced to picket, and I did so because I wanted to.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I don't recall how I received a notice for the election in December 1937. I went to the election voluntarily, and voted for P.M.A. because I thought that was the better union and because I did not like John L. Lewis. I think that this election was fair.

"I started back to work in Mine E about two months after it opened. I could not go back sooner because that section of the mine in which I had been working had been damaged during the time the mine was shut down. After the mine opened up there was considerable trouble in the mine. There many fights and many men were beaten up. I did not see any of these fights and I don't know the names of any of the men involved. No threats or violence were used against me.

"After I started back to work, a man known as [redacted] and another known as [redacted] came to me in the mine about once a week, and asked me why I did not join the U.M.W. union. They said that everyone else in the mine was going to sign up, and that I would lose my job if I did not sign up. During this time I don't remember that the management ever expressed an opinion as to which union they preferred.

"In the election of February 1941 I voted for the U.M.W. At this time I was not a member of the U.M.W. I voted for the U.M.W. because the men that I have mentioned before in this statement had told me at one time or another that if the P.M.A. won the election, the mine would shut down again because the management had said they would shut down in that event. I did not want to lose my job so I voted for the U.M.W.

"Prior to the strike in 1937 I don't remember any employ who had the job of "air checker" but after the mine opened up in 1939 the man known as [redacted] had such a job. He had no particular duties, and I think that he was merely organizing for U.M.W. There were a couple of other jobs like this but I don't recall who held them.

"I cannot estimate the cost that was involved in reopening the mine. I don't remember big fires after the mine opened up.

"Many of the miners are of the opinion that John L. Lewis was giving money to Carl Elshoff during the time the mine was shut down. I, like the rest of the miners, think that Lewis gave Elshoff money to live on and to keep the mine in condition so that it could be reopened some day when the U.M.W. had the majority of the miners. I don't know where these ideas came from, but most of the miners had them.

"This statement consisting of this and three other typewritten pages has been read to me by [redacted] and I state that it

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

(continued)

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is able to understand English very well and to express himself easily. He speaks clearly and is easy to understand. He claimed to have no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 1, 1943.

"I, [redacted], make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who ha identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live at [redacted], Springfield, Ill., and I am employed by the Peabody Coal Co.

"I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted] Federal court in [redacted]

"I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers in [redacted] at Peoria, Ill. I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine workers of America at Mine 3 in 1936. I rejoined the U.M.W. some time in 1941, as I recall, when I was working at Mine A

[redacted]

"I always thought that the relations between P.M.A. officials and the miners were satisfactory. The officers of P.M.A. seemed to be good men, clean and square, and trying to help the miners. I think that the relations between P.M.A. and Elshoff were O.K. As I recall there were no extra assessments by P.M.A. except to pay death benefits to members of P.M.A.

"I don't know anything about any activities of any U.M.W. men or organizers before the strike in 1937. Prior to the strike I never received any literature from U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"After April 1, 1937, I knew that P.M.A. was working under a temporary agreement with the mine management. I think that the miners all were aware of the extension, and I think that they were satisfied with this arrangement. I did not hear any talk to the effect that U.M.W. would be able to get a better contract than P.M.A. Elshoff was an independent operator at that time, and could not sign a contract with any union until the association of mine owners signed with a union. Most of the men knew this, and I think that the men had no fault to find with P.M.A. in this matter.

"I can't recall attending a meeting of P.M.A. on the night before the strike started in 1937, and I don't remember whether or not I had a notice of this meeting.

"I went to work on the day that the strike started. I remember that some of the miners loaded their cars with short weights. I remember that the strike was finally called, but I don't remember if the men were called out of the mine during the day, or if they were told of the strike after they came up from the mine at the end of the day.

"I really don't know the reasons for the strike. I had heard that charges had been preferred against some of the men previous to the strike. These men, I think, were supposed to be U.M.W. men. I don't remember anything more about this matter. I remember that some men were accused, but I don't know whether they had to stand trial, or what happened to them. I don't know whether the strike was called because the company refused to fire these men or because of some other reason.

"I recall that I signed a petition for P.M.A., but I don't recall what the petition was about. I was not forced to sign this petition. I never signed a petition for U.M.W.

"I don't recall getting a notice about the reopening of the mine in September 1937. I saw in the newspaper that the mine was going to reopen. I went out to Mine B with the intention of going to work. When I got to the mine, a committee of P.M.A. men had met with the management, and were told that the management had a contract with U.M.W. and that the P.M.A. men could not work unless they up with U.M.W. The men were told this by Elshoff. Twelve men went into the mine, and were not molested at all. The rest of the men, all of them P.M.A., refused to go into the mine. The next day the P.M.A. started to picket the mine so the company could not bring any outsiders into the mine. I was on the picket line several days. I saw only Mine B men in the picket line. There were no strangers. I went to the picket line because I wanted to. No force was used against me.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

"I think that the Federal injunction in December 1937 was secured to get the P.M.A. men off the premises. I don't know anything about the attempts to open the mine in December, 1937, or January, 1938.

"In the election in December, 1937, I voted for P.M.A. because I thought that the majority of the men were in favor of P.M.A. It did not matter to me which union won, but I wanted to be with the majority so I voted for P.M.A.

"In the late fall of 1939 I received a notice from the company that the mine was going to reopen. I started to work the second day that the mine was open, and worked steadily until March 1940, when I quit and went to Mine A. [redacted]

"In the time that I was an officer of P.M.A. I had one case with Falcetti. At that time he treated me O.K. I don't know of any acts of favoritism by the management for any union.

"No one ever came to me and asked me to join U.M.W. I heard that many men were asked to join U.M.W., but I never was. No one ever threatened me.

"I heard of one case where Baumgardner hit a P.M.A. man, but I do not know the man's name. The case was taken up with Falcetti, and Baumgardner denied the charges. The man who was beaten had no witnesses. The case was pending when I quit at Mine B.

"I have heard that Baumgardner asked some men to join the U.M.W., but I don't know the names of any of these men. He never asked me to join U.M.W.

"I quit working at Mine B because I was able to get a job in Mine A where I had been trying to get a job for several years. I always thought that the working conditions in Mine A were better than in Mine B. No pressure was brought to bear on me to make me quit in Mine B. After I quit I heard about some rough stuff at Mine B, but there was none of it that I heard about when I was working in Mine B.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and three other typewritten pages and state that it is true to the best of my knowoedge and recollection.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and Special Agent [redacted] appears to have slightly more intelligence than the average miner, and related his story in a clear manner. He would be a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters contained in the following statement which he signed:

"Sept. 1, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born on [redacted] and became a U. S. citizen when I was [redacted] years old. I presently reside at [redacted] The first union that I joined was the U.M.W. in [redacted] I have never held an office in any union. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and joined the PMA union when it was formed in 1932. I believe the PMA union was formed in 1932 because the men figured they were getting a raw deal from John Lewis and the U.M.W. After the PMA was started, things seemed to be going along good until 1937 when the strike took place.

"I don't remember anything about the wage contract expiring in the spring of 1937. As far as I know the strike was called when the PMA men discovered that some of their men were acting as spies. I remember that Tony Plotch, Pete Canter, Frank Austin and others were the men who were supposed to be spies. These men would come to our meetings and try to break up the meetings. I have heard Pasquale make the remark that "there wouldn't be any progressive pretty soon". I was never asked by any of these men to join the U.M.W. I used to attend the meetings quite regularly. I was at the union meeting when our union expelled the spies from our local. As I remember it this was a regular union meeting and it took place about a month before the strike. We held a trial for the men after one of these meetings and several of our men testified that those men were working for united and trying to break up our union. I believe that Pete Carter was there and he didn't offer any defense.

"I went to work on the day of the strike, which was in May of 1937, and started my work as a digger [redacted] I don't remember any arguments or anything when I first went to work. I worked along as usual & didn't load any cars short that day. I didn't hear of any cars being loaded short until after the strike. When I came to the top after my work was over I was told the mine was on strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"After the strike was over I recall that I signed a PMA petition one day when I was at the union hall. I believe I also signed some kind of a petition at my house, which petition was brought to my house by [redacted] and [redacted] To the best of my knowledge the strike was called because of the spies being allowed to work after they were expelled.

"During September of 1937 I went out to the mine when I was told by the union that the mine was to open. As I remember it the men who had been acting as spies were there & wanted to go to work, but our men said they wouldn't work if those men were allowed to work. Since no agreement could be reached the mine didn't open and some of our men stayed there on picket duty. I went on picket duty for a couple of weeks sometime later on in September.

"I recall the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937. I left my house and went to the armory alone at which time I voted. I never heard of any fights or violence at that time. I recall that some of the spies were around the Armory passing out pamphlets for the U.M.W., but there were no fights.

"I started working for the Panther Creek #5 Mine in the fall of 1939 and never tried to go back to work for Mine B. I recall that Pete Carter, Bohannon and Frank Austin were driving new cars shortly after the strike and our men all figured they were getting the money from U.M.W. I have known Boahnnon for a long time and know that before the strike he never seemed to have any money.

"I have read over this statement of four pages and wish to say it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
U. S. Dep't. of Justice."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] stated that he has always had a bad memory and for that reason could not give much information relative to the events which took place at the time of the strike and subsequent thereto. It is believed that [redacted] would make a poor Government witness.

There is being set forth below the signed statement which [redacted] executed at the time of this interview.

"August 31, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and have been a U. S. citizen for about [redacted] years. I presently reside at [redacted]

"I first joined a union in [redacted] when I joined the U.M.W. During the last war I was a pit committeman. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and joined the P.M.A. in 1932. I quit working about a year and a half ago. Between 1932 and 1937 I attended union meetings quite regularly. I do not recall much about the contract expiring with Mine B in 1937 in view of the fact my memory is not so good. To the best of my recollection, I think the strike was called because some of the men wanted to be with the Progressive union while the others wanted to be with United.

"I remember that some of these men who wanted to form a U.M.W local were DOMINICK PASQUALE, TONY PLOTCH and some others. As far as I know all of the men were satisfied with the PMA union. I remember that at one of the union meetings some of the men were fired from the union because they were spies. I do recall that it was sometime around the time of the strike, but I don't know any of the details. I know that there were some claims made that somebody stole some ballots when the mine went PMA, but I do not remember anything more about the relationship between the company and the union.

"I recall that there was some question about a contract and wages about the time of the strike, but I can't remember the details of the disputes.

"I was on the picket line at mine B from some time in Sept. of 1937 until I started working for the Panther Creek Coal Co. I worked there

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

for about four years and did not work for Mine B again. I never saw any fighting while I was at Mine B and I was never threatened at any time. I remember signing some kind of a petition at PMA union headquarters and I think this was a petition to the company about going back to work.

"At the time of the strike I was working [redacted] and I remember loading some of the cars short because everybody else was doing that, but I don't remember why they were doing it. I don't remember any of the details about the strike because I have always had a bad memory.

"I think the petition that I signed was a petition to the labor board to show them how many PMA men were at the mine. I have read over this statement, have initialed the first two pages, and hereby sign the last page. This statement is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESS

[redacted]) Special Agents, F.B.I.
U. S. Dept. of Justice

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated that [redacted] stated that he had a great deal of difficulty remembering dates and events [redacted] and so for that reason it is not believed that [redacted] would make a good witness.

The signed statement executed by [redacted] at the time of this interview is being set forth as follows:

"August 30, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] I have been a U. S. citizen about [redacted] years and presently live at [redacted] I am presently employed at [redacted]

"I first started mining in about [redacted] and followed that trade until June of 1943. I joined the U.M.W. in about [redacted] and was in that union until about 1932 when I joined the P.M.A. I do not recall when I went to work at Mine B, but I was there when I joined the P.M.A. As far as I was concerned I was satisfied to remain with United, but when the PMA came into being at Mine B I was more or less compelled to join PMA in order to hold my job. As far as I was concerned, conditions were the same under PMA as under the United. I lived quite a way out of town so I never attended many of the meetings. I heard about the PMA men being convicted for some bombings in about 1936 or 1937 & I always felt they were not guilty of what they were charged with.

"Before the time of the strike I don't remember any activity on the part of the U.M.W. to organize the men. I was never asked to join the U.M.W. before the time of the strike. I remember that a new contract was to be signed between the company and the union in the spring of 1937. I was quite sure the matter of wages would be settled by our union and the company. I do not know anything about what the union was doing to settle the issue, as I hardly ever attended any meetings. I did not attend a union meeting the nite before the strike.

"On the day of the strike I went to work as usual in [redacted] as a driver and as I recall it a lot of the men starting loading the cans short.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

I asked some of the men why they were loading the cans short and the men told me they were trying to bring the company to terms. I believe some of the men said they didn't want to work with some men who were supposed to be spies for the U.M.W. I do not know the names of any of the men who were supposed to be spies. I do not know of my own knowledge what caused the strike.

"I remember that within a few weeks after the strike somebody asked me to sign a PMA petition to go back to work. As I recall it these men brought the petition to my house. I also recall some men asking me to join the U.M.A. one night while I was in a tavern, but I told them I didn't want to join the United. I was never threatened by anyone trying to get me to join a union.

"About two or three months after the strike I went to work for Mine A. I only worked for Mine A until [redacted]. [redacted] I have not been able to do any hard labor since that time and have not worked in a mine since that time.

"I have read over this entire statement of four pages, have initialed the first three pages, and hereby sign this page. This statement is true to the best of my memory.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnesses

[redacted] (signed)
[redacted] (signed)

Special Agents, FBI
U. S. Dept. of Justice"

C O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated [redacted] he could not talk the English language very well. [redacted] is a rather elderly man and stated that he had a very bad memory. It is believed that this man would make a very poor witness. There is being set forth below the signed statement executed by [redacted] at the time of this interview.

"August 30, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] and have been a U. S. citizen since about [redacted] I presently reside at [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. union in [redacted] and have been a miner all my life. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and stopped working in about [redacted]

"When the rest of the miners joined the FMA I also joined the F.M.A. union. I was working at Mine B at the time of the strike in May of 1937 and I remember that a motor man came to me and told me that the mine was on strike. The men were dissatisfied with the union because of the high dues they were paying and because they weren't getting anything in return. I do not know anything about any men who were supposed to be spies for the U.M.W. I do not know anything about any dispute between the men and the company. I never went to many of the union meetings at that time so I do not have any knowledge about the union's activities. [redacted]

"I do not have any information about what took place at Mine B between 1932 and 1937. This statement has been read to me by [redacted] at whose residence I reside, and I wish to state that it is true to the best of my memory.

"x [redacted] (signed)

"Witnesses

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted])Special Agents, F. B. I.
[redacted])U. S. Dept of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted], at which time he stated he had only a vague recollection of what took place at Mine B at the time of the strike. [redacted] has difficulty understanding the English language and it is believed he would make a poor witness. [redacted]

There is being set forth below the statement which was taken at the time of the interview with [redacted] It is being noted that [redacted] stated he did not want to sign this statement inasmuch as he was [redacted]

"Sept 1, 1943
Springfield, Illinois

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and have been a U.S. Citizen since [redacted] My home address is [redacted] and I am presently [redacted]

"I started mining in about [redacted] & joined the U.M.W. at that time. I have never held an office in the union. I started working for Mine B in 1937 and at that time I was a member of the PMA union because I had worked at the Sangamoun Coal Co. before that time. I started working for Mine B in the spring of 1937 and so I don't know anything about the strike. I was working [redacted] as a timberman and at that time I was working nights so I don't know anything about the union activities. I never heard anything about any men who were supposed to be spies for the U.M.W. I do not know anything about any wage dispute or contract at the mine in the spring of 1937. I was on the picket line at the mine for about 52 days and everything was quiet at that time. There was no fighting or violence that I know of.

"I went back to work at Mine B when it opened up in 1939, but only worked there about a month. I left Mine B to work for the B.J.G. Coal Co which was Progressive and later worked at Panther Creek #6. 1/2 HE I quit Mine B because I got a better job and because I didn't like to

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] work nights.
(continued)

"This statement has been read to me by Agent [redacted] and I wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

His mark (X)

"Witnesses

[redacted])Special Agents, F.B.I.
[redacted])U. S. Dept. of Justice."

"NOTE: This statement read to [redacted] who admitted it was true, but he declined to sign it."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] can understand very little English and cannot carry on any kind of conversation in the English language. He was interviewed by Agents through the cooperation of [redacted] who acted as interpreter. [redacted] had very little information relative to the instant case and it is believed he would make a poor witness. There is being set forth below the following statement which was executed by [redacted] and signed with his mark, "X".

"August 31, 1943
Springfield, Illinois

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I am not a citizen of the U. S. I started working as a miner in [redacted] when I came to the U. S. and joined the UMW in [redacted] I have never held any office in any union. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and am still employed at Mine B.. I joined the Progressive Union in 1932 when the rest joined. Nobody threatened me at any time to join the union and as far as I'm concerned, one union is as good as the other.

"I do not know anything about any of the men in Progressive acting as spies and trying to organize for U.M.W. Since I cannot understand much English and cannot speak the English language to any great degree, I never heard anything about what the men were talking about. I never talked about wages or strikes with any of the men at the mine. I just went to the mine and did my work and then came home. I know there was a strike at Mine B in 1937, but I don't know what the strike was about except that there was an argument going on between United and Progressive.

"When the mine went on strike I came home with the rest of the men. I went out to the mine in Sept. of 1937 and stayed on picket duty at the mine until Thanksgiving. I do not know anything about any petitions put out by the P.M.A. In view of the fact I cannot write my own name I know I didn't sign any petitions and don't remember ever giving my consent to anyone to sign any petition.

"I remember the NLRB election held in Dec. of 1937, but do not know any of the details of the election. I do not have any knowledge of what took place at Mine B between Dec. of 1937 and November of 1939. I heard the mine was to open in November of 1939 so I went back to the mine.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

When I started working for the mine in 1939 I stayed a member of the PMA until about Jan. of 1940 when I joined the UMW. I joined the UMW because all the other men were joining that union. As far as I was concerned conditions were the same under United as they were under progressive. When I went back to the mine I was given my old job as a digger [redacted] I have never been threatened by anyone at the mine and I have never seen any of the men fighting. The only thing I can say about the strike of 1937 and the conditions out there, is that there was some kind of fight on between the unions.

"This statement has been given by me with the aid of [redacted] who has acted as interpreter. This statement has been read to me by [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory.

X (his mark)

Witnesses

[redacted]

Special Agents, FBI
U. S.Dept_ of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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b7D

[redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] in an effort to interview [redacted] who had been employed by Mine B at the time of the strike. The city directory reflected a [redacted] residing at [redacted] At that address it was ascertained that the [redacted] who had lived at that address operated a gas station located [redacted] was interviewed at that place at which time he stated his home address to be [redacted] that he had never worked at Mine B and that there was a great possibility of there being two [redacted] in Springfield.

[redacted]

In view of the fact the [redacted] who formerly worked at Mine B is no longer residing in this community, no further effort is being made to locate him.

b7c b7D

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] appears to know nothing concerning events at Mine B, it being noted that he was unaware at the time that a strike had been called at Mine B. He would not make a satisfactory witness, he neither reads nor writes English, and expresses himself with difficulty.

He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 1, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] and have been a citizen since [redacted] I presently reside at [redacted] I came to Illinois in [redacted] and started working in the mines then. I joined the U. M. W. union in [redacted] and have never held any office in any union.

"I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and at that time I was a member of the Progressive union since I had been working at Peabody #5. I have never attended many of the union meetings and so I don't have any information as to why the mine went on strike. I went to work on the day of the strike and worked that whole day [redacted] as a digger. When I came home that day nobody told me there was a strike and in fact I got up the next morning & waited for the men to pick me up to go to work. When the men didn't come for me I went for a walk and saw some miners who told me the mine was on strike.

"I remember that after the strike I signed a petition at Progressive union hall to go down to work. I think I signed some other petitions. After the strike I heard that some of the Progressive men were spies for the United. I do not know the names of any of the men who were supposed to be spies.

"I never went to the mine while it was shut down and never was in the picket line. I voted in the election of Dec. 1937 and as far as I was concerned everything went along fine.

"I went back to work at the mine in 1939 when I got a letter telling me to come back to work. I went back to work and took up my old job. I joined the U. M. W. a couple of months before the election at the mine in February in 1941. I joined the U. M. W. union because I thought all the rest were joining up and I didn't want to lose my job. Nobody even told

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

me that I would lose my job, but I didn't want any trouble. I hardly ever go to any union meetings now, and never did go to many because I don't understand the English language very well.

"I haven't any information as to what caused the strike.

"This statement was read to me by [redacted] in the presence of my wife and I wish to state it is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

[redacted]

[redacted]) Special Agents, F B I
) U S Dept. of Justice"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by

Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 29, 1943. [redacted] is [redacted] years of age, a United States citizen and is employed at Mine "B" as an entryman. He informs that he has never been convicted of a major crime, but refused to state whether he had ever been convicted of any crimes. [redacted] appears intelligent for a miner but conveniently forgets things. He would not make a good government witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943

"I, [redacted] of [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Fed'l. Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat_ force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in about [redacted]. I derived my U. S. citizenship from my father, [redacted] who was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted]

"I first started mining when I started work in Mine 'B' in Springfield in about [redacted] I belonged to the United Mine Workers of America at that time. In 1932 our UMW local went over to join the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and I became a PMA in 1932. I changed because the majority of the men wanted to change. I was a PMA from 1932 until the strike at Mine 'B' in 1937. During this time I never noticed any attempts on the part of the UMW to organize a picket of Mine 'B' and I never noticed that any of the company officials in any way influenced the men for either UMW or PMA. During this time I noticed no strikes or closedowns at Mine 'B'. I thought the PMA union was all right and the PMA officials honest. I read of the bombing cases about this time but I am not familiar enough with this situation to be able to make a statement.

"I remember some of the men were expelled from PMA but I do not know why and I never asked why. I had very little activity with the Union, PMA, altho I had been elected to the PMA Pit Committee in Dec., 1936. In about March, 1937, one of the PMA officials whose name I don't remember, suggested I resign from the Pit Committee

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] because I was not capable, but nothing more was said or done about this.
(Continued)

[redacted] and was not working at the mine at the time of the strike in May, 1937, or right before that time, and I didn't attend any meetings of PMA during that time. I do not know anything about the strike, why there was one, or how it was called, [redacted] the PMA was picketing at Mine 'B' and I joined them for about a week, [redacted]

"During the summer of 1937 I do not remember signing any petitions either for UMW or PMA.

"I do not remember having been called to work at Mine 'B' between May 1937 and Nov., 1939, and I do not remember whether any effort was made to open Mine 'B'.

"I don't remember anything about a UMW organizing in 1937.

"I was at the Mine 'B' picketing when the U. S. Marshall came out just before Thanksgiving of 1937 and told us we had to leave. I just walked off and thought no more about it.

"I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Board Election in Dec. 1937 in which PMA beat UMW. I was not threatened in any way in this election.

"I returned to work in Nov. of 1939 as a Progressive and changed to UMW the following spring. No force or violence of any kind was used to make me change to UMW and I changed because I saw most of the fellows were changing to UMW.

"During this time I knew of no organizers in the mine and after I heard some of the PMA men were beaten up I never said anything which would indicate that they were. Since the Spring of 1940 I have been UMW and no one has tried to make me change. I voted in the NLRB election in about 1941 when UMW won, but no one threatened me in any way.

"When I returned to work in Nov. of 1939, I don't remember seeing anything unusual like results of fires or cave-ins.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] b7c b7D
(Continued)

[redacted]
That is the only position I have held in this UMW local.

"In Spring of 1937 I remember there was some controversy between the PMA and the company over retroactive pay, and I think this might have been the reason for this strike. But I never heard the reason for the strike was because the company would not fire those men expelled from the PMA local.

"I have read this statement of four pages and believe it to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witness:

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent FBI"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he executed a signed statement which is quoted below.

[redacted] was extremely cooperative and appeared eager to assist in this investigation. It is believed he will make a very good witness and appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the pertinent facts in this case [redacted] He voluntarily supplied agents with a copy of a 28 page petition dated Sept. 10, 1937 and entitled, "Designation of Representative For Collective Bargaining Under the National Labor Relations Act". The petition contains a list of approximately 431 names and reflects that the signers thereof wish to be represented by PMW in all negotiations. A receipt was given for this statement and it is being retained in the files of the Springfield Field Division.

[redacted] is presently unemployed and he has no known criminal record. He also exhibited his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army.

The following is the signed statement as obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] I began to work in the mine at Peabody Mine #53 in [redacted] and I then joined U.M.W.A. I worked at several mines but remained a member of this union until 1932. I became dissatisfied with the way John L. Lewis was treating us and because they stole the ballots at the election in 1932, I joined PMW. I did not work at the mines then until [redacted] when I went to work at Mine B. I was a member of PMW at this time and was also on the mine committee the first year I worked at Mine B. In this capacity, I had the job of settling the grievances and I never had any difficulty in any way with Oscar Falsetti or any of the other officials.

"A short time before the PMW strike in 1937, I was aware that there were some labor spies who were attempting to persuade the miners to join the U.M.W.A. About three weeks before the strike I came to work at about 6:30 A.M. and saw that some yellow pamphlets had been distributed.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

Those pamphlets as near as I can recall had to do with the fact that we would not get any retroactive pay. I was "digging" and when I saw these I knew that the spies were behind it. In fact, I took a handfull of them ___from Dominic Pasquale who was one of the spies.

"I never saw any of the officials of the mine and the officers of UMWA together but I did see this group of spies on several occasions come out of PMW meetings and go over and meet the UMWA officials. I know the spies personally and they were Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale. On April 27, 1937, these spies were agitating. This was payday and the first one for work done after the old contract ran out. They were going around talking to the fellows that they weren't getting any back pay and would not as long as we belonged to PMW and told us we would if we belonged to UMWA. The yellow pamphlets I mentioned before were distributed on statement day which was three days before payday.

"The PMW officials told us we would get retroactive pay but that the Mine Company said they did not have any contract to force them to do so. Then the PMW called a meeting for May 11, 1937 and I was called on to testify at this meeting on my knowledge of these spies. At this meeting I believe there were 5 of them expelled from the union. In my estimation they were given as fair a trial as they could have gotten in any court trial.

"On the morning of May 12, an order was given out to start a slow-down. We were loading cars with only 5 or 6 hundred pounds in them. The slow-down order did not come from any of the union officials but was more or less made up among the men, because the Mine B Coal Company refused to discharge the spies who had been expelled from the PMW and the men refused to work with them. Later in the day the driver told me there was a strike and there would be no more work there so I went up to the surface with the rest of the men.

"On May 26, 1937, I think it was_ we were picketing out in the road and there was a card table set up and we all signed a petition that we wanted to be represented by PMW. This petition was got up to see how many of the men had changed to UMWA as a result of the agitation by these spies.

"On Sept. 10, 1937, I signed a PMW petition to have PMW Local #54 represent us for collective bargaining under the NLRB Act.

"I think the Mine B Company put a notice in the paper that the mine would open on Sept. 27, 1937, so when the whistle blew that morning

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

the members of Local 54 began pciketing to protect our jobs because it had been announced that the mine would open under UMW contract. There was no violence except that about ten of us told the engineer that we would start the pumps inasmuch as they tried to shut-off on us. The picketing continued until December when Carl Elshoff got an injunction out to keep us from picketing. Just after the picketing stopped the mine tried to open again and they brought 10 or 15 car loads of men from Taylorville in to open the mine. No violence occurred at this time.

"The mine at empted to open several times after that but they could only get a few men to work.

"In November 1939, I received a registered letter that the mine would open under a more or less open shop - that is the PMW had bargaining rights but could get nocontract. At this time I was present of Local 54 and sat in on conferences at which we tried to negotiate a contract but Elshoff refused to grant a closed shop or check-off system so no contract was ever signed. We worked under this agreement for some time and the PMW had a lot of death claims amounting to about $20,000 and I went to the PMW officials to get those paid but they said they were not financially able to do so. The UMWA then used this as a "club" over the miners heads because they offered to and did pay some of the claims. In this way they gained membership. [redacted] Therefore I do not know anything about the NLRB election held in 1941 other than that the UMW won it.

"At the time the mine reopened there were some pretty big caveins but the mine was in fair condition because they began hoisting coal the next day after it opened.

"I do not now belong to any union and have no preference for either PMW or UMWA.

"I have read the above statement consisting of about 5½ pages written in the handwriting of [redacted] and know it true & correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed: --

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
Sp. Agt. F.B.I. - Spfld, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home [redacted] in Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 30, 1943. No signed statement was taken inasmuch as he appeared hostile toward any interrogation at the outset of the interview. He expressed complete ignorance of this investigation but stated he began working in the Coal Mines when he was [redacted] years old and at that time he joined U.M.W.A. He stated he was working at the old Sangamon Mine in 1932, when the P.M.A. was organized and that he joined the P.M.A. only to hold his job at this mine. He stated his memory was bad but recalled that he was out of work for two or three years after he joined P.M.A. He stated he went to work at Mine "F" sometime prior to the strike in 1937. He said he thought the strike was called because P.M.A. wanted to get rid of Lewis. He denied ever talking to any of the miners about joining a union or of the U.M.W.A. trying to get him to change from P.M.A. when the new U.M.W.A. Local was formed. He did say though, he joined U.M.W.A. shortly after the mine opened so he could hold his job. He could not recall signing any petitions of either union at any time. It should be noted here that he later said he could not recall anything about the strike or any other strike at Mine "F", at which time he also refused to talk to agents as he said he was not on trial and if agents wished to talk to him they could arrest him. He said he did not like any unions and they were all "rackets" and were operated only for the officials.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on August 29, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] getting his citizenship papers in [redacted]. He advised he had no criminal record. He is presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #4. [redacted] understands English fairly well but has difficulty in speaking it. He has a good memory and thinks coherently and with the help of [redacted] translator he would make a good witness. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943

"I, [redacted], of [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Intestigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promises of any kind.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a U. S. Citizen in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted]

"I first started working in the mines in Springfield in [redacted] and became a member of the United Mine Workers Union then. In about [redacted] I started working at Mine 'B', Springfield.

"In 1932 John L. Lewis came in, or the UMW came in, and held an election to see whether we wanted to work under a contract with the company or not. We voted no but Lewis had the ballots stolen and the UMW signed the contract. So the whole UMW local decided to form a new union and the Progressive Miners of America Union Local #54 was organized and I joined that.

"Before we changed to PMA I never noticed Elshoff, Falcetti, or anyone in the company bother anyone in this union. They seemed to get along all right with the union when it was UMW and when it changed to PMA in 1932 they still seemed to get along all right. They never tried to get me to change one way or the other.

"Between 1932 and 1937 I never noticed anyone from the company try to change us to UMW and there were no strikes, slowdowns or closedowns during that time.

ERROR IN PAGE NUMBERING - NO MATERIAL OMITTED.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"During the time from 1932 to 1937 I liked the PMA union very much. It was honest and a good union. I have never held a position or office in any union.

The rest of the men seemed to like the PMA also.

"I remember the bombing trials being held back at that time, but I do not know anything about them and never had any opinions about them.

"During this time I never noticed any UMW picket lines and I never saw anyone try to organize for UMW.

"In about 1937 I noticed Joe Albanese, Andy Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Slotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, the two Jacaways, George and Elmer, 'Bowling Green' Bohannon, and several others were working for UMW. On March 17, 1937, at 2:00 o'clock in the morning some one placed a bomb in front of my house on the step and wrecked my house pretty badly but no one was hurt. But I do not know who did it. Just before the bombing and until we went out on strike no one ever tried to talk me into joining UMW.

"Before May of 1937 I never noticed that any of the men I named above were going with any company men and I never saw them at parties together. About 2 weeks before May 12, 1937, about six or seven of the men I have named were kicked out of the PMA local because they were working for UMW.

"On May 12, 1937, I went to work in Mine 'B' like always. Before we went down the Pit Committee went in to Falcetti and told him that the men who had been kicked out of PMA should not be allowed to go down into the mine but Falcetti said they should. We all went down to work and the Board Member went to Falcetti to tell him that he should fire those men who had been kicked out of PMA. But he said no so the Board Member called the PMA president who said we should strike. I was down in the mine all this time, but no cars came for my coal so about three o'clock I walked out and went on top because the driver told me we were out on strike. I had not noticed any cars being loaded short.

"A couple of weeks after we went on strike I remember signing a PMA petition and I think I signed another PMA petition a month or so later. But I never signed a UMW petition. I signed the PMA petition to show I wanted to stay with PMA and not go to UMW. No force or threats or promises were made to me to sign those PMA petitions.

"No one tried to get me to join the UMW in the summer of 1937 but during that summer I saw and heard that those men who had been kicked out of PMA came to all the houses of PMA men and told them if they wanted to go back

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

to work they had better sign with UMW. They went to [redacted], whose name I cannot spell, and talked him into joining UMW.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 I heard the Mine 'B' whistle blow one night and some of the men told me Mine 'B' was going to open the next day. So I went out to Mine 'B' next day, but the company wouldn't let any one in. Finally, [redacted] whose name I cannot spell, talked with Falcetti after Falcetti wouldn't let us work and Falcetti said the company had a contract with UMW and we couldn't go down to work unless we signed with UMW. So none of us went down except about 25 UMW men and we went home. The next day we went back to the mine but none of the UMW came to work so we started a picket line which lasted for about 56 days and I was in the picket line all the time. We had no one helping us picket except just our PMA local, and a couple of days before Thanksgiving in 1937 the U. S. Marshall told us we had to get out, so we did.

"I do not remember going back to try to work in Mine 'B' until Nov. 1939. I remember voting in an election held by the National Labor Relations Board a month or so after Thanksgiving of 1939 when the PMA beat the UMW 404 to 35.

"No one tried to get me to join UMW before I went back to work in Nov. 1939. In November of 1939 I got a letter that the mine was going to open and I should come back to work so I went. In 1937 I had been working on the south side of Mine 'B' but when I went back in 1939 the work was all on the west side. I did not notice there had been any fires or many caves and it did not look to me like there had been any.

"After I went back to work in 1939 the UMW tried to organize down in Mine 'B'. [redacted] was one of the UMW who would come down to me three or four times a day and call me a Progressive son of a bitch and said if I wanted to keep my job I had to join the UMW. [redacted] said he would kill me if I didn't join UMW.

"One day, about four or five months after Nov., 1939, after [redacted] had bothered me so much I went to Oscar Falcetti and told him what [redacted] was doing. Falcetti said I had the right to chose any union I wanted to. [redacted] was brought up before the Pitt Committee of PMA and he said I was lying when I said he tried to organize for UMW. But the next morning when I was on my way to work, 'Bowling Green' Bohannon drove up and asked me what the hell I had been doing. He said if I didn't keep my mouth shut he'd knock my brains out. When I got to work that morning [redacted] asked me how I liked my friend 'Bowling Green.'"

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"During this time, in 1940, UMW men would come to the Mine 'B' and work a couple of weeks and then leave. One of these fellows just a month or so before the NLRB election in 1941 tried to get me to join UMW. He came up to me while I was working in Mine 'B' and said 'Let me put this button on you.' It was a UMW button. About 15 days before the NLRB election in 1941, [redacted] came to me and asked me if I was going to join UMW. He said it was the last day to sign. About this time I saw a lot of PMA men get beat up by UMW men. One of them was [redacted] who was beat up, another was an old man about [redacted] years old whose first name was [redacted] [redacted] told me [redacted] beat him up. [redacted] was an air man but I never saw him work and all he did was talk about UMW. In about Feb. 1941, the NLRB held an election which UMW won. I voted in that election but no one threatened me in any way. I went to vote but I had changed to UMW because I didn't want to lose my job, and before the election the UMW local had a meeting and we all went from the meeting to vote. At this meeting they told us everybody go over and vote UMW and everything would be all right. There were about 200 or more men there. I think the election was fair.

"I changed to UMW the last day they let me. 'Cudge' came to me that day and I signed because I didn't want to get beat up and I wanted to have my job.

"This statement of eight pages has been read to me by Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

/S/ [redacted]
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on August 31, 1943.

At [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, phone [redacted] Agents interviewed [redacted] in the presence of his wife and daughter, and he advised he has never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that he is an illiterate person of foreign birth and he had difficulty in understanding the questions and answering them and he was assisted by his wife and daughter. He was cooperative and appeared sincere and it is not believed he would make a good witness unless his testimony is necessary.

He furnished Agents with a signed statement which he initialed and signed and which is set out as follows:

"Springfield, Ill
August 31, 1943

"I [redacted] Springfield, Ill. hereby give the following statement to [redacted] & [redacted] who are known to me to be Spec. Agts. of the F. B. I. No threats or promises have been made me. I was born [redacted] I came to the U.S. in [redacted] and became a citizen [redacted] in [redacted] I first joined a mine union [redacted] this was the U.M.W., I transfered this to U.S. I was first employed at Mine "B" in about [redacted] and worked there till May 1937 as a coal-digger. From [redacted] to 1932 the U.M.W. had no trouble with Elshoff so far as I know. When the union swung over to the P.M.A. I went over then too. I felt conditions were twice a good under P.M.A. as U.M.W. I went over because I wanted to nobody made me.

"From 1932 to 1937 there was no trouble that I know of. Everything was ok in the P.M.A. union up until about 2 or 3 weeks before the strike. As far as I know the P.M.A. officials were all right, no force was used to run the union and if a miner had something to say it was ok. While I was in the Progressives I attended one or two meetings a month.

"I dont know anything about the men who were convicted for the bombings. I dont think the P.M.A. officials were doing anything wrong with our money.

"I dont know about any trouble being caused the P.M.A. by the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

U.M.W. I never saw them give out any literature or anything. About 2 or 3 weeks before the mine closed there were about 25 men who would start talking about which union the men should join. I never heard anything about any parties given the U.M.W. officials by ELSHOFF.

"At the time the contract ran out in 1937, I did not hear anything about the kind of agreement they reached for us to work under. A member of our local board told us at one meeting that when an agreement was reached we would get back pay for any increase we got. Nobody seemed to be mad about this agreement. We heard nothing from the management as to the kind of agreement made.

"I attended the meeting at which the 5 so-called spies were expelled from P.M.A. I can't tell now what happened it is too long ago. On the day of the strike the men were provoked because the Co. let the 5 expelled men go back to work. There was no talk of striking because of pay.

"I dont remember anything about cars being loaded short the day of the strike.

"I dont remember signing any petition for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. if I had signed any it would have been P.M.A.

"I heard of the forming of the U.M.W. local in Jul. 1937, I was not contacted to join this as I had made it known that I wouldn't join. I dont remember anything unusual happening during the summer of 1937.

"I returned to the mine when they tried to open it in 1937. The Progressives didn't go to work that day because Falscetti didn't want the Progressives. As I remember the U.M.W. men went out for 2 or 3 days. The Progressives then said if we dont go to work nobody is going and the U.M.W. men stayed in the office. I was out at the mine most of the time we were there to protect our jobs. No one forced me to go and it was all peaceful. Some said that some carloads of U.M.W. men came out but I didn't see them. I was not there the night the marshall came and told us to leave. I never went back to the mine except once to the wash-house to get my pet-clothes.

"I voted for P.M.A. at the first N.R.L.B. election I did this of my own free will. It looked to me to be a good election.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

When the mine opened in 1939, I read about it in the papers. I dont remember getting a letter. I just went out to get my clothes, my tools are still there. I would not work with the U.M.W. if I didn't have any job. I started in 1938 in another mine and was not interested in the job at mine B.

"I am still a P.M.A. member I work in Panther Creek mine #5.

"Nobody ever talked to me about joining the U.M.W. if they did I chased them away.

"I have had read to me by [redacted] this 5 page statement and it __ the truth as I rember it. I am therefore signing it and initialing each page thereof.

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul Minn.

[redacted]
Spec. Agt. F.B.I.
(Milwaukee, Wis.)"

(Signed) [redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Aug. 31, 1943

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on August 30, 1943.

At the [redacted] mentioned hereinafter, agents interviewed [redacted] He advised that he was arrested once some years ago in connection with a divorce proceeding but has never been arrested on a criminal charge.

It was observed that [redacted] appeared to have more intelligence than the average miner and he seemed to have a very retentive memory; he seemed to know what the mine trouble was all about. He speaks English very well and is understandable. He was very cooperative and said that he would appear in court if it were necessary for him to do so. It is believed that he will make a good witness.

[redacted] furnished Agents with the following signed statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 30, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the United States on [redacted] and became a citizen of American in [redacted] I started at Mine B in [redacted] and am still there and I am a coal digger and timberman. In [redacted] I joined United Mine Workers [redacted] and I also had a card from the old country. I never have held any union office. The union runs alright prior to 1932 when UMW was there, and it was a pretty good local at that time. I felt pretty bad when John Lewis wanted us to take the cut back in 1932 or so. The trouble started over some one stealing some ballots--I heard that. That was why the men changed over to PMA. I thought it was alright when the men changed over to PMA from UMW and I went over because the rest did. PMA officials and the management got along alright prior to the time the mine closed down. I don't know if Elshoff preferred one union over another then. No one talked to me before the strike to turn over to UMW again. Local 54 settled all matters alright with Mine B officials and there was no trouble that I know of. I felt satisfied with PMA that the officials were doing right by us miners and I had no complaints to make at all. The men in local 54 had their say in all matters and we voted on matters and no certain men run it by themselves and no one forced us to do things. I attended quite a few PMA meetings then. In regard to the PMA men being convicted for the bombings I did not know anything about it as I never paid much attention to them. The

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

PMA officials gave us a black and white report as to what they did with the money and I never suspected them of being crooked. UMW men never picketed Mine B nor did they give out literature prior to the time the mine closed. I don't know of any persons spying for UMW prior to the time the mine closed. I don't know about any parties being given by Elshoff or UMW men. After the contract expired I heard that [redacted] had made a temporary contract with Elshoff and we were supposed to get back pay but I never got any pay. The PMA was doing alright by us miners then. Just before the mine closed there was no trouble over the wages that I know of and everything seemed to be alright. No one ever bothered me then to join over to UMW. I don't know anything about the PMA officials and the management fighting over the wage contract.

"I did not attend the meeting the night before the strike but I recall that the Trial Committee had voted to oust 5 men and at that meeting I heard that the men voted to throw out these 5 men. Regular Meetings were on second and fourth Fridays and I don't know if this was a regular meeting or a special one. There was no talk of wages around the mine on the day it closed down. No one said that we would not get a contract between PMA and Mine B. I heard that the Committee told FALCETTI several times to get rid of those 5 men but they would not kick them out. On the morning of the strike there was no trouble there that I recall of. In Box 3 and 4 and others I heard that some cars were being loaded short that day and later that day I also saw some cars that were loaded short. I don't know why the cars were being loaded short that day. Down below nobody knew there was going to be a strike. About 14 or 15 minutes before quiting time we were called out and we were told the mine was to be shut down. I heard [redacted] and Elshoff were arguing about those 5 men and that is supposed to be why the strike was called. Right after Mine B closed I signed a PMA petition. I was not forced to sign that at all. I don't recall what they said about it anymore. I signed it on the road outside the mine there. I never signed any UMW petition that summer but I heard there was one around but no one came to me with it. Later on I signed another PMA petition as they wanted to know if I still was PMA and I was and no one forced me to sign it. I believe I signed that at a meeting. I heard that UMW started a local that summer and that men were around but none came to see me. Nothing unusual happened during summer of 1937 that I know of. During fall of 1937, on a Sunday, I was in a saloon near 14th St., and Tony Plotch came in and said the mine was going to be reopened and that I had better be there. That was the first I knew of it. PMA did not have any meeting to decide what they would do if the mine were opened by UMW. I took my dinner bucket and went out to Mine B the next morning to go to work but Falcetti told us that he wanted 50 UMW men to go down into the mine. [redacted] said to Falcetti he could give him 100 PMA but he didn't want us. Falcetti told us that we would have to be UMW men to go down. 11 or 12 UMW men did go down into the mine and before they had been PMA men. JOE ALBENESE, Andy Schrevlevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, believe both Jacaways, Tony Plotch, and Charles Bohannon and Jim Hale and several others went down alright. By letting those men go down--that was the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

cause of the picketing out there for several months. I went home twice a week but I was there on the strike most of the time. The men out there were from Local 54 and there were no outsiders brot in to help us. We just sat around, played ball and cards and just watched the property at Mine B. PMA officials did not force us to go out there and we were there to protect our jobs there. While we were there no one bothered us and UMW did not cause any trouble and the sit down strike was very quiet and peaceful. I was there when the U. S. Marshall told us to leave. He read something and said we had better leave and we all left and there was no trouble at all regarding leaving.

"I don't recall if I went out to Mine B later again when it was supposed to reopen. Oh, yes, I remember that in some chilly weather I was at PMA office and lawyer Dahl and Mr. Burke said something about them going out to take the mules out of Mine B. I went out there but nobody went down then and I went home again. I just don't know what the reason was why no one went to work.

"I voted for PMA at the NLRB election at the Armory in Springfield, Ill. 404 went for PMA and 25 for UMW. That was an honest election. I was not forced to vote by anyone and I voted the way I want to. It was by secret ballot and no strong arm methods were used.

"I don't know why PMA and Elshoff could not sign a contract after PMA won the election. I got a registered letter from Elshoff telling me I had to be back in 10 days in order to get my job back. I figured I would get paid the regular scale wage and no one told me what wages we were to get. Nothing was said about a contract that I know of. After the mine opened Bohannon told us in the Redman's hall on Monroe St., in Springfield, Ill., that if we joined to UMW that they could get a contract in 4 weeks. Many of the old PMA came back when the mine opened. [redacted] talked to my buddy in the mine and asked him if I was going to sign over and my buddy, [redacted], told him that I had said that I was going to wait till the Courts decided the matter. I had heard that [redacted] (phonetic) had been in the hospital and he had been beaten up and I am sure that PMA did not do it. I also saw [redacted] (PHONETIC) on the street and he said he had a fight at the mine one day. He was bleeding and had just come from the mine and he was on his way to PMA office to report it. No one ever threatened me to join over. I was working company work so no one bothered me then. There was a dead line of going over to UMW by January 16, 1941 and I finally signed up and then next month NLRB had another election at the Armory. I had to sign up otherwise I would not have a job. Some one had marked on a pit car with chalk that after January 16, 1941 there would be no more PMA and I believed that and I knew that things might happen so I signed up with UMW.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"During summer of 1940 I never signed any card for UMW but till Jan. 1941 I paid dues to PMA. When I went back to work in 1939 at Mine B I signed some card showing that I was still with PMA.

"NLRB had another election at the Armory in Springfield, Ill., and altho I was with UMW then I still signed PMA as I liked that local and I had been satisfied and they had a nice bunch of men. No one told me to vote that way and no force was used and it was by secret ballot and was an honest election. There had been many new UMW men at the mine and I also think that many PMA voted for UMW because they were afraid that the mine would be closed again as I heard some gossip about that. Box 4 was cleaned up in two days. Box 3 took a little longer as it had a little squeeze in it. Box 2 and 9 were never reopened. I don't know of any fire at Mine B in 1939. I know Glascow but I don't know of him talking about money at any meeting.

"This is about all I can think of in connection with this strike and I had to go to work for WPA then.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read this 2 page statement to me and it is true and correct and I have signed it of my own free will."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSES:

[redacted]
Spec. Agent F.B.I. (Milw., Wis)

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.,
St. Paul, Minn.
Springfield, Ill.
Aug. 30, 1943

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is a naturalized citizen who is no longer working in the mines. He was cooperative and sincere, but had little information concerning the matter under inquiry as he was not active or interested in union matters. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, at the [redacted], and I was born on [redacted] and I arrived in the United States in [redacted] I became a naturalized U.S. citizen at [redacted]

"I first started working in the mines [redacted] and joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to herein after as the UMW. The mine was operated by the [redacted] I worked there from [redacted] at which time I came to Springfield, Illinois.

"Upon my arrival in Springfield, I started working in the Citizens Coal Mine, near Springfield which is called Mine A at the present time. I started working at this mine as a member of UMW and remained there until about [redacted] In [redacted] I went to work in Mine B as a UMW member and worked there until May 12, 1937, when the mine shut down, [redacted]

"I never held an office in a mine union and only went to mine union meetings about once every three months. I joined the UMW in [redacted] and I remained a member of that union until September, 1932, when the Progressive Miners of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, was formed. I joined the PMA because the majority did and not because anyone threatened me. I don't know anything about the reduction in the wage scale in 1932. I don't know if I voted or not on the wage scale matter. I heard the ballot box was stolen, but I did not know why it was stolen, or who did it.

"I did not take any active part in organizing the PMA and only attended their meetings about once in three months. I thought this was a good union and the leaders were capable men. I'm speaking of the PMA now. I remained a member of PMA until February 21, 1941 when Mine B signed up

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

with the UMW. I remained a member of the UMW until I quit mining on [redacted]

"As far as I know, relations between Elshoff and the UMW at Mine B were good prior to 1932. I don't know which union Elshoff or Falcetti favored if any as I did not hear them talk about unions.

"In the Spring of 1937 a group of men having PMA cards were organizing for UMW. I knew the following men: Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Cotton, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale. In the Spring of 1937 these above mentioned men were trying to get the men to sign up with the UMW and I saw two fights by the wash house, but I stayed away because I did not want to get in trouble. I do not know who the men were as it was dark. I heard the fight was over union matters because they would not join the UMW and these PMA men never came back to the mine. I was never threatened either by the UMW or the PMA men, and I was not asked to join the UMW at this time.

"In May, 1937, I heard some men had been expelled from the PMA because they were acting as organizers for UMW, but I do not know their names. The last day the mine worked, in May, 1937, I loaded the coal cars short, because a PMA man named John Schneider told the miner to do so while we were down in the mine. I loaded the cars short, but no one told me why we loaded them short, and I did not ask. I always did what the Union told me to do as I did not want any trouble, however, no one threatened me when I was told to load short.

"Elshoff would not sign a contract with PMA in 1937 and there was pleanty of men to work. I think Elshoff liked the UMW better than the PMA because later he gave the UMW a contract, but I don't know why he favored the UMW.

"After the shutdown at Mine B in May, 1937, I was in the picket line of PMA at that mine about two weeks at the most. From May 1937 to November, 1939, I did not have regular work, and did not go back to the mine after I finished about two weeks picketing, until the mine re-opened in November, 1939.

"In November, 1939, when I went back to Mine B, I was still a member of PMA and no one asked me to join the UMW until just before the second NLRB election in February, 1941. Just before this election, Tony Plotch, who was a member of UMW and a check weighman at Mine B, talked to me at the mine. Tony said, [redacted] you might as well join UMW as all the rest have". Tony talked to me in a friendly way and did not threaten me. He gave a UMW card to [redacted] (phonetic) who was a member of the UMW, and he brought it to my house at [redacted] Springfield. I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] signed it voluntarily and gave it back to him.

(continued) "I liked the PMA union best, because it was more democratic as they had a good committee in the union who helped make conditions in the mine better. The UMW had a committee, but it was not as good. The PMA did not beat up UMW men to get them to join PMA, but the UMW organizers beat up miners to get them to join the UMW.

"I have had this statement, consisting of two pages read to me by [redacted] and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed: [redacted]

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
[redacted], Special Agent, FBI.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was cooperative, but because of his limited knowledge it is not believed he would make an effective witness. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following is the signed statement of [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made.

"I was born [redacted] I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers in [redacted] I joined the Progressive Mine Workers in 1932 while I was working at Panther Creek Mine #4. I became employed at Mine B in [redacted] and am employed there at the present time.

"Before 1937, from the time I became employed at Mine B, I knew of no trouble of any kind at the mine. I was entirely satisfied as to the PMA, and had no doubts in the leadership of the PMA union.

"Before the strike, in 1937, at Mine B, I knew of no activity on the part of UMW men in Mine B. I was not contacted by any UMW man myself, and did not know of anyone who was.

"I did not know of any meeting of the PMA held the night before the strike. I do not know if there was a meeting or not, for I never heard anything about it. On the day of the strike, we were called out of the mine, and were told that there was a strike. I do not remember who told me that a strike had been called. I don't remember hearing anything about why the strike started that day in May of 1937. I didn't hear anything about there being U.M.W. spies in the mine, causing the strike, but I do know that the strike was not called because of wages. I do not know the cause of the strike. I know that the men were satisfied with the P.M.A. and the efforts the P.M.A. was making to settle the wage question.

"I do not remember signing a P.M.A. petition in the summer of 1937. I don't remember signing any petitions at all in the summer of 1937.

"In the summer of 1937, TONY PLOTCH and COTTON ANANIAS came to my home and asked me to join the U.M.W. I told them I wouldn't join unless I

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

had to, and I didn't have to at that time. No one else contacted me, and I was not threatened in any way by anyone to join the U.M.W. in that summer.

"I don't remember whether I got a notice that the mine was to be re-opened in September of 1937. I remember that I did go on the picket line in the fall of 1937. No one forced me to go on the picket line, but I just went because a lot of the men did. I don't know the purpose of the picket line, but I believe it was to keep all the men from working, both U.M.W. and P.M.A. It seems to me that the injunction gotten by the management was directed against the P.M.A., because the management favored the U.M.W. The original trouble started when some of the men tried to get elected to offices, in the P.M.A., and lost out. COTTON ANANIAS, TONY PLOTCH and ANDREW SCHRELEVICUS were the ones who ran for office and got licked, and were the leaders of the trouble. I don't know anything specific, but I just have the feeling that the above named were shown favors by the management.

"In December of 1937, I voted in the election at the State arsenal. I voted for the P.M.A., because I was thoroughly satisfied with the P.M.A. From the time of that election until the mine re-opened, I was not contacted by anyone in attempts to sway me in my choice of unions.

"In the fall of 1939, I received a notice from the management of Mine B, telling me to report to work, that my old job was open.

"After I returned to work, it seemed to me that the management favored the U.M.W. men in the mine. After I began work, a man came to me in the mine and told me I had better sign with the U.M.W., because the U.M.W. was going to get a majority in the mine, and unless a man was U.M.W. he would lose his job. I do not know the name of this man, but he was a big man. He was in the mine, but I never saw him doing any work in the mine. At the time he told me that all but twelve men had joined the U.M.W., and I was one of the twelve. This was just before the election of 1941. He never threatened me in any way.

"I joined the U.M.W. just before the election, because, on account of my age, I couldn't get a job in another mine and I felt I had to join U.M.W. to keep my job at Mine B. At the election, I voted P.M.A., in spite of being a member of U.M.W., because I felt it was the best union. I didn't join U.M.W. because I wanted to, but because I had to to keep my job. I think that P.M.A. is the best union, and would like to see it in the mine at the present time.

"Before the election I did not see or hear of any violence on the part of either union to influence the election of February, 1941.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I recall a fire in box 4 after the mine opened, but, if I remember correctly, that happened in 1942. I don't know the extent or the cost, but the box is still closed down.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of approximately four and one quarter pages and state it is true to the best of knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSES:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill.

C O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 1, 1943, at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is a self-educated young man who speaks clearly and precisely. He claimed not to have much interest in union activities and he also claimed to have no criminal record. The following statement was prepared but [redacted] declined to sign it.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I presently live at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, and am employed as a mine engineer at Mine B. I was born [redacted] I joined a mine union for the first time in [redacted], when I joined the P.M.A. on becoming employed at Mine B. I have never held an official position in any union. Shortly after the strike of May 1937, I joined the U.M.W., and am a member of that union at the present time.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike, and don't know anything about the meeting, or the reason therefore. On the day of the strike, the men were just standing around, without doing anything. I don't know the reason for the strike, how it was called, or anything about it.

"Shortly after the U.M.W. formed a local chapter for Mine B, I signed a membership card for the U.M.W. The reason for my joining the U.M.W. was because my father had been a member for years, and liked the U.M.W. I was willing to go along with him, and that is the reason I joined.

"In the fall of 1937, I saw in the paper that the mine was to be reopened. I was working in Springfield, and didn't go back to the mine at that time. In fact, I didn't go near the mine from the day of the strike until I returned to work in November of 1939. In the fall of 1937 when the Progressives picketed the mine, I believe that the management was correct in getting the injunction to keep the picketers off his property.

C O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b1C b1D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"In the election of December, 1937, I voted for U.M.W., because I was a member of that union.

"I remember hearing of some violence at the mine after we returned to work, but I didn't see any myself. I saw one fellow who was supposed to have been beat up down in the mine, but I don't know of any of the particulars. I worked on top, and have no knowledge of anything that went on down in the mine.

"Since becoming a member of the U.M.W. I have attended quite a few union meetings. I remember seeing in the newspaper that Jack Glasgow was expelled from the U.M.W., but I don't remember the particulars and I don't remember attending any meeting at which this matter was discussed.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of slightly over two pages, and state that it is true to the best of my recollection.

[redacted] declined to sign this statement although he stated that everything contained in it was the truth).

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] makes a very good appearance and speaks very good English, with a slight [redacted] accent. He gave his information freely and voluntarily to the extent of his knowledge. It is believed that he would make a very good witness. He claimed to have no criminal record. [redacted] is employed [redacted] The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no force or duress used, and no promises made me.

"I presently live at [redacted], Springfield, Ill. I was born [redacted], and came to the United States in [redacted] I became a naturalized citizen in federal court, [redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers in Springfield in [redacted] and was a member of such union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I remained a member of this union until 1941, when I rejoined the U.M.W., when they signed a closed shop agreement with the management of Mine B.

"I began work at Mine B in [redacted] and worked there until 1942, with the exception of the time we were on strike. [redacted]

"I did not take an active part in organizing the P.M.A. I just went along with the men. After its organization I attended several of the meetings. I was very well satisfied with the P.M.A., for it was run by clean, honest men. The men running the P.M.A. tried to do what was right and best for the men, and always gave a full explanation of all special assessments. The relations between the union and the management of Mine B, until 1937, were entirely satisfactory as far as I know.

"I do not know of any activity on the part of U.M.W. agitators prior to the strike in 1937. I do know that no one tried to get me to join the U.M.W. before the strike. The night before the strike, in May of 1937, I remember attending a union meeting. I don't remember how I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

knew about the meeting, as well as I remember, the meeting had to do with some men who were kicked out of the P.M.A. for U.M.W. activity. I remember the following names as some of the men: DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, COTTON ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEORGE AND EMORY JACAWAY, CHARLES BOHANNON and JIMMY HALE. I remember that these men were mentioned at that meeting. I also remember some talk at the P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike about what would happen if the company didn't discharge the above named men, but I don't remember what action was decided upon.

"On the day of the strike in May, 1937, the men went down into the mine and loaded a few cars, some full, some only partly full. After a while, the union called the men out of the mine, that is the P.M.A. I don't remember how notice of the strike was sent down into the mine. I don't remember why the men loaded the cars short, and can't really remember the cause of the strike. I think the strike was called because the P.M.A. didn't want the above mentioned men to work in the mine, but I can't be sure of it. I don't remember that any talk or dispute over wages entered into the strike at all.

"I remember signing a P.M.A. petition shortly after the strike began, but I don't know what the petition was about. I know I signed only the one petition, and know I signed none for U.M.W. I believe I signed the P.M.A. petition at Progressive Hall, but I don't remember anyone coming to the house. No one approached me that summer to sign a U.M.W. petition, or to talk me into joining U.M.W.

"I received a notice from Mine B management that the mine was to reopen in Sept. of 1937. I didn't go out to the mine at that time, and didn't know anything about the picketing.

"In the election of December, 1937, I voted for P.M.A. The majority of the men were for it, I thought it was the best union, and I didn't want to have anything to do with the U.M.W.

"In the fall of 1939, I got another notice from the Mine B Management that the mine would re-open. I appeared for work, and remained there until 1942, when I quit and got my present job. From the time the mine reopened in 1939, until the election of 1941, which the U.M.W. won, I was talked to by U.M.W. men several times, and they tried to get me to join the U.M.W. One man, [redacted] talked to me quite a bit, and told me that, unless the U.M.W. won the next election, and unless we all joined the U.M.W., the management would close down the mine, because they wouldn't work with the P.M.A. I was never threatened or abused to join the U.M.W., and voted for the P.M.A. in the election in 1941, which the U.M.W. won. I joined the U.M.W. after the election, because I had to if I wanted to keep on working at Mine B.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

"I saw several P.M.A. men beaten. One was [redacted], and I can't remember the names of the others. The men were beat up by Bohannon, Lensky and Sirtout, some in the wash-house, and others outside the mine. The men were beat up because they were members of the P.M.A., and wouldn't join the U.M.W. I don't remember any conversation or activity on the part of the Mine B management to influence the men toward U.M.W. during this period.

"I remember that, after the mine re-opened, in the fall of 1939, [redacted] got a job in the mine as an air checker. There was no position before the strike, and he spent almost all the time talking to the men and trying to get them to join the U.M.W. I have heard several of the men say that he was paid by the U.M.W., not the mine management, but I don't remember who said that, and I know nothing more about it.

"I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A. in every way. In my mind, it's much the better of the two unions. I only joined U.M.W. because I had to to keep my job.

"I have had this statement, consisting of approximately four and one half pages, read to me and state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 31, 1943, by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] seemed to have only a limited knowledge of activities at Mine B because of his lack of interest in union activities and absence from Mine B since 1937. For these reasons it is not believed that he would make a valuable witness. He claimed to have no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [redacted], Springfield, Ill. I was born [redacted]. I am presently employed [redacted].

"I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, about [redacted] or [redacted] while I was working for the [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I rejoined the U.M.W. when I was working in Mine A. I don't recall the exact date.

"Prior to the strike in 1937 I recall hearing something about some arguments and incidents at Mine B, but I don't recall what they were about. Prior to the strike I don't recall that anyone ever tried to persuade me to join the U.M.W. However, I do recall that [redacted] one day told me and my father, when he called at our house, that there was going to be trouble at Mine B. He did not give any more information, and because both my father and I were P.M.A. men we paid no attention to [redacted]. Everything was going smoothly at Mine B. All of the miners seemed to be satisfied with P.M.A. I thought it was a good union, and that the leaders were trying to do good for the miners.

"I went to some of the P.M.A. meetings. As I recall, we had to attend at least one meeting a month. At those meetings everyone had the chance to speak his piece. I don't recall any discussion at these meetings about the bombings that were going on about that time.

"Some time before the strike in 1937 I heard something about an argument between some of the drivers and [redacted] I don't remember any of the details, but as I recall he was supposed to be carrying a knife. I don't know if he was said to be a spy for U.M.W., or if there was any talk about U.M.W. spies in the mine at that time.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I don't recall anything about the P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike. I can't recall how the strike started in May 1937. It seems to me that there was some controversy about some men who were supposed to trying to get members for U.M.W. from P.M.A. I don't remember if there was any talk about these men having been discharged or fired. I think it was because of the controversy about these men that the P.M.A. on the day of the strike loaded their coal cars with short weights. I think that the only reason for the strike was the trouble about these men. I don't recall any talk about wage scales.

"After the strike started in 1937 I went [redacted] and since that time I have not been in Mine B. However, I did vote in the election for Mine B held in December 1937, and voted for P.M.A. because I thought the majority of the miners wanted that union, and because I thought it was a good union.

"Some time in February or March 1938 I started to work in Mine A. I stayed at that mine until a short time after U.M.W. obtained the bargaining contract for the miners there. In the election that was held for Mine A I voted for U.M.W. because I wanted to save my job, and I thought that U.M.W. would win the election. It really made no difference to me which union won the election. All I wanted was my job.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and one other typewritten page and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witness:

[redacted], Special Agent, FBI (signed)
[redacted] (signed)
Springfield, Ill."

C O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. This man speaks English with some difficulty of expression, and he can understand English only when it is spoken slowly. He claimed to have no criminal record. The following statement was prepared but not signed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. [redacted] and do not work.

"I was born in [redacted] I came to the United states in [redacted] Previous to [redacted] became a citizen of the United States [redacted].

"I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] in [redacted] I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1936. About two or three months before the election in February 1941 I rejoined the U.M.W. I never was an officer in any union.

"I went to a few meetings of the P.M.A., but I don't remember any talk about organizers for the U.M.W. I don't know of any trouble within P.M.A. or between the P.M.A. and the U.M.W.

"I knew there was to be a meeting on the night before the strike started but I did not go to the meeting. I don't remember how I knew about this meeting.

"On the day the strike started in 1937 I saw everyone going out of the mine, and I went along with the miners. I don't know any reasons for the strike. I did hear some talk about getting back pay, but I don't know if this was the reason for the strike.

"I never signed a petition for any union in 1937, and no one from the U.M.W. tried to get me to join the U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

"I remember reading in the paper that the mine would reopen in the fall of 1937, and I went out to the mine. In that fall I got into the picket line, but I don't know why the picket line was put up. I saw only Mine B men in the picket line.

"In the mine election of 1937 I voted for P.M.A. because I wanted to go along with the majority of the miners. It really made no difference to me which union had the mine contract. I only wanted to work for my living.

"No one tried to get me to join U.M.W. until the mine reopened in 1939. Before the mine reopened I received a letter from the company, and was told when to report for work.

"After I started to work again, a man known as [redacted] asked me how I would like to join the U.M.W. I said that it made no difference to me to which union I belonged.

"I signed with U.M.W. about 3 months before the election in February 1941. I voted for U.M.W. because it seemed to me that most of the miners wanted this union. I also thought that I would have to join the U.M.W. to keep my job. [redacted]

"To me one union is just like any other. I have no preference one way or the other. Nobdy ever threatened me to make me join a union.

"This statement consisting of this and one other typewritten page has been read to me by [redacted] and I state that it is true to the best of my recollection and knowledge.

([redacted] declined to sign the above statement although he stated that everything contained in it was true).

/S/ [redacted]

Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] is unable to read the English language and had little knowledge of union affairs. He executed the following signed statement which was read to him by [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] arrived in the United States in [redacted] was naturalized at [redacted] I presently work at Mine "B" near Springfield, Illinois and reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill.

"In [redacted] I first worked in the Peabody Mine #6 at Springfield, Illinois as a member of the United Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as UMW. I worked there about six months. I worked in other mines after this as a member of UMW.

"In 1921 or 1922 I worked in Peabody Mine #53 under the UMW and worked there until [redacted] In [redacted] I went to work in Mine "B" under the UMW. and worked there continuously until the present time with the execption of the period from May, 1937 to Novermber, 1939 when the mine was closed while the strike was in progress.

"I never held an office in any union.

"I became a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA in September, 1932 becuase everyone else changed to PMA at Mine "B".

"ELSHOFF had no trouble to my knowledge with the UMW before 1932. As far as I know ELSHOFF got along alright with PMA from 1932 to 1937.

"I did not help organize PMA. I know nothing about how the PMA members liked their union leaders. As far as I know everyone was satisfied under the PMA.

"No one started any trouble over the wage scale back pay.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I know all of the following persons:

JOE ALABANESE
ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS
DOMINIC PASQUALE
PETE CARTER
FRANK AUSTIN
TONY PLOTCH
JOHN SIRTOUT
CHARLES BOHANNON
GEORGE JACAWAY
EMORY JACAWAY
JAMES HALE

"Two or three weeks after I returned to Mine "B" to work when it re-opened in November, 1939 I signed a UMW card and became a member of UMW. I didn't want to join UMW, but everyone else did so I did too. I was never threatened or made to join. I always stayed in the background and let the other men decide what to do.

"I did not know about the activities of the eleven men whose names are mentioned above in this statement, except that after the mine opened in 1939 these men went around to the miners to get them to join UMW. I heard that some miners were beaten up but I don't remember who or why they were beaten.

"I remember when the five men were thrown out of PMA in May 1937, but I do not know why. I did not go to the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 because I do not understand English well. For this reason I can not talk very well about union affairs or what the trouble was in 1937 when the strike took place at Mine "B".

"I helped picket Mine "B" with the other PMA members for several weeks after the mine closed.

"I do not remember if I ever signed any PMA or UMW petitions.

"I do not care which union I work under. I do not know anything about PMA and I do not know anything about UMW.

"I have had this statement consisting of one and one half pages read to me by [redacted] because I do not read English. This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and I gave the information set forth above of my own free will.

(Signed) [redacted]

"Witnessed:
[redacted] (signed)
[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is a naturalized [redacted] He was cooperative and had a fair understanding of conditions at Mine "B" from 1936 to January 26, 1940. He executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

[redacted] I came to the United States about [redacted] and I was naturalized in [redacted]

"Upon my arrival in the United States in [redacted] I started working in the mines at [redacted] The first union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW at the [redacted] I helped organize UMW in that mine about [redacted] as near as I can remember.

"I came to Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] and went to work at the Capitol Mine and the #2 Sangamon Mine under the UMW.

"I went to work at Mine "B" about 1936 under the Progressive Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"I never held an office in any union. I attended most of the union meetings at Mine "B". I liked the PMA and was satisfied with its' officials. I do not like the UMW on account of JOHN L. LEWIS and some of the UMW officials.

"In the UMW a miner can hold an office indefinitely, but in PMA a miner can hold an office for only two years at one time.

"In Mine "B" I was working as a 'digger' and TONY PLOTCH came to me about a month before the strike in May, 1937 while I was digging in the mine during working hours and asked me twice one day to leave the PMA and join the UMW. He said I better join UMW now and I said no, that I would wait and see which way the other miners went and he again said that I should not wait for the others, but that I should sign up with UMW right away. I did not do it.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Regarding the wage scale trouble, I was expecting to get the back pay, but I know nothing about what was going to be done by ELSHOFF or the PMA officials to get the back pay.

"I know some of the men who were aggitating for UMW in mine "B" both before the mine closed on strike and after it opened in November, 1939. These men were as follows:

JOE ALBANESE	JOHN (COTTON) ANANIAS
ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS	JOHN SIRTOUT
DOMINIC PASQUALE	CHARLES BOWLINGGREEN
PETE CARTER	JAMES PALE
FRANK AUSTIN	
TONY PLOTCH	

"I attended the PMA meeting held on May 11, 1937. I learned this was a special meeting from the PMA Pit Committee.

"In the meeting the five men were thrown out of PMA because of the aggitating they were doing at the mine. I voted to throw these men out of PMA and everybody else at the meeting voted the same way. Most of the PMA members present at this meeting including myself, got up and told how these men tried to get us to join UMW. I don't believe the five men were at this meeting.

"The PMA miners who didn't attend the meeting on May 11, 1937 were told about what happened the next morning at the mine.

"I went down in the Mine "B" at 8:00 A. M. on May 12, 1937. However, before 8:00 A.M. the PMA Pit Committee came around to us diggers and told us not to bother about filling the coal cars up to the top and so I shorted my cars that day. I think the coal cars were shorted for two reasons. These reasons were as follows: Because ELSHOFF would not discharge the five men who were thrown out of PMA, and because ELSHOFF would not give us our back pay.

"As best as I remember it, it was about May 14, 1937, about two days after the coal cars were shorted that I went to Mine "B" and all of the PMA men were there too. We all wanted to go to work, but Oscar Falcetti would not let us go to work unless we joined UMW. I learned it was this way because the PMA Pit Committee went to ELSHOFF's office to see about working about the back wages and other things, and I heard that most of the twelve men including TONY PLOTCH were in ELSHOFF's office at that time.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

ELSHOFF called the Sheriff out to the mine to have the PMA men thrown off the property.

"The twelve or fourteen men who were aggitating for UMW went down the shaft to work. I saw this. I saw Oscar Falcetti go down the shaft with them.

"I helped to picket the mine for about three or four month after that.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of PMA.

"In November, 1939 I started back to work when the mine re-opened.

"On January 26, 1940 ANDY SCHERLEVIOUS who lives now on [redacted] Street, Springfield, Illinois and who got a job last week at Mine "A" came up to me in the wash house at Mine "B" early in the morning. He said, 'you better not put on your working clothes and go down in the mine, because if you do, you will never come up from the mine.' [redacted] who lives on [redacted], Springfield, Illinois was standing near me when this was said and he told me that I'd better sign up with UMW.

"I did not go down in the mine that day and I never went back, because I did not want to join the UMW, and I was afraid I would be killed if I stayed there any longer as a member of the PMA.

"I can speak and understand the English language, but can not read it well. This statement was read to me by Special Agent [redacted] in the presence of [redacted] at my home at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)
[redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed)
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed on August 31, 1943, by Special [redacted] Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence. [redacted] appeared willing to cooperate in answering the questions put to him, appeared to be alert and definite, and would willingly testify if called upon to do so.

Following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born in [redacted] I was naturalized an American citizen at Springfield, Illinois, date not recalled, but before I was twenty one years old, as I gained my citizenship through my father, [redacted] I am presently employed by [redacted] and live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois.

"I have worked off and on at mines including Mine "A", Mine "B", and at the Capitol Mine owned by the Peabody Coal Co.

"I recall that I was working at Mine "B" under the United Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as UMW in [redacted] and I continued to work at Mine "B" under the UMW until 1932 when Mine "B" went Progressive Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA. At that time I became a PMA member.

"I was a member of the Pit Committee under the UMW for a period of two and one half years and held the same position for two years under the PMA. I attended all union meetings under the UMW and under the PMA.

"Sometime in the year before 1932 whn the PMA organized in Mine "B", [redacted] and another miner whose name I don't remember were discharged from Mine "B" by the company bosses. UMW had the contract with Elshoff at this time.

"The above men were considered by me to be fair loyal union men who wanted to look after the interest of the miners. I believe some of these men were UMW officials at this time. I believe that the discharge of those men contributed to the success of the organization of the PMA in September, 1932.

"It was my job as a member of the Pit Committee, UMW, to get those

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

men back to work, and I tried to do this and in so doing I took the matter to Board member [redacted], and the to JOHN H. WALKER and finall[redacted] and I went to see JOHN L. LEWIS. Either the Union officials were not able to get these men back to work or else the UMW officials did not want them back to work in the mine. I do not think the discharged men were aggitating for the formation of another union at this time as this was before the formation of PMA. I think these men were discharged for some other trouble. Elshoff discharged them, according to Oscar Falcetti, because they were aggitators.

"I was in favor of organizing PMA at Mine "B" in September, 1932. I figured it was time to get away from JOHN L. LEWIS'S control, I took no active part in organizing PMA.

"I know nothing about the relations between ELSHOFF and PMA from September, 1932 until April, 1937. I was on the Pit Committee under PMA the first two years after it organized. As far as I can recall I worked at Mine "B" until the miners went on strike in 1937.

"I believe the PMA membership was satisfied with the PMA leaders.

"I believe I heard that literature was passed out by the UMW to get the PMA men back into the UMA.

"I do not remember why the five men were thrown out of PMA. I did not attend the PMA meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937.

"I know nothing about coal cars being shorted or why they were shorted.

"I know nothing about the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of PMA. I helped picket Mine "B" for 56 days.

"I went out to the mine everytime it was supposed to re-open, but I never went to work on these ocassions.

"I heard the whistle blow on the days Mine "B" was supposed to re-open. Only UMA men went back to work on these ocassions.

"The last day I worked at Mine "B" was on the day the miners went out on strike in May, 1937, until January, 1942. I finally left Mine "B" in June, 1942. When I went back in January, 1942, I joined the UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I have no desire to ever work for the UMW organization under the present leadership. I preferred the PMA over the UMW because I felt I was treated more fairly by the UMW.

"I have read this statement consisting of two and one half pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI. "

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed at his residence on [redacted] August 31, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He appeared willing to fully answer questions put to him, though his knowledge of pertinent facts was limited. He presents a good appearance, is alert and willing to testify if called upon to do so. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I presently reside at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois. I was born in [redacted] I arrived in the United States having derived citizenship through my father [redacted]. I first started working in coal mines in [redacted] at Springfield, Ill. I started working at Mine A, or mine B, as a member of the United Mine Workers of America, hereinafter referred to as UMW, and I worked in these two mines and four other local mines from [redacted] I presently work at Panther Creek Mine no. 4.

"In [redacted] I started working in Mine B and continued to work there until May, 1937 when the mine closed down. I did not help in the Progressive Miners of America picket line. I will refer to this latter union as the PMA. I did not go back to Mine B until November, 1939 when the mine opened. I worked then from November 1939 to [redacted] when I voluntarily quit and went to work at [redacted] Illinois, and I never did go back to mine B. I worked as a member of UMW from 1916 to September 1932. I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932 when Mine B went Progressive. I have remained with the PMA from 1932 to the present time. and never did rejoin the UMW.

"I never held any office in the UMW and the only office I ever held in PMA was as a member of the trial board of local 54 at mine B. I held that position for about two years which I think was about [redacted] From [redacted] to 1932 relations between ELSHOFF and UMW were good. In 1932 when the UMW officials stated that the ballot box was stolen, I didn't believe it and neither did other miners, so I joined the PMA. I did not help organize PMA. I went to very few union meeting in 1937. At that time I never heard anything about UMW men organizing in the mine. I never heard the PMA expelled any men. The last day the mine worked in May, 1937 I knew coal cars were shorted. I thought the cars were being shorted because Elshoff would not pay the back pay he had agreed on. No one tried to get me to join UMW. I signed the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show I wa a member of PMA. I don't remember any other petitions.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"When mine B opened in November 1939 I went to work as a member of the PMA and worked to February 12, 1940. No one has ever contacted me to join the UMW. I do not know anything about the wage scale problem or the efforts of UMW and PMA to get or maintain the bargaining rights at Mine B.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the one and a half pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 1, 1943. It is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to speak English fluently. He has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

[redacted], Ill.
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted] I came to U. S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen of U. S. in [redacted]

"I first joined U M W Union in [redacted] in [redacted] I came to [redacted] and worked in a mine there. Later in [redacted] began working at Mine "B". I have not held an office in any union.

"In 1932 I joined P. M. A. because all the men in U M W were changing to P M A so I changed too.

"There were no strikes or close-downs that I know of between 1932 and 1937. Sometime in the 1st part of May 1937 a group of men at the mine while waiting to go down the shaft said several men had been expelled from the P.M.A. for spying. No one approached me in any way to join U.M.W. At the end of that day we were called out on strike and I understood that it was because the management had refused to stop those men who had been expelled from continuing to work in the mine.

"I don't recall signing any petitions in the summer of 1937.

"In Sept. 1937 I read in the paper that Mine "B" was going to reopen so I went to the mine to work and when the whistle blew for work only about 13 men started to work and they were U M W members so we began picketing. I picketed at the mine for 56 days until an injunction was served on us. Only Mine "B" men picketed the mine then.

"I voted in the N L R B election in Dec. 1937 and P M A won by 404 to 25. It was a fair election as far as I could see. No violence of any kind occurred at the election.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
[redacted]
(continued)

"I received a letter in Nov. 1939 that the mine would reopen. I went to work as a digger in the same room I had worked in 1937. My tools were still there and I didn't notice any large cave-ins at the mine. No one attempted to get me to change from P M A to U.M.W. at any time. I voted P M A in the N L R B election in February 1941. About two days later I joined U M W because the election showed U M W had a majority and I wanted to be with the majority.

"I am now working at Mine "B". If I had my own free choice of any union I would prefer P.M.A.

"I have had this three page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at [redacted] his home in [redacted] Illinois, by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] on September 1, 1943. [redacted] advised he does not have a criminal record. [redacted] would not make a good witness as he cannot speak English very well.

[redacted] provided the following statement:

[redacted] Ill.,
September 1, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] emmigrated to the U. S. in [redacted] I am a citizen of the U. S. being naturalized in [redacted] in [redacted]

"I started mining coal in the U. S., in [redacted] in [redacted] and became a member of UMW in [redacted] about [redacted] I remained a member of UMW until I became a member of PMA in 1932. I became a member of PMA because my local UMW changed to PMA in 1932. I took no active part in the formation of P.M.A.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"I was employed by Mine "B" in about [redacted] and I am now employed by Mine "B" as a trackman.

"Prior to Sept. 1932 the management of Mine "B" seemed to be on good relations with UMW.

"Between 1932 and May 1937 UMW did not set up a picket line at Mine B, nor did UMW distribute literature at Mine "B". No one attempted to get me to change from PMA to UMW between 1932 and May 12, 1937.

"I at no time saw an official of UMW with the management of Mine "B".

"So far as I know there was no controversy over the wage scale in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937 and do not know if I had notice of such a meeting. I did not take any interest in union activities. I did not know of anyone being expelled from PMA in

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] May 1937.

(continued) I reported for work on the morning of May 12, 1937. Someone told me sometime that day that the mine was on strike, everyone looked like they were going home so I went home. No one told me why Mine "B" was on strike and I did not know the reason. So far as I know there was no intention on the part of miners to strike that day. I saw no coal cars loaded short the day of the strike.

"I think I signed two PMA petitions in the summer of 1937. I do not rember much about the petitions and I cannot remember where I was when they were signed. No one threatened me if I did not sign.

"I did not sign a UMW petition in the summer of 1937.

"I do not know of the formation of a new UMW union in the summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 I heard PMA had a picket line at Mine "B" and I went to picket in order to enjoy myself. I acted as a picket off and on for about two months. I was not forced to be a picket. So far as I know no persons acted as pcikets except Mine "B" employees. There was no violence during the time I acted as a picket. An injunction was obtained to prevent picketing. I was not present when the injunction was served and do not know the attitude toward the injunction.

"I did not know of Mine "B" attempting to re-open in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. I think the election was fair and I was allowed to vote any way I wanted to.

"In the last part of 1939 I received notice to return to work at Mine "B". I returned to work and received a job as track man a short time later. I did not see the result of any large fires on my return to Mine "B", there were a few cave-ins. Several months after I returned to work at Mine "B" Charles Bohanon and a man named [redacted] asked me at Mine "B" if I would join UMW. I informed them I did not know if I wanted to join or not as I was PMA at which time they stated if I did not join I may be too late. No one threatened me if I did not join UMW. Several months after I went back to work I saw [redacted] a few minutes after someone beat him very badly. I do not know who beat him. [redacted] was beat while he was in his room at Mine "B". I also saw two more unknown men fighting. I do not know why [redacted] was beat.

"In the last part of 1940 I knew most of the men at Mine "B" were

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

joining U.M.W. so I joined. I joined UMW through Charles Bohanon, Bohanon promised he would get my son a job at Mine "B" if I joined UMW. Bohanon got my son a job at Mine "B".

"In Feb. 1941 I voted at the N.L.R.B. election PMA. This election was a fair election.

"I am now employed at Mine "B" and I am treated all right.

"I have had this statement consisting of five pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:--

[redacted] Illinois
[redacted], Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This man is uneducated, and professed an inability to read or write English, except his own name. He can understand English only when very simple, plain questions are asked of him. He speaks in a very high, squeaky voice. He claimed to have no criminal record. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no force used, and no promises made me.

"I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I am working at Mine B. I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen in [redacted]

"I just joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in Springfield about [redacted] years ago. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, and went back to the U.M.W. in 1940. I never held an office in any union. I started work in Mine B when the superintendent was a man known as [redacted] I was working at Mine B in 1932 when the P.M.A. took over the union, and I followed the majority of the men and joined the P.M.A. From that time until the strike in 1937, conditions at the mine were all right, and there was no trouble.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike and I don't know the reasons for the strike. I think that [redacted] called the men out of the mine, but I don't know why, other than that I heard it was because we didn't get a raise in pay. I don't remember signing a P.M.A. petition, or any other one, in 1937, and I don't know whether I voted in the 1937 election or not. Because I can't read English, speak or understand it well, I never took much interest in union meetings.

"While the strike was going on, George Sirtout told me that if I stayed in the P.M.A. I couldn't have a job at Mine B. He told me that the men would go back to work, and the company would open up the mine, if the men would join the U.M.W.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

"About two months after the Mine B opened in 1933, I went back to work, having been called to work by [illegible] Elshoff when my room was ready. I don't remember the exact time but I know that after the mine opened, a man known as [redacted] told me that I should join U.M.W. or else I would get beat up. I was never beat up, but I saw many men beat up in the mine by U.M.W. men. I don't know any of the names. I know that the sheriff beat up some men who did not join the U.M.W. I joined the U.M.W. right after I went back to work at the mine. I felt that I had to join to keep my job and was afraid I would be beat up if I didn't join.

"I have never been beaten up, but I am afraid to say anything against the U.M.W., because I know if I do, I will be beat up.

"This statement was read to me in the presence of [redacted] I state that this statement consisting of 2 and 1/2 pages is as true as I can remember the facts.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

/S/ [redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois, on September 1, 1943.

Agents interviewed [redacted] at his home at [redacted], Illinois, and he advised he has never been arrested in his life. He was interviewed in the presence of his wife, and it was noted that although he speaks and understands the English language very well, he could not recall things very rapidly, and his wife had to assist him in recalling specific instances. It is felt that if [redacted] is needed as a witness that he would make a fair witness.

[redacted] furnished Agents with a signed two page typewritten statement which is as follows:

[redacted] Ill.,
Sept. 1, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No force or threats have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] and became a citizen of the United States in Illinois. I have not worked for the last 3 years or so. I first joined a union [redacted] and when I came to U.S. I became a member of United Mine Workers, shortly after I came to the United States. I never have been an officer of any union. I started at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., about [redacted] years ago or so. When the split happened in 1932 or so when John L. Lewis wanted lower wages I was working at [redacted] but afterwards I went to Mine B. I think I joined PMA union after I went to Mine B. I joined the PMA of my own account because I was against John L. Lewis anyway. Before the mine closed in 1937 OSCAR FALCETTI of Mine B always seemed to favor the UMW over PMA even tho PMA was the local there. For about [redacted] months before I got my job at Mine B Falcetti would have me come out to the mine every day and it seemed because I was a Progressive and a UMW man he would not hire me. Finally my brother-in-law, [redacted] told me that Falcetti was hiring men and finally I saw Falcetti that I would work in any place and finally he hired me.

"Most of the miners felt that PMA was a good union but there were a few traitors in the place. I never heard any complaints against the Progressives and most of us miners were satisfied. I was a coal digger at Mine B. I and other miners all felt that those PMA men convicted for the bombings were all framed and were not guilty and we felt that UMW had something to do

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] with it.

(continued) "I never suspected that PMA officials were stealing money and we never had any special assessments like they did with UMW. The Progressive union was run by us miners and it wasn't like the UMW which was run by only a few. I attended as many meetings as I could of PMA. To my knowledge no UMW men came out and bothered me before the mine closed won in 1937 nor did I see any literature of UMW. No one ever approached me about going over to UMW but I heard there were some going around and this was before the mine closed. It was gossip that UMW had spies in Mine B but I didn't know who they were.

"While living in Springfield with [redacted] I recall that he once said something about the UMW giving a big party and he said that he felt before long that Mine B would be UMW.

"I don't recall much about the contract running out in spring of 1937. I don't recall of going to the meeting the night before the mine closed down. I don't recall of hearing anything about some men being expelled and I just don't recall when I first heard about it. I remember of being called out from the mine on the day it closed but I don't recall what we were told about it. The way I recall it the strike was called because some spies were not fired and it was not over any wage question. I still have my tools out there in the mine.

"I recall that on the day the mine closed the cars were loaded short because the drivers would come and take the cars away from us before we could load the cars and many of mine were not full and it never happened before except just that one day. I can't recall the name of the driver. No one told me to load cars short.

"When we got called out from the mine on the day it closed nothing was said to me that a strike was called. Several weeks after the mine closed I signed a petition for PMA and I can't recall just where I signed it. No compulsion was used to make me sign it. I never signed anything for UMW and I never would. I would have signed any petition for PMA then and may have signed another one or two but I just can't recall for sure.

"I heard something about UMW forming a new local but no one asked me to join it. I heard that Pete Carter, was close with UMW but neither he nor any others bothered me. I think I attended several regular PMA meetings during the summer of 1937 but nothing unusual took place. I heard something about Falcetti and some of the other traitors were working at the Jefferson Mine but I don't know anything more about it. I also once heard something about Elshoff taking over the Jefferson mine. I never got any notice that Mine B would reopen in Sept. 1937 but I heard about it and I

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

was out there the first day at the gate and I remember that Falcetti got up and said something to us but I don't recall what it was and then he let some UMW men go down into the mine and I recall that a fellow named BUMGARTEN (phonetic) was one who went down. I don't know if PMA had any meeting as to what they would do if mine opened as UMW. We then started to picket the mine because I heard that Falcetti said they would open up the mine only to UMW. I was out at Mine B most of the time when we were watching the grounds. It was very quiet out there and we miners just sat around and smoked and ate and there were no fights or trouble. No one forced me to go out and we were just protecting our jobs there. PMA did not bring in any outsiders at all on that strike and it was just the local men who were there.

"I don't recall of any UMW men coming out while the sit down strike was on. I think I was out at Mine B when the Marshall came out but I can't recall just what happened except we all went home.

"I recall hearing something about the mine going to reopen as UMW so I did not go out as I felt there might be some trouble there. This was after the Marshall was there.

"I voted at the first NLRB election and it seemed to be alright as far as I know. I never saw any strong arm methods being used. It was a secret ballot and no one forced me to vote. I voted Progressive.

"Shortly after the above election it seems as tho I received a letter from someone saying the mine was to reopen under UMW and because of that I did not even go out to the mine. I always felt that the Progressive Local was a better one than the UMW and I still feel that way and under the Progressive we miners could say what we wanted to say and no one hurt us but under UMW it was run by a few and you never could open your mouth.

"Even tho PMA had the majority and won the election we miners heard a lot of gossip around that Elshoff had received a large sum of money from John L. Lewis and we miners also heard that Elshoff felt sorry that he ever took the money otherwise he could have opened the mine back under PMA.

"I don't know much about what went on from the time the first election was held till the mine opened in the fall of 1939. In fall of 1939 I got a letter saying I could go back to work in a certain number of days. I went over to Mine B the first day it opened and no one asked me what union I belonged to. I went down the same day. [redacted] Falcetti told me that my old room was caved in and he gave me an old room for the time being and he told me to take a few shots in that. My old room was [redacted] and they gave me [redacted] when I went back. Nothing was said about a contract then. I felt that our wages would be the same as before. I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

don't recall if any strangers were there or not. I did not vote at the second NLRB election as I was not working there. During those 7 days I was there no one asked me to join over to UMW and I did not see any fights. Since then I have never worked as I had arthritis then.

"The mine appeared to be in bad condition but all I saw was just where they told me to go to. I never heard anything about a fire there while the mine was closed.

"I never joined over to UMW when I went back to work and I still call myself a progressive and not a UMW.

"I have read this 2 page typewritten statement and it is true and correct and I have signed it of my own free will.

(s) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted], Special Agent, FBI, St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, Milwaukee, Wis.

C . O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 31, 1943 [redacted] advised he did not have a criminal record.

[redacted] would not make a good witness as he does not speak English well and is very vague as to his facts.

The following signed statement was furnished by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.,
August 31, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] emmigrated to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen of the U. S. [redacted]

"In [redacted] I became a member of UMW when I was employed at Sangamon Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill. and remained a member of that union until 1932. In 1932 my local UMW union changed to PMA for some unknown reason and for that reason I joined PMA.

"I have never been an offical of any union.

"I was employed at Mine "B" in about 1936 one year prior to the strike at Mine "B" in 1937.

"From 1936 to May 1937 when I was employed at Mine "B" the management of Mine "B" seemed to be on good relations with PMA, there were no strikes or close-downs by the management. So far as I know the management of Mine "B" did not attempt to persuade the men to return to U.M.W.

"I thought PMA was a good union and an honest union, there were no unusual special assessments. I took no active part in union activities.

"I knew nothing about the bombing cases.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" prior to the strike in 1937 there were no UMW pickets at Mine "B" and no literature was

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

distributed at Mine "B" by UMW. No one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW and I did not see or hear of anyone attempting to convert anyone from PMA to UMW prior to May 1937.

"I know nothing about the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend or know of a PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937 nor do I know if anyone was expelled from PMA in May 1937.

"About May 12, 1937 I worked all day and upon leaving the mine someone told me the mine was on strike. I do not know why the mine went on strike and no one told me why the mine was on strike.

"I do not remember signing any petitions in the Summer of 1937.

"I do not recall a new UMW local being formed in the Summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 someone left word at my home for me to go to Mine "B". I went to Mine "B" and found out the mine was being picketed by PMA. I remained for a few hours and returned home. No one threatened me if I did not picket.

"I obtained a position with WPA soon after Sept. 1937 and took no interest in Mine "B".

"I do not rember voting in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937.

"In the last part of 1939 I received a letter from Mine "B" to report for work. I returned to Mine "B" to work immediately as a driver and worked at Mine "B" for about one year at which time I was discharged by Oscar Falcetti because I refused to drive a mule. From the time I returned to Mine "B" in 1939, I was frequently given a different mule. I do not know the reason the mine kept changing mules on me.

"No one asked me at Mine "B" to change from PMA to UMW after my return to Mine "B" in the last part of 1939.

"Tony Plotch and another man came to my home in 1940 to ask if I would change from PMA to UMW.

"I was never threatened by anyone and I never saw any violence at Mine "B" during the time I was employed there in 1939 and 1940.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

Ill.

"At the time I was discharged from Mine "B" I was a member of PMA.

"I am now employed at [redacted]

"I have had this four page statement read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:-

[redacted] - Sp. Agt. F.B.I. - Spfld, Ill. (signed)
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."(signed)

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois, on September 1, 1943. At [redacted] Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised that he never has been arrested in his life. He further stated that [redacted] Illinois, from 1937 to 1941.

It was noted that [redacted] is a very intelligent man and appeared to know a lot about union affairs. He stated that he would be willing to testify if called upon but his wife remarked that if he did testify she hoped he would not lose his job. He would make an excellent witness.

In regard to the affidavit mentioned hereinafter it might be stated that the same is on file in the Springfield Field Division, and it is one that was signed by [redacted] and several other persons at [redacted] Illinois, on August 25, 1937, and it made reference to CHARLES ROTH, (now deceased) contacting him relative to attending a UMW meeting.

[redacted] furnished agents with a signed statement which he signed and initialed and it is as follows:

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 1, 1943.

"I, [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bur. of Invest. No threats or promises have been made me and I make this statement of my own free will and volition.

"My address is [redacted] Ill. I was born in [redacted] I now work for Peabody Coal Co. where I have been employed for the last [redacted] yrs. When I was about [redacted] I joined the UMW at Auburn, Ill. I have been a member of the "Pit Committee" at the Verdin Mine this was a PMA union and was before I went to Mine "B". I started at Mine "B" in Aug. 1936 as a Track layer__ I was then a member of the PMA.

"From the time I started in Mine "B", __ remember that Falscetti was sore because the UMW was letting the mines contracting with them have a half hour clean up time to hoist in, the PMA would not permit this and FALSCETTI was displeased. Before the mine closed there was talk in the mine that the men were going UMW within a certain time.

"My experience with the PMA has always been that it is a rank and file members Union. I attended some meetings of the PMA while at Mine "B" but not all. I took more interest in the Progressives because of the dirty deal we had gotten from the UMW. There never appeared to be anything crooked in the way the finances of the PMA were handled.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"It was the feeling at the time that the PMA miners who were convicted of the bombings had been given a raw deal and some thought they were framed.

"I don't remember any trouble between PMA and UMW prior to the strike. When one of the men was underpaid for the work he was doing, the Pit Committeemen instead of helping the man with his grievance, which I believe was a just one, took the part of the Co. The Committeemen I remember were Joe Albanese and Andy Schrelevious, the man with the grievance was named [redacted]

"I don't know anything about any social parties or affairs held by Elshoff.

"In the Spring of 1937 we were working under a temporary agreement calling for retroactive pay after the contract was reached. There was no doubt in our minds that the PMA could not do as well for us as the UMW. Prior to the strike the men worked on feeling confident that everything would be O.K. There was some talk that we might not get a contract but most of the men paid no attention to this.

"I recall that there was a meeting May 11, 1943. I don't know if it was Special or Regular, I knew it was to be held but don't remember how I know. The morning of the strike there was no talk or fuss concerning pay. I don't remember there being any trouble that morning over anything. The only thing I do know was that there were some cars loaded short, but I don't know why. I remember the mine shut down about one half hour before quitting time but I worked on through, I don't know what this was about. I seem to remember there was some refusal of Elshoff or Falscetti to recognize our representative [redacted]

"I recall signing several PMA petitions the summer of 1937. One of these was a couple of weeks after the mine closed. I signed it of my own free will. I heard of a UMW petition that summer but I never saw or signed it.

"I signed a 2nd PMA petition the summer of 1937 this was to go to the Govt. for something. I signed this of my own free will.

"I remember that a UMW local was formed the summer of 1937.

"I recall signing the affadavit of August 25, 1937. I re-affirm the statements therein and acknowledge my signature thereon.

"There was nothing unusual that happened during the summer of 1937 except that Chas. Bohannon and some others came to [redacted] to get the men to

C O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

swing over but no one contacted me.

"I remember when the mine opened in Sept. 1937 a whole bunch of us were out there and some of the men who were the trouble makers in the union went down they even went down in clean clothes. Some of those who went down were "Sam" Joe Albanese, Andy Schrelivious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ararias, Geo. & Emory Jacaway and Chas. Bohanon. It was understood that Albanese had bought the papers of a fellow named [redacted] who returned to the old country.

"Falsetti came out and told the men to get back so those who wanted to could go back to work. I believe the picketing started the next day, this lasted awhile and the men went home then we heard the mine was to be opened and we started picketing again for a while and then moved in on the property. This was done by local members to protect their jobs there was no outside help. I went out of my own will and so did the others so far as I know.

"I got a job at the [redacted] the day or so before the Marshall came to tell the men to leave the mine property. I have not been back since.

"I voted in the first N.LR.B. election and voted for PMA because that was the Union I wanted. So far as I know this was a honest election and there was no force used at this election. I had the right to vote because I still had the right to go back and claim my job at Mine "B".

"I have read the foregoing statement of seven pages and so far as I can at this time recall it is all the truth. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

Signed [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] (Spec. Agt. FBI) (Milw).
[redacted] (Spec. Agt. FBI) (St. Paul, Minn.)

[redacted]

Sept. 1, 1943.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home on August 29, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He gave information voluntarily and freely. It is believed that he would make a good witness. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was given by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [redacted], Springfield, Ill. I am employed in Panther Creek Mine #4. I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized [redacted], in a Federal court.

"I first joined a mine union in [redacted] when I was working in a mine in [redacted] This was the United Mine Workers union. I remained a member of this union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in Springfield, Ill. I first started to work at Mine B about [redacted] and continued to work there until [redacted] I have never been an officer of any union.

"Prior to 1932 there was not any trouble between Elshoff and the U.M.W. at Mine B. In 1932 the miners became dissatisfied with U.M.W. after it was said that John L. Lewis had stolen the votes in an election in that year. The Progressive Mine Workers of America started up in that year. I did not take any part in the formation of P.M.A., but joined that union immediately. Another reason the miners did not like U.M.W. was the many assessments imposed by that union on the members. They were called "special assessments" and the officers of U.M.W. did not tell the members for what purpose the assessments were used.

"After the formation of P.M.A. in 1932, everything went smoothly at the mine. As I recall there were no strikes or shut-downs. I don't recall any attempts on the part of the management of Mine B to discredit the leaders of P.M.A.

"I did not go to many meetings of P.M.A., but when I did go to meetings I know that I could have said what I wanted to at any time. The leaders did not attempt to tell us what to do. If we did not attend the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

meetings, we were not fined. I was satisfied with the P.M.A. leaders who I thought were always trying to help the members. I don't recall anything being said in the P.M.A. meetings about the bombings that were happening between 1932 and 1937. I only knew what I read in the newspapers.

"If the P.M.A. ever asked for extra assessments, the leaders always explained what the assessments were for. There weren't many assessments.

"From 1932 to 1937 there were no attempts by the U.M.W., to my knowledge, to picket Mine B. I never saw any propaganda.

"I don't know anything about any social contacts between the members of the U.M.W. and the management of the mine.

"After the temporary agreement was signed by the P.M.A. officials with the mine management, I don't recall that the P.M.A. officials gave any report on this agreement. I, as well as most of the miners, felt that the P.M.A. could get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. could get. All of us had faith in the P.M.A. leaders. I don't recall any trouble at Mine B on pay days in April 1937.

"I don't recall seeing any notice of the P.M.A. meeting just before the strike in 1937, but I recall that I heard that there was going to be a meeting. I don't know what the meeting was for, and I don't recall that I went to the meeting.

"On the morning of the strike in May, 1937, I don't recall any talk regarding the wage scale. As I recall the P.M.A. men refused to go into the mine if the U.M.W. went into the mine. I remember that I saw Dominic Pasquale, Andy Schrelevious, and a third man arguing with the P.M.A. officials on the morning of the strike. I don't know what they were arguing about. There was some talk at the mine on the day of the strike about loading the cars with short weights to make the mine management sign a contract with P.M.A. I did not load my cars short, and I don't know if any miners did load their cars short.

"I recall that I signed the P.M.A. petition which [redacted] (Ph) brought to my house. He told me that the P.M.A. officials wanted to find out if the P.M.A. had a majority of the miners in Mine B on their side. I signed this petition voluntarily because I wanted to.

"I recall that in the summer of 1937 Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, and a third man, who is now secretary of U.M.W. local, came to my house with a U.M.W. petition which they asked me to sign. They told me that if I did not sign the petition, there would be no work at Mine B, and that the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

mine would remain shut down. They also said that if the U.M.W. got a contract with Mine B, there would be better working conditions in Mine B. I did not sign this petition, and the men did not threaten me.

"Nobody asked me to join the new local of U.M.W. when it was started in the summer of 1937. At this time I favored the P.M.A., and would not have joined the U.M.W. if I had been asked. However, I do recall that some time in 1937, when [redacted] and another man whose name I don't remember were at my house, Tony Plotch, Andy Schrelevious, and [redacted] came to my house. They told me that if I wanted to work, I should sign up with the U.M.W. They said that the mine would not reopen unless the men signed up with U.M.W. I did not sign up with U.M.W. [redacted] at that time was not employed in Mine B, but was an U.M.W. organizer who had been brought into Springfield to organize the men for U.M.W.

"In September 1937 I received a notice from Mine B that the mine was going to reopen. At this time I did not know of the attitude of P.M.A. about the mine being opened under U.M.W., or as an open shop.

"I don't know when the picketing started in 1937, but I remember that I participated in it. I went to the picket line on my own accord. I saw only local men there and there were no strangers. To my knowledge the purpose of the picket was to keep out U.M.W. men.

"I don't recall receiving any notice of the desire of the management to reopen the mine in December 1937. However, I received a notice from the National Labor Relations Board and from the U.M.W. about the election in that month. I went to the election voluntarily, and voted for the P.M.A. in the State Armory, Springfield, Ill. Nobody told me how to vote at this election. I received my ballot from a government official at the election place, and voted for P.M.A.

"Prior to the opening of the mine in 1939 Andy Schrelevious and a man from St. Louis known as [redacted] came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.W. They told me that the mine would open as soon as the U.M.W. secured a majority of the miners. [redacted] had not worked in the mine prior to the strike, and I think that he was brought here by the U.M.W. to organize for U.M.W.

"I received a notice from Mine B that the mine was going to open in November 1939. I was told that because the room in which I had worked had caved in, there was no work for me at that time, but that I would be notified when there was a room for me. Later I received a notice from the mine and started to work again at Mine B. There had been some cave-ins at the mine, but I don't know how much it would have cost to open the mine.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"After the mine opened in 1939, [redacted] and his buddy, also known as [redacted] both of whom were from St. Louis, came to me in my room at the mine, and told me that if I did not sign up with U.M.W., I would not have my job. They merely talked to me, and did not threaten me. At this time I was working in the mine with Andy Schrelevious, who did not speak to me about joining U.M.W.

"While working in Mine B after 1939, I know that U.M.W. men were getting better rooms in which to work than P.M.A. men through the management's favoring U.M.W..

"Prior to the election in February 1941, I never signed up with U.M.W. In the election of February 1941, I voted for P.M.A. because I liked that union better than U.M.W.

"I don't recall when I joined U.M.W. in 1941, but it was shortly after the election. I only signed up with U.M.W. so that I could get a job at Mine B. I still preferred P.M.A.

"On the day of the election in February 1941, the officers of U.M.W. spoke to the miners in Mine B and told them to vote for U.M.W. They said that they had to vote for U.M.W., or Mine B would not open up. They also said that Elshoff would not recognize P.M.A. The statements by these men scared many of the miners who then voted for U.M.W.

"This statement consisting of this and four other typewritten pages has been read to me by [redacted] and I state that __ is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

[redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed near [redacted] Illinois, September 1, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he executed a signed statement. [redacted] is [redacted] reads and writes English fairly well. He is employed [redacted] and quit the mines in 1939. He did not take an active part in union activities at any time and, therefore, his knowledge of facts pertinent to this investigation is meager. It is believed he will make only a fair witness due to his lack of pertinent information. He has been in ill health for a number of years and has no known criminal record.

The following is the signed statement obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I know it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted] I came to U. S. in [redacted] and am a citizen of U. S. such citizenship having been derived through my parents. I began working in the mine at [redacted] and joined U.M.W.A. then in [redacted] I have never held any office in any union.

"About [redacted] I began working at Mine "B" as an entry driver. In 1932 I changed from UMW to PMA. because the U.M.W. dues were too high.

"As far as I know the miners and Elshoff got along Ok up until the strike in 1937. There were no strikes or close-downs during this time.

"I did not hear of any labor spies at Mine "B" prior to the strike.

"As far as I could see there was no difference in the wage scale of the two unions before the strike in 1937. I did not know of any spies working at Mine "B" and I did not know that some men were expelled from P.M.A. for being spies. I remember on the day of the strike my buddy [redacted] asked me if Hale had seen me about joining U.M.W. I said no and he told me that Hale had asked him why he didn't change over to U.M.W.

"I worked a full day at Mine "B" the day of the strike and did not see any cars loaded short. I did not know of the strike until I went to work the next day and some of the men met me out in the road and told me that the mine was on strike.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I don't recall signing any petitions in the summer of 1937. I saw in the paper that the mine was going to reopen but I was working on my small farm and didn't go to work. Sometime in October 1937 the Union came around and told us each man would have to spend so much time picketing at the mine. I picketed for about a week or two [redacted] and came home.

"I was not present when the injunction was served on the pickets. I heard some way or saw in the paper that the mine would reopen just after the injunction but I did not go to the mine to work.

"In December 1937 I voted in the NLRB election and in my estimation it was just as fair an election as it could possibly be.

"I quit paying dues to P.M.A. at the time of the strike and I did not join any union after that. I quit working in the mines and did not pay any attention to them after I voted in the election in 1937.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I. (signed)
[redacted] Sp. Agt. F.B.I., Sprfld, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN The following is a resume of the interview conducted with Mr. WILLIAM M. RYAN, 801 South Douglas, Springfield, by Special Agent in Charge FRED HALLFORD and Special Agent [redacted] on the afternoon of August 25, 1943:

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Mr. RYAN is 62 years of age, is retired from the coal business and presently resides at 801 South Douglas, Springfield, Illinois. Previous to his retirement in the Fall of 1941, at which time he sold Springfield Mine "A" to CARL ELSHOFF, subject in this case, he had operated this mine for approximately 19 years both under the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

When the break came between the United Mine Workers and what is now known as the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, Mine "A" and Mine "B" employees decided that they desired to be represented by the Progressive Mine Workers of America. At that time Mine "A" was shut down and Mr. RYAN called a meeting of his employees and asked them what they desired and they stated they desired to obtain a contract under the Progressive Mine Workers of America. Accordingly, Mr. RYAN entered into a contract with this union and continued this relationship until the sale of the mine in the early Fall of 1941.

The matter of making a contract was handled through the Illinois Coal Producers Association. This association, according to Mr. RYAN, was completely dominated by four or five of the largest coal mines in the state and all agreements entered into which bound mines being operated by the Progressive Miners worked more or less to the particular benefit of these four or five mines. In order to belong to this association, it was necessary to pay a small tax upon each ton of coal mined amounting to approximately one or two mills. Mr. RYAN stated that he felt personally the benefits derived from membership in the Coal Producers Association were not worth the expense and, subsequently, he dropped out although still making his contract with the Progressives in accordance with the former rules.

Mr. RYAN had no definite information concerning the situation of Mine "B" and CARL ELSHOFF but felt that ELSHOFF dropped out of the Coal Producers Association for possibly the same reason as he did.

At the height of its power, Mr. RYAN estimated that the Progressives had between 60% and 75% of all miners in Illinois in their union. This union has steadily declined due to the raiding of Progressive Mines by the United Mine Workers and by the United Mine Workers' buying off the outstanding organizers for the Progressives.

The mine workers in Mine "B" included some of the most radical element of the Progressives, several of whom were convicted in Federal

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN (continued)

Court of violence in connection with the mine bombing cases. Mr. RYAN informed that numerous difficulties arose at Mine "B" between the Pit Committee and the Management and that there were, in fact, work stoppages of short duration lasting perhaps as long as two or three days. It also appeared that the Progressives at Mine "B" were able to obtain concessions which were outside the scope of the contract which the Progressives had with that mine. In spite of these difficulties, Mr. RYAN was of the firm opinion that the men at both Mine "B" and Mine "A" were content to be members of the Progressive union and so indicated their desires in the election held in 1937, at which there was an overwhelming majority of votes for the Progressives as the bargaining agent for them at Mine "B".

During the time that Mr. RYAN operated Mine "A" he was not aware of any raiding tactics or agitation of the United organizers at his mine. Previous to the strike in May of 1937 Mr. RYAN advised that ELSHOFF had complained to him on various occasions concerning his difficulties with the Progressive Miners and indicated some inclinations toward the United Mine Workers. Mr. RYAN attributed some of the difficulties arising at Mine "B" to the overbearing tactics of the Mine Superintendent, OSCAR FALCETTI. These officials were reluctant to deal with the officials of the Progressive Mine Workers and he knew of actual occasions when ELSHOFF had either ordered or run DAN McGILL, Progressive Mine official, off the Mine "B" property. This activity, it should be noted, was carried on prior to the strike in May, 1937. Mr. RYAN's comments upon whether or not any other matters, such as wages, entered into the difficulties actually precipitating the strike on May 12, 1937, were that ELSHOFF had stood just all he could from the Progressives and closed the mine rather than deal with them further. However, Mr. RYAN is positive that ELSHOFF would never have closed this mine for anything more than on a temporary basis, unless he had received definite assurance that his expenses for the upkeep of the mine would be insured.

Mr. RYAN estimated that it would cost ELSHOFF between $5000 and $6000 a month to keep his mine in shape during the time it was shut down. He was aware that ELSHOFF had to pay $20,000 a year royalties to the mine owner, a Mr. BONTZES of Peoria, Illinois, who is also the lessor for Mine "B". Insofar as he knew, ELSHOFF kept the mine in good shape and when it opened in November of 1939, it would have required only two weeks' work cleaning up to put it in full operation. This would have necessitated an initial outlay of from $10,000 to $12,000. In accordance with the usual custom of wage payments, ELSHOFF would not have had to pay his miners any wages until thirty days after operations were started, at which time he should have been mining enough coal to meet his payroll and maintenance expenses.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN The following facts were related by Mr. RYAN relative to the sale of Mine "B" to ELSHOFF:

He and ELSHOFF had been trying to get together with the mine owner in Peoria relative to the purchase of a small railroad which would facilitate the movement of coal from both mines and result in a considerable reduction of operation and transportation expense. ELSHOFF proved to be the stumbling block in these negotiations in his final refusal to participate and at that time, which was in the latter part of April, 1941, Mr. RYAN made the idle remark to ELSHOFF that he was going to get out of the mine business and was ready to sell his mine. ELSHOFF promptly asked him how much he would take for his property. RYAN was surprised and stated he would have to consult with the accountants and make an inventory of the properties before he could make an estimate, but stated it would be around $60,000. ELSHOFF informed that he thought perhaps his people might be interested in making a purchase at that price. RYAN thought ELSHOFF was joking and gave the matter no further attention until he received a telephone call from ELSHOFF from some point in Wisconsin again inquiring as to how much he would sell the mine for. It was Mr. RYAN's understanding that ELSHOFF was fishing in Wisconsin at that time with [redacted], President of District 12, United Mine Workers, and another person by the name of [redacted] After a complete inventory of his properties, RYAN informed ELSHOFF that it was valued at $75,000 and that was the price that he would accept for his lease. ELSHOFF stated that he did not feel his people would pay that much.

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Two more contacts were made by ELSHOFF with RYAN on this matter, both being by telephone from some sanitarium at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where ELSHOFF was purportedly taking an alcoholic cure.

In view of the fact that his lease was expiring within a few months, Mr. RYAN decided that if he was propositioned again by ELSHOFF he would make the sale, but only on the condition that ELSHOFF would make a down-payment of $10,000 to show his good faith and agree to certain other stipulations. Mr. RYAN left these instructions with his Superintendent, D. G. BEST, at Mine "A" and went on a vaction trip to Seattle, Washington. He had hardly arrived at Seattle, Washington, when he received a call from Mr. BEST that Mr. GOURLEY and OSCAR FALCETTI had come to his office and wanted to complete the sale of Mine "A". Mr. RYAN instructed BEST to confer with FALCETTI and GOURLEY to see if they were in accord with Mr. RYAN's stipulations on the sale. He subsequently received a call from BEST stating that a counter-offer had been made giving the details, and that GOURLEY and FALCETTI felt that $5,000 was all that they could place on deposit. Mr. RYAN countered with the proposition, accepting the $5,000 retainer and outlining the provisions under which he was willing to sell. GOURLEY and FALCETTI who were on

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN (continued)

the telphone at that time stated they would confer with their attorney, Mr. BURKE, to see if all was agreeable.

Mr. RYAN was subsequently notified that the terms were agreeable and that everything would be drawn up to complete the transaction upon his return to Springfield.

Mr. RYAN returned to Springfield and found that he was dealing with GOURLEY, BURKE and FALCETTI, instead of ELSHOFF. The principal actor appeared to be BURKE, who gave RYAN his personal check for $5,000 as a retainer. RYAN then asked where ELSHOFF was, inasmuch as the original negotiations were started by him, and he was informed that he was in Wisconsin taking a cure. This information was given to RYAN by FALCETTI. RYAN then asked who the principals were who ELSHOFF represented and both GOURLEY and FALCETTI assured him that they had the power to act and that Mr. BURKE, representing these principals, could handle the entire details. The transaction was completed and again a personal check of $55,000 was deposited by Mr. BURKE at the First National Bank. All parties went to the bank and Mr. RYAN received the $55,000 in cash.

Mr. RYAN was fairly certain that all the employees of his mine were well satisfied with the representation they were obtaining from the Progressives, with one or two possible exceptions. He recalled that one of his engineers complained on one occasion of the excessive deductions for the Progressives, indicating that it was round $23.00 or $24.00. According to Mr. RYAN, these deductions were excessively heavy at that period, inasmuch as they were made to defer expenses of the trial of members of the Progressives indicted in the mine bombing cases. Mr. RYAN was not familiar with the circumstances under which Mine "A" became organized by the United Mine Workers. He stated there was an air shaft located on the line between the two properties of Mine "A" and Mine "B". However, he was not aware that this shaft had connected the two mines, although the workings of Mine "B" were only a short distance from this shaft. As a business man he felt it would have been impractical for ELSHOFF to take out the coal in Mine "A" through Mine "B" with United employees if the shaft constructed for Mine "B" could handle only a certain amount of coal and such a course necessitated the closing down of Mine "B" in order to operate Mine "A". He was not aware as to whether any threats had been made to Mine "A" in such a fashion as to induce Mine "A" employees to become members of the United Mine Workers union.

Shortly after Mine "B" closed down in 1937, RYAN entered into an agreement with the Panther Creek Mines for the purchase of coal which was to be sold on a brokerage basis. RYAN stated that ELSHOFF had approached him on this matter at first but that he would not deal with ELSHOFF because

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN (continued)

he, RYAN, had no faith in ELSHOFF's word or, particularly, his financial ability to meet his obligations. Later on it was Mr. RYAN's understanding that ELSHOFF obtained a much better deal from the Peabody Coal Company, who have always operated their mines with the United Mine Workers. It was his understanding that ELSHOFF obtained a commission of 50¢ which would have been highly profitable inasmuch as the usual commission is not more than 12¢ or 15¢ a ton.

Mr. RYAN also knew that ELSHOFF at that time had attempted to purchase Panther Creek Mine from its owner, GEORGE SOLOMON. ELSHOFF also spoke to Mr. RYAN about the possible purchase of another mine located in Southern Illinois in Bond County, which was organized by the Progressives. Mr. RYAN advised that ELSHOFF attempted to purchase another Progressive mine located in Fulton County. He said that these negotiations were probably carried on with a person by the name of BOB ROMK of Fulton County.

The information concerning the alleged meeting of LEWIS, EDMUNDSON, SULLIVAN and ELSHOFF immediately prior to the closing of Mine "B" was not enlarged upon by Mr. RYAN. [redacted] Further information should be obtained concerning this confidential source as to its reliability.

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Perhaps the most pertinent thing discussed with Mr. RYAN was his conversation with R.M. EDMUNDSON early in 1937 concerning collaboration with the United Mine Workers in their organizational efforts in Mine "A". Mr. RYAN stated that EDMUNDSON called him down to his office in the United Mine Workers Building and after discussing general matters finally came to the point of the interview, asking Mr. RYAN what he thought of the United Mine Workers. Mr. RYAN's answer was more or less non-committal as he stated he had nothing against the United Mine Workers, and then EDMUNDSON countered with the proposition that he, RYAN, enter into some sort of an agreement or deal with EDMUNDSON in order that they could get the Progressives out of Mine "A". RYAN then told EDMUNDSON that he could not do such a thing that he wanted to "go to bed at night with a clear conscience". EDMUNDSON then asked what RYAN thought that GEORGE SULLIVAN at Panther Creek or another operator at some other Progressive Mine would do along those lines. RYAN told EDMUNDSON that he would have to see GEORGE SULLIVAN to find out about that, that he was running Mine "A" and that he could not and would not enter into any such proposition.

From Mr. RYAN's conversation with EDMUNDSON, RYAN received the definite impression that if he were out any expense during the organizational effort of the United Mine Workers, EDMUNDSON would take care of him. Mr. RYAN stated that he told EDMUNDSON that he wouldn't have anything to do with

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN (continued)

such a proposition, that even if he went through with it, after United had organized Mine "A" they would simply turn on him then. This terminated the interview and he was never approached again by EDMUNDSON.

In commenting on the current situation at Mine "A" and Mine "B" Mr. RYAN felt that a number of employees were entirely dissatisfied with the situation as far as the United Mine Workers were concerned and, particularly, with ELSHOFF for whom they had very little use. In fact, he knew of some of the miners who would not even speak to ELSHOFF. Again, he attributed most of the difficulties at Mine "B" to the overbearing and non-conciliatory attitude of FALCETTI.

Inasmuch as it will be necessary to interview Mr. RYAN from time to time in the cause of this investigation, no signed statement was taken from him in connection with the preliminary interview.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT C. SOLOMON

Mr. ROBERT C. SOLOMON who resides at 810 South Glenwood Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, is presently the President of Panther Creek Coal Company which is located in Springfield, also. Mr. SOLOMON maintains an office in the Ridgely Building and was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] relative to any approach which was made to him or to officials of his company by RAY EDMUNDSON in 1937 relative to closing down the Panther Creek Mines in order that they might be organized by the United Mine Workers of America. He was also interviewed for any details concerning recent attempts by subject CARL H. ELSHOFF to purchase the Panther Creek Mines.

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Mr. SOLOMON, who was very cooperative, advised that he had heard that his brother, GEORGE SOLOMON, who is now dead, was approached by RAY EDMUNDSON several years ago, and at that time EDMUNDSON attempted to persuade him to shut down the Panther Creek Mines in order that organization of these mines could be undertaken by the United Mine Workers of America. The Panther Creek Mines according to Mr. SOLOMON have been organized by the Progressive Mine Workers of America since the inception of this union in 1932.

Mr. SOLOMON informed that the first negotiations relative to the possible purchase of the Panther Creek Mines were made by Mr. HARRY G. ALLEN, a representative of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co. who resides in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. ALLEN first approached Mr. SOLOMON regarding this matter in the summer of 1941. According to Mr. SOLOMON, ALLEN was responsible for bringing ELSHOFF into the picture. ELSHOFF had several telephonic conversations with Mr. SOLOMON during a period of several months relative to the proposal to purchase the mine. In the initial stages they were particularly interested in the Auburn Mine which, although shut down, was potentially a very productive mine.

During these negotiations Mr. SOLOMON stated that he was represented by two attorneys, Mr. L. G. PEFFERLE and Mr. JOHN W. BARBER, who have offices in the Reisch Building. Mr. SOLOMON stated that he finally insisted that if ELSHOFF were actually interested in the purchase of his mines that they have a conference. This conference was held on June 11, 1942, in the offices of the Panther Creek Company at which time Mr. SOLOMON was present with his two attorneys, and ELSHOFF alone. There they came to a more or less definite agreement as to what the proposition would be and letters were exchanged regarding the same, the originals of which were obtained from Mr. SOLOMON.

At that time Mr. SOLOMON stated that he desired to know just what the financial ability of ELSHOFF was to enter into such a contract which would involve at least $400,000.00. Mr. SOLOMON stated that he asked Mr. ELSHOFF where he would obtain the money and ELSHOFF told him, "You ought to know". Mr. SOLOMON informed that it was common knowledge around Springfield

INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT C. SOLOMON (continued)

among coal operators and those interest in coal mining that ELSHOFF had obtained money for the Mine "B" and Mine "A" ventures from the United Mine Workers of America and JOHN L. LEWIS. In fact, Mine "B" is commonly referred to as JOHN L. LEWIS' mine. However, at this meeting or at no other time did ELSHOFF indicate that he actually did obtain the money from the United Mine Workers. Mr. SOLOMON had been advised, however, from sources whose reliability could not be ascertained, that ELSHOFF during the time of these negotiations had gone to Washington, D. C. with Mr. ALLEN to confer with JOHN L. LEWIS and arrange for financing.

It was Mr. SOLOMON's belief that his attorney, PEFFERLE, took more than a casual interest in what was going on with reference to the possible sale of the Panther Creek Mines to ELSHOFF, and possibly acted as a go between. PEFFERLE on one or two occasions said that he was convinced that ELSHOFF could obtain the money and would live up to his contract. Mr. SOLOMON knew that ELSHOFF would have, therefore, financial backing because before entering into any negotiations at all with ELSHOFF he had made an appropriate inquiry into ELSHOFF's financial responsibility, and knew that he personally did not have the money to purchase the Panther Creek Mines.

Mr. SOLOMON stated that after ELSHOFF's mine closed in May of 1937 he purchased coal from the Panther Creek Company in order to satisfy his customers. This coal was purchased outright and sold by ELSHOFF. During the course of these transactions ELSHOFF became deeply indebted to the Panther Creek Company, and Mr. SOLOMON advised that eventually he had to settle for $4,000.00 or $5,000.00 less than the contract price in order to get his money out of ELSHOFF. After that he did not deal any further with ELSHOFF because of his unreliability.

It was after this that ELSHOFF began dealing with the Peabody Coal Company, and it was Mr. SOLOMON's understanding that arrangements were made through Mr. GEORGE REED at Chicago, Illinois. He understood that ELSHOFF acted only as a broker going out selling the coal, and that all deals, invoices, etc., were made out by the Peabody Company, giving ELSHOFF only a commission on what he sold. Mr. SOLOMON understood that this was a 15% commission on all sales; however, he could not be certain, and was of the opinion that if an inquiry were direated to Mr. REED he would answer honestly concerning these details. Mr. SOLOMON had also heard that during the period in which Mine "B" was shut down JOHN L. LEWIS became more or less disgusted with ELSHOFF and at one time through Mr. REED attempted to persuade the Peabody Coal Company to take the mine off his hands.

Special Agent [redacted] who was at the time of this interview in Chicago, Illinois, making inquiry into certain matters pertaining to this case, was telephonically contacted and furnished with pertinent information concerning REED and ALLEN as obtained from Mr. SOLOMON. [redacted] conducted appropriate

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
ROBERT C. SOLOMON
(continued)

inquiry which appears also in this report.

Inasmuch as the attorney, PEFFERLE, was not to be interviewed until after an interview with HINDMARSH, Representative of CIO, no signed statement was taken from Mr. SOLOMON inasmuch as the details of this picture are not complete as yet. However, the following letters were voluntarily furnished to Special Agent [redacted] by Mr. SOLOMON which pertain to the attempted negotiations by ELSHOFF to purchase the mine. It is noted in ELSHOFF's letters that he continually refers to "we". It is difficult to ascertain whether by this expression ELSHOFF was refering only to himself in a collective sense or whether it also included other individuals. These letters are set forth as follows:

"June 11, 1942

"Mr. Carl H. Elshoff
"Springfield, Illinois

"Dear Mr. Elshoff:

"This is to confirm our discussion this morning, wherein it was indicated that Panther Creek Mines, Inc. is willing to lease to you all of its coal mining properties, with the option to purchase or to renew, all on the following basis.

"Term of Lease: 10 years.

"Rent: Royalty basis of 10 cents per ton on production; minimum royalty of $90,000 per year.

"Taxes, Insurance and Repairs:
To be paid and carried by Lessee.

"Additional Coal Rights: Lessor to purchase and provide all additional coal rights which Lessee may require for the continued operation and development of the mining properties; or, on failure so to do, Lessee to have privilege of acquiring, at Lessee's expense, such additional coal rights with a credit of five cents per ton on coal produced therefrom.

"Personal Property: Lessor will sell to Lessee, at invoice price or other fair present value, all explosives, supplies, mined coal, unused timber, mules, unused repair parts and replacements, and unused tangible personal property used or for use in the operation of the mines.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
ROBERT C. SOLOMON
(continued)

"Guaranty: Lessee to deposit in Springfield Marine Bank $400,000 to be held in escrow and invested in Lessor's collateral note for that amount, payable to lessee in in installments of $40,000 per year, with 3% interest, by credit on royalties. The $400,000 to be actually used in taking up all indebtedness of Lessor and its President to said Bank including approximately $250,000 in bonds - liens on the coal mining properties of Lessor; said bonds to be not cancelled but held as collateral security for the payment of said collateral note.

"Retail Office: Lessee to take over Lessor's city retail office rent and other incidental expenses, from the time of transfer of possession of mines.

"Options: At the expiration of the ten year lease, Lessee to have alternate options:

"(A) To purchase the leased properties for $400,000, plus amounts hereafter paid by Lessor for additional coal rights, with 3% interest thereon; or,

"(B) To renew the lease for another ten years on same terms, with further option to purchase the leased properties at the end of extended period for $100,000, plus amounts hereafter paid by Lessor for additional coal rights, with 3% interest thereon.

"This of course is only for prompt acceptance as to major terms, with the understanding that necessary details be worked out later."

Yours truly,

President"

"July 6th, 1942

"Mr. Robert C. Solomon, Pres.,
"Panther Creek Mines, Inc.,
"Springfield, Illinois

"Dear Mr. Solomon:--

C O

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
ROBERT C. SOLOMON
(continued)

"Referring to your proposition of June 11th, 1942 in which you outline a plan for the sale of your mining properties.

"The arrangement suggested is not satisfactory, and we decline to accept it in its form. I am still interested in buying these mines and am willing to meet with you and with your consent submit to you a proposition in different form and possibly at a lesser value.

"First, we hope in a discussion of the matter to establish a fair value of the properties and then to arrive at a satisfactory method of payment of them. I might say now there is no objection to advancing the $400,000.00 as outlined.

"Awaiting your reply indicating that you are interested in receiving such a proposition, I am,

"Yours very truly,

/s/ CARL H. ELSHOFF"

""Springfield, Illinois
"October 30th, 1942

"Mr. Robert C. Solomon,
"Panther Creek Mines, Inc.,
"Springfield, Illinois

"Dear Sir:--

"It is with great difficulty that we approach the subject of a fair value on your mining property known as Mine #1-Auburn, Illinois. This mine has been in a State of Abondonment since April 1927. The condition of the equipment below is very uncertain as well as the natural conditions. Subject to a complete inspection, we submit the following proposition.

"We are willing to purchase this property under the following terms and conditions; to mine and pay for at the rate of ten cents per ton a total of not less than 2,000,000 tons or $200,000.00 within four years begining with January 1st, 1943. The Royalty payments shall accrue in equal monthly payments throughout the four year term.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
ROBERT C. SOLOMON
(continued)

"At the end of the four year term, the Lessee shall have the option to purchase all of the property so leased for a sum of $50,000.00, at which time a good and sufficient title shall be given.

"In submitting this, we realize that many details will have to be worked out.

"Truly yours,

/s/ CARL H. ELSHOFF"

Mr. SOLOMON stated that these efforts to negotiate the sale simply fizzled out in the fall of 1942, for what reason he was not able to determine. A signed statement will be taken relative to all of these matters as soon as Mr. PEFFERLE and Mr. BARBER are interviewed. Mr. SOLOMON advised that his books relative to the sale of coal to ELSHOFF would also be available for review. In the event this is deemed advisable it is anticipated that this phase of the investigation will be conducted by Special Agent [redacted]

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FBI/DOJ

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE REED, Chicago, Illinois.

Special Agent [redacted] on September 1, 1943 interviewed Mr. GEORGE REED, Vice President, Peabody Coal Comapany, Room 2020, 231 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois, telephone numer Andover 2345. Mr. REED has some faint recollection that on two or three occasions RAY EDMUNDSON mentioned to him that he (EDMUNDSON) hated to see ELSHOFF deal with Panther Creek Mines, a Progressive Mine Workers of America mine, during the strike period at Mine "B". Mr. REED was unable to recall the exact time or instances when these remarks were made by EDMUNDSON. He pointed out that since his company has dealt over a long period of years with the United Mine Workers of America, which is now headed by RAY EDMUNDSON, he sees EDMUNDSON frequently and does considerable business with him. Concerning the price for which brokerage coal was sold to ELSHOFF, REED stated as follows:

He said that ELSHOFF approached him for the purchase of coal from the Peabody Coal Company and that since ELSHOFF was a neighboring coal mine operator in the vicinity of Springfield and since it is the custom of one coal mine to help out another during a strike shutdown or mine disaster, he agreed with ELSHOFF that he would sell him some coal. However he did not agree to sell him all the coal that ELSHOFF wanted. Mr. REED further stated that since he was doubtful of ELSHOFF's financial status and ability to pay, that he wrote up a letter which was in the nature of an agreement or contract, addressed to ELSHOFF, stating the terms upon which coal would be sold. He could not recall the exact terms of the letter or the prices stated. He said that he did not know what price ELSHOFF had purchased brokerage coal for from the Panther Creek Mines. He also stated that he was positive that he would not allow ELSHOFF any such exorbitant figure as 50¢ a ton for coal. He said that during part of the time when ELSHOFF was purchasing brokerage coal that his company became very doubtful of ELSHOFF's financial status and ability to pay; that at this time when orders for coal were received from ELSHOFF, the Peabody Coal Company actually loaded the cars, directed them to the purchaser, collected the purchase price from the purchaser, and then returned to ELSHOFF his commission.

Mr. REED further advised that when he first talked with ELSHOFF concerning the purchase of brokerage coal, that he told him that in view of his financial status ELSHOFF might have to pay cash in advance for any coal purchased from Peabody.

Mr. REED also stated that he has often wondered how ELSHOFF was able to pay the royalties due on Mine "B" while it was shut down, but more astounding than that, he has often wondered how ELSHOFF was able to entertain as lavishly and in as much extravagance as he did. He said that ELSHOFF never rented a room in a hotel, but always rented a suite.

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INTERVIEW WITH
GEORGE REED,
Chicago, Illinois.
(Continued)

He stated that this was well known to coal mine operators generally.

Mr. REED advised that he could vaguely recall some conversation either with JOHN L. LEWIS or with RAY EDMUNDSON about Peabody Coal Company taking over Mine "B" but that he cannot recall anything definite in this matter. He said that his answer at that time would have been that the Peabody Coal Company did not want any more mines as they already had at that time more mines than they wanted. He stated ELSHOFF was unable to furnish any information concerning the association of JOHN L. LEWIS, CARL ELSHOFF and RAY EDMUNDSON, other than that people in the coal business took it for granted that CARL ELSHOFF and JOHN L. LEWIS are good friends. He advised that he had never seen these two together.

Mr. REED further stated that he will cause a search to be made of the records of his company, presently located in a district warehouse, to determine whether or not a copy of the letter which he wrote to ELSHOFF and which contains their agreement for the sale of coal is still in existence. He said he will also have a search made for the ledger records or any other records showing the amount of tonnage, sale price and commission or any other figures which may be available in connection with the ELSHOFF account.

Mr. REED advised that the situation between the employers and the employees is and has been tense for some time; that he is operating without any contract at this time with the United Mine Workers; that his company has always been a United Mine Workers Company, because of which fact he, of necessity, deals with RAY EDMUNDSON and JOHN L. LEWIS, since his company is the biggest producer of coal in the State of Illinois. Mr. REED stated that because of this fact he does not want to do anything which would jeopardize his position with the United Mine Workers or which would result in his failure to secure a contract by the end of October 1943. He pointed out that the present investigation has made matters somewhat more tense in connection with the employer-employee relationship. Therefore he has not decided whether or not he will furnish whatever information his files disclose, of his own accord, to an investigator. He stated that he would gladly furnish information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation if it were not for the circumstances set out above and that he would be glad to at least advise as to the nature of the information in his files. However, because of his relationship with the United Mine Workers, he said he much preferred that he be forced by subpoena to produce records rather than to furnish them voluntarily.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH LEONARD C. BAJORK

LEONARD C. BAJORK was interviewed on August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. BOJARK is presently Personnel Manager of the Visking Corporation, 6733 West 65th Street, Chicago, Illinois. His residence address is 5531 North Monitor Street, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. BAJORK became Regional Director of NLRB at Chicago, Illinois on May 8, 1937. The Springfield area and Mine "B" was included in his jurisdiction. One LYNN BEAMAN was the Regional Director at Chicago preceding BAJORK.

It should be stated at the outset that Mr. BAJORK could recall little of the details concerning the events in connection with this case of his own accord and without refreshing his recollection. At this time it appears that he could only testify to matters which were made a matter of official record in the NLRB files. Mr. BAJORK does not recall any inquiry from CARL ELSHOFF on or about May 12, 1937, concerning whether or not the dismissal or the refusal to dismiss the twelve miners expelled from PMW of A on May 11, 1937, was an unfair labor practice. As far as Mr. BAJORK's recollection is concerned he does not believe that Mr. ELSHOFF ever made any such inquiry.

Mr. BAJORK recalls little more of his meeting with JOE OZANIC than recorded on the photostatic copy of documents pertaining to this file. He stated that probably, as OZANIC previously advised this office, that RAY EDMUNDSON did come in and see him. EDMUNDSON, he believes, probably came in to attempt to find out what OZANIC had previously said. He stated that in an attempt to solve the problem he called both OZANIC and EDMUNDSON into his office for a conference. He did not recall the dates of this conference, but stated that the informal file of the NLRB in Chicago should contain either a typewritten memo or a handwritten memo concerning these meetings. BAJORK believes that OZANIC presented a petition to him containing a considerable number of signatures. He stated that if such was the case he would have told OZANIC that that petition alone was not enough to sustain charges against the UMW of A, but that formal charges would have to be filed; that the Board could not accept any such petition as evidence without their own investigation.

He did not recall definitely whether or not EDMUNDSON or WALTER J. JAMES ever showed him any petition or other form of group signatures such as application cards or membership cards. As to the date of this meeting, BAJORK was unable to make any definite statement. He cannot say definitely whether it was on September 8, or not.

BAJORK stated it was his impression at the time and still is today that ELSHOFF did not want to do business with the PMW of A but rather wanted to do business with the UMW of A. He believes that ELSHOFF feared some members of the PMW Union who had been connected with bombing and terroristic

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH LEONARD C. BAJORK (continued)

tactics. BAJORK stated that he had gone to Springfield, Illinois, probably sometime in and around September, 1937, but he could not be positive as to the date or as to whether it was before, after, or during the month of September. He stated that undoubtedly the records of Region 13, NLRB, would reflect this trip.

Concerning the charges filed by PMW against Mine B on September 7, 1937, BAJORK stated that it was his recollection that these charges alone were not enough upon which to base a hearing on the question of an unfair labor practice as such. He did state, however, that when the question arose and a hearing was had on the matter of representation which was heard on October 25, 1937, that then the board threw the doors open for charges of unfair labor practices and the supervisors of the mine interfering with the activities of PMW, and the supervisor's refusal to discharge the twelve labor spies.

The writer questioned Mr. BAJORK as to whether or not CARL ELSHOFF, his supervisors, or Mine "B" might be guilty of an unfair labor practice in the event they had discharged the labor spies on May 12, 1937, as requested by PMW, or as to whether ELSHOFF might be guilty of an unfair labor practice if he did not discharge these men when requested. Mr. BAJORK answered this question but stated that the answer would depend upon the complexion, membership, and policies of the NLRB in Washington, D. C. at the time; that membership on this board has changed from time to time and the policies on a question similar to instant one had changed depending upon membership and policies of the Board.

Mr. BAJORK said that employers usually in situations where there was a dispute between Unions did not sign up with either Union and submitted this matter to the NLRB for a consent election, a procedure for which the NLRB was particularly fit to handle, and as a matter of fact, one of the reasons for a NLRB. He pointed out, however, that this was not done in instant case.

Mr. BAJORK referred to photostatic copy of a memo to BENEDICT WOLF dated October 8, 1937, wherein the file numbers XIII-R-125 and XIII-473 are carried on the memo. BAJORK stated that these file numbers reveal that there were at least two matters before the NLRB. The "C" file number stands for a "Charge" case. The "R" file refers to a "representation" case. He stated that it was his recollection that there were two "Charge" cases and one "Representation" case involved in the Mine "B" matter.

Mr. BAJORK stated that, of course, while he was very close with the Mine "B" situation that OSCAR SMITH, who is now Executive Secretary in Washington, D.C., was at the time Field Examiner and was the man closest

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH LEONARD C. BAJORK (continued)

to the Mine "B" matter.

Mr. BAJORK stated that it was his impression that whatever RAY EDMUNDSON said in connection with the Mine "B" matter, CARL ELSHOFF went along with, and conversely, whatever ELSHOFF said in connection with the matter EDMUNDSON went along with.

Concerning the December 15, 1937 election after which UMW claimed fraud in connection with the election, Mr. BAJORK said that he was familiar with this claim on the part of UMW, and that he, as a matter of fact, at that time, caused an investigation to be made in connection with the election and found no fraud.

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 23, 1943, wherein the Criminal Division has advised that a memo written on October 8, 1937, by BAJORK stated that JOHN DOHERTY was a member of the Steel Worker's Organization Committee and had suggested to BAJORK that RAY EDMUNDSON of the UMW of A was perhaps willing to reiterate his previous offer to operate Mine "B" provided the twelve suspended Progressive Mine Workers were permitted to return to the mine. In connection with this matter, Mr. BAJORK advised that Mr. DOHERTY then represented the Amalgamated Iron and Steel Workers Organizing Committee as Regional Director. This is a CIO affiliate organization. Mr. BAJORK pointed out that at that time the UMW also was a CIO affiliate, and that probably DOHERTY's sole connection with that matter was the fact that he acted as an intermediary in order to get EDMUNDSON and BAJORK together.

He stated if his recollection was correct negotiations with the Mine "B" case had been at a stand still for some time and that probably this move on the part of EDMUNDSON, using DOHERTY to bring the two men together, was for the sole purpose of ascertaining what the status of the Mine "B" case was with the NLRB at the time.

Concerning the name of "BERTHA", who supervised the election of December 15, 1937, Mr. BAJORK stated that JOHN BERTHA was then Field Examiner for the NLRB. He said that at the present time, or at least the last time BAJORK knew of his whereabouts, BERTHA was working either at Pekin or Peoria, Illinois, with the Keystone Wire Company or one of their subsidiaries, and lived in a small town between Pekin and Peoria.

Mr. BAJORK was asked as to whether there would be any question as to whether members of the PMW Union would lose their status as miners for Mine "B" after the strike had progressed for some time, and after the extension of the PMW contract had expired, and subsequent to or prior to ELSHOFF's signing of an agreement with UMW. Mr. BAJORK stated there was no question but what the PMW men would retain their status as employees of Mine "B".

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH LEONARD C. BAJORK (continued)

In view of the fact that Mr. BAJORK stated that he could recall little, and from his actions it was apparent that he was stating the truth, without the assistance of material in the 13th Region files of NLRB, Mr. FRANK KLEITER, Acting Regional Director, Region 13, NLRB, was contacted. Mr. KLEITER advised that all files pertaining to the Mine "B" matter, including the informal file which would contain notes and memos of the meetings with Mr. BAJORK or other officials of the NLRB and the employer and employees, had been forwarded to Washington approximately one month ago and hence was not available.

Mr. BAJORK volunteered the information that after his resignation from NLRB, which was given as a result of his disagreement with certain policies and activities of the National Board in Washington, he served as a labor consultant in and around Chicago, Illinois, until he accepted his present position as Personnel Manager.

Mr. BAJORK further volunteered the information that he, in accordance with the "unwritten code of all government men" had religiously refrained from discussing or taking any part, or entering into any problems surrounding the Mine "B" matter. He stated as a matter of fact, RAY EDMUNDSON had contacted him after his resignation from the Board in connection with the Mine "B" matter, but that he had religiously avoided making any statements in connection with the matter or giving any advice. He stated that during the time he was Regional Director he had always attempted to follow an unbiased course.

Mr. BAJORK was asked the hypothetical question as to what he could have done or how the Mine "B" dispute could have been settled. Mr. BAJORK stated that he believed the key to the whole matter rested with the employer, CARL H. ELSHOFF, who could have settled the matter at practically any time he desired.

In view of the fact that most of the information submitted above was secured after refreshing Mr. BAJORK's mind in connection with the details of this matter, in view of the fact that it appears obvious that at this time he cannot furnish more information without the 13th Region file, and in view of the fact that it appears at this time he will only be able to testify to matters which appear of record in the 13th Region file, no attempt was made to obtain a signed statement.

Mr. BAJORK makes a good appearance. He does not appear to be unfavorable to the Government in connection with this matter, and it is believed that he would make an honest effort to testify to any information which he might have to the best of his ability. Because of his indefinite manner and his apparent hazy recollection as to time and place, it is believed that he would be only an average Government witness for a man in his position.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
FRED WILKEY,
Chicago, Illinois.

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The following interview was had by Special Agent [redacted] in Chicago, Illinois on September 1, 1943.

Mr. FRED WILKEY is Secretary of the Illinois Coal Operators Association, Bell Building, 307 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. His telephone number is Franklin 9790. Mr. WILKEY was questioned concerning the nature of the agreement of August 18, 1937 between CARL ELSHOFF and United Mine Workers of America. In this agreement ELSHOFF agreed to become a member of the Coal Operators Assocation. Mr. WILKEY stated that there was no information in writing in his files wherein ELSHOFF ever made application for membership in his association. He recalled that ELSHOFF did mention upon one occasion some time ago, exact time of which WILKEY could not place, something in the nature of an inquiry concerning the requirements to become a member of the Illinois Coal Operators Association. To the best of WILKEY's knowledge, this was during the time when ELSHOFF was having his labor trouble at Mine "B". If such were the case WILKEY stated that undoubtedly his answer would be that it was not the policy of the association to take in new members during the time of a labor dispute.

For the information of the file, the object of the association is to promote harmonious and businesslike relations between coal operators in Illinois and their employees, to secure labor contracts, and to negotiate disputes in connection with these contracts. The policy of the association, according to Mr. WILKEY, is not to take in members during a dispute. If new members are taken in during the time when a prospective member is having a labor dispute, according to the constitution of the association, that prospective member must pay all expenses incurred in connection with the consideration of the particular dispute.

Since the Illinois Coal Operators Association deals with United Mine Workers, Mr. WILKEY states that he is well acquainted with and sees RAY EDMUNDSON frequently, but he could not recall any occasion when EDMUNDSON talked about the Mine "B" matter or CARL ELSHOFF.

In a memorandum for the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943, submitted by Assistant Attorney General WENDELL BERGE in part XII, Section 3, it is stated that ELSHOFF was at one time or another member of both employers' organizations. In connection with this, Mr. WILKEY advised that ELSHOFF is not now and never has been a member of the Illinois Coal Operators Association.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH FULLERTON FULTON, Chicago, Illinois. This interview was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] with Special Agent [redacted] in the Regional Office, CIO, on August 31, 1943.

Mr. FULLERTON FULTON is CIO Regional Director. His office is located in Room 2014, 205 West Wacker, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. FULTON had no first-hand knowledge of events in connection with Mine "B" in the pertinent period of this case. He did state however that he secured the information in his possession generally from [redacted] Mr. FULTON advised that [redacted] was formerly an active member of the United Mine Workers, active during the Mine "B" dispute. [redacted]

b2D

Mr. FULTON also advised that Attorney L. G. PEFFERLE of Springfield, Illinois, and who is acquainted with ELSHOFF, may have information of value. Mr. FULTON said that when he has been in Springfield he used to talk with PEFFERLE concerning ELSHOFF and the Mine "B" matter just to see what PEFFERLE knew and that it is his opinion that PEFFERLE may be able to furnish information of value and he believes will be willing to do so.

Mr. FULTON also stated that most of the higher officials of the United Mine Workers of America usually stay at the Leland Hotel when in Springfield, Illinois and at the Morrison Hotel when in Chicago, Illinois. He said that RAY EDMUNDSON always stops at the Morrison Hotel.

Mr. FULTON pointed out that these men probably stay at the Leland Hotel, and as a matter of fact, stated that the Peabody Coal Company formerly furnished coal to the Leland Hotel but since ELSHOFF is now operating again the Leland Hotel is now furnished with coal by CARL ELSHOFF.

Concerning WALTER J. JAMES Mr. FULTON stated that he believes this man might talk considerably if interviewed by an individual who was armed with enough information to convince JAMES that the interviewing agent was conversant with the facts, since in FULTON's opinion "JAMES doesn't have much intelligence". JAMES reportedly only follows the directions of RAY EDMUNDSON and JOHN L. LEWIS.

Mr. FULTON was very cooperative and offered his services in any way possible in connection with this matter.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. L. R. NEWELL, Chicago, Illinois.

Mrs. L. R. NEWELL was interviewed on August 31, 1943 by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] b7c Mrs. NEWELL resides at 3240 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois. She advised that she was in Seattle, Washington from 1934 until 1941 and therefore had little firsthand knowledge concerning the mining properties of the Citizens B & O Coal Company of Peoria, Illinois or of Mine "B" and CARL ELSHOFF in particular. She stated that her brother, JOHN H. SCHNTZES, Jr., handles most of the business matters. She also stated that anything whatsoever, no matter how trivial concerning their mine properites which comes to her attention is forwarded to her brother and in this connection she recalls sending him a copy of a letter which she received from CARL ELSHOFF, which letter was probably dated July 26, 1939. She stated that she has no further information concerning this matter, nor concerning the labor situation in writing and that she did not have any personal conversations with CARL ELSHOFF. She said that she had wondered upon several occasions as to how CARL ELSHOFF would be able to pay the mine royalties and where the money came from with which the royalties were paid, but that she never had any direct information in this regard. She also advised that she had heard indirectly, either through the newspapers or by the "grapevine" that the United Mine Workers had helped CARL ELSHOFF during the period of the strike at Mine "B". However none of this information was first-hand information. lead

Mrs. NEWELL states she has known CARL ELSHOF personally but never intimately and that she has not associated extensively with him and his family in any social or business way.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC

Mr. JOSEPH OZANIC, former State President of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and presently an organizer for the American Federation of Labor, was interviewed at his home at Mount Olive, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on the afternoon of August 21, 1943. A preliminary discussion of the case with Mr. OZANIC disclosed that he was in position to furnish considerable pertinent and first hand information concerning the Mine "B" situation. Mr. OZANIC willingly agreed to meet the agents at the Springfield Office on Monday morning, August 23, 1943, for a more complete discussion of his part in this case, and also to execute a signed statement. Mr. OZANIC called at the Springfield Office as agreed, and after an exhaustive interview the following signed statement was dictated by him:

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"Springfield, Illinois
August 23, 1943

"I, JOSEPH OZANIC, make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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"My name is JOSEPH OZANIC, my legal residence being at Mt. Olive, Illinois, and I may be located through the Office of the American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

"I have been a coal miner from September 15, 1910 up until the present time. During that period I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America, from September 1910 to September 1, 1932, and since September 1932, I have been a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America at present affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and I did my last work in a coal mine in January 1935. Since that time I have been connected with our organization in various official capacities, and at the present time I am a National Representative for the American Federation of Labor. From February 1, 1935 to January 31, 1937, I served as an Executive Board Member for the state organization of the Progressive Mine Workers of America in Illinois, and from February 1, 1937 to January 31, 1939, I served as the President of the state organization of the Progressive Mine Workers of America in Illinois.

"My duties as president of the organization consisted of administering the affairs, policies, and activities of the organization on a state wide basis including the handling of disagreed grievance cases on the joint state executive board that might arise under our contracts through the Coal Producers Association of Illinois, and which failed of settlement locally between the management and the local representatives of the Progressive Mine Workers in that mine. As president I became actively engaged in the handling of the dispute which originated in May

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC (continued)

1937 between the Mine "B" Coal Company of Springfield, Illinois, and Local Union No. 54, Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"My attention was first called to dissension being created in our Local No. 54 some time in January 1937. Said dissension was being created by a small group of agents who were employed by the United Mine Workers to the end that the Mine "B" Coal Company could be placed under control of the United Mine Workers organization. The activities of these dissenters resulted in their being expelled from Local No. 54 in May 1937 as the result of charges filed against them in Local No. 54.

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"On May 12, 1937, I was notified by [redacted] that a strike or shut-down of the Mine "B" Coal Company mine had resulted that day because Mr. CARL ELSHOFF of the Mine "B" Coal Company had refused to terminate the employment of several men who were no longer members of the organization and by virtue of their expulsion were not entitled to work under the terms of the contract.

"As the result of this emergency call I arranged a conference with Mr. ELSHOFF at Mine "B" as I recall it the following day to discuss with him the dispute with a hope that a settlement could be made. As I recall it [redacted] participated with me in this conference with Mr. ELSHOFF during which time we discussed all of the circumstances leading up to the dispute and offered settlement on the basis that the several men who were found guilty by the organization of entering into a conspiracy with the United Mine Workers be not allowed to work until their particular case was decided through proper channels.

"Our proposal was that all of the rest of the employees numbering approximately 450 return to work under the contract which the Progressive Mine Workers was negotiating with the Coal Producers Association of Illinois. Our proposal for settlement was refused outrightly with Mr. ELSHOFF who insisted that the mine would not operate unless the several men who had been expelled also went to their jobs.

"The substance of our conference with Mr. ELSHOFF was that he was firm in his declaration. He didn't give a 'damn' whether the men involved were members of any organization or not, and that he would not operate the mine unless they, too, remained on their jobs. When we insisted that the case be settled on the basis outlined by the union which would be in conformity with provisions of our contract, he contended that there wasn't any contract to which he was bound, although at that time there was an extension agreement to which Mine "B" Coal Company was bound which was in full force and effect, and was a continuation contract signed by Mr. ELSHOFF.

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ERROR IN PAGE NUMBERING - NO MATERIAL OMITTED.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC (continued)

"Among the many items that were discussed with Mr. ELSHOFF concerning the dispute, he made mention of short weight cars of coal that were being loaded by the men in the mine, and that this was going on shortly before the strike in 1937. That result of our conversation and his failure to settle was that the mine continued to remain idle, and except for one or two sporadic attempts to operate the mine under the United Mine Workers it did remain idle until about November 1939.

"Since the conference I had with Mr. ELSHOFF in May, on about May 13, 1937, I made repeated attempts by letter and by telephone to hold further conferences with Mr. ELSHOFF, hoping that the controversy could be closed and settlement reached, all of which were unavailing.

"During this period frequent reports came out to the effect that Mr. ELSHOFF was dealing with officials of the United Mine Workers, and finally upon our insistence for a conference we did meet with Mr. ELSHOFF and his mine superintendent, Mr. OSCAR FALCETTI, in the lobby of the Lincoln Hotel at Springfield in about mid-July 1937. With me in that conference were [redacted]

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"Here, again, we made a serious endeavor to bring about a settlement with the result that Mr. ELSHOFF refused to consider any of our proposals. Mr. ELSHOFF contended that he could not deprive the several men who had been expelled by the Progressive Mine Workers the right to work at the mine with the rest of the men, adding he had no desire to be found guilty or penalized of an unfair labor practice charge by the NLRB under the National Labor Relations Act.

"To this we propsed that mine operations resume with all of the men excepting the several expelled workers with the understanding that in the event a decision was rendered by the NLRB in favor of the expelled workers which might involve compensation for time lost, that our organization stand the complete expense and cost of any such compensation. We did this purely with the thought in mind that this would form the basis for a settlement. However, Mr. ELSHOFF bluntly refused this proposal. That was my last conference with Mr. ELSHOFF as far as I as president was concerned.

"On or about August 20, 1937, Springfield newspapers carried an article announcing that Mr. ELSHOFF of the Mine "B" Coal Company had signed a closed shop contract with United Mine Workers District 12. Following the announcement of the signing of this contract we immediately by telephone and by telegram endeavored to have Mr. ELSHOFF reconsider his

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INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC (continued)

negotiations with United Mine Workers, and to meet with us in a conference, all of which failed.

"Shortly after August 20, or during the latter part of August 1937, we filed a charge of unfair labor practices against the Mine "B" Coal Company with the NLRB, and subsequent thereto, a petition for Investigation and Certification.

"Upon receipt of our charges and petition by Mr. LEONARD C. BAJORK, Regional Director, with offices in Chicago, we were called into conference before Mr. BAJORK to discuss with him the merits in the case. At a later date Mr. BAJORK conferred regarding the matter with Mr. RAY EDMUNDSON, President of District No. 12 United Mine Workers. During the forepart of September 1937, Mr. BAJORK then conferred jointly with myself, [redacted] and Mr. RAY EDMUNSON, representing District 12 United Mine Workers of Illinois. It was the desire of Mr. BAJORK to arrange a settlement of the dispute if possible, and after he stated his desire we in the presence of Mr. EDMUNDSON presented Mr. BAJORK with a petition signed individually by some 413 employees of the total of 465 employed at the mine as evidence that those workers desired to be represented by the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"We specifically requested Mr. EDMUNDSON who was contending that his union represented the majority to place like evidence for Mr. BAJORK in our presence. Mr. EDMUNDSON replied that he did not have to present any evidence in that conference but that he would do so later at a proper time and place. At no time either during the above stated conference or at any later date did Mr. EDMUNDSON of the United Mine Workers ever produce any evidence as proof of a majority. This same petition which we presented to Mr. BAJORK was previously handed to Mr. ELSHOFF as proof of the desires of the majority of his employees which, of course, Mr. ELSHOFF ignored. The language of this petition was a clear indication as to the Mine "B" employees' desire for collective bargaining under the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"As a result of the aforestated conference the order for a hearing on our petition was issued by the NLRB; said hearing took place at Springfield, Illinois at the Federal Building, being held on October 25, through 27, 1937. The hearing was followed by a Labor Board Election being conducted by the NLRB at the State Armory on December 15, 1937.

"During September 1937, the report came out that Mr. ELSHOFF intended to open the mine under the United Mine Workers which resulted in practically all of the Mine "B" employees, members of Local 54 Progressive Mine Workers, going out to the mine to picket against any possibility of the

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INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC (continued)

United Mine Workers taking the jobs which rightfully belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. This picketing by Mine "B" employees was an anticipation of strike breakers being imported to Mine "B" by Mr. ELSHOFF and by the United Mine Workers, such as happened on previous occasions in Illinois. This picketing continued daily until on about November 23, 1937, a temporary restraining order was issued against the Progressive Mine Workers in the Springfield Federal Court.

"On December 22, 1937, the temporary restraining order was made permanent by Judge ADAIR in a hearing held at Quincy, Illinois. As the result of these restraining orders, all picketing and activity on the part of Mine "B" employees, members of the Progressive Mine Workers ceased.

"On December 18, 1937, the results of the NLRB election held at Springfield showed 404 votes for the Progressive Mine Workers and 25 against.

"On about January 3, 1938, the NLRB issued its order certifying the PMW organization as the bargaining agent at Mine "B" Coal Company.

"On about January 4, 1938, Mr. ELSHOFF made another attempt to open the mine with the United Mine Workers. At about 6:30 a.m., January 4, 1938, I, as president, together with approximately 350 Mine "B" employees went to the mine in order to report to the management that our men were ready to work as members of the Progressive Mine Workers. While our members remained on the highway I personally went to the mine office to consult with the management regarding the situation. At the mine office I met with United States Marshals who were there to enforce the injunction previously granted, and found two representatives of the United Mine Workers -- namely, [redacted] JOHN GLASGOW an[redacted] - in conference with Mr. OSCAR FALCETTI, the mine superintendent, in his office.

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"I announced myself to Mr. FALCETTI whereupon he requested the two United Mine Workers representatives to retire from the room. I advised Mr. FALCETTI that practically all of his men were out there on the road ready to go to work as members of the Progressive Mine Workers, and in conformity with the decision made in the labor board election, and under the board's order. He refused to consider our proposal on the ground as stated by himself that he had no authority to deal with the Progressive Mine Workers, and that his hands were tied, and was sorry there was nothing he could do. I asked for Mr. ELSHOFF to which Mr. FALCETTI replied that Mr. ELSHOFF was not there. I requested him to call Mr. ELSHOFF and have him come to the mine immediately to discuss the case with me. He stated Mr. ELSHOFF was not available and was sorry that nothing could be done.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC (continued)

"Following this, I withdrew from the mine and had all of the members of Local 54 Progressive Mine Workers who were ready to go to work, to return to their homes. It so happened that at this time the mine did not resume operations with the United Mine Workers, apparently because of the lack of men, and the mine continued to remain idle.

"Following the above chain of events I, on January 17, 1938, directed a letter to Mr. CARL H. ELSHOFF of the Mine "B" Coal Company, pointing out the decision of the NLRB in favor of the Progressive Mine Workers in which I requested a conference for the purpose of collective bargaining. This letter like all previous letters I wrote to Mr. ELSHOFF was ignored.

"For the balance of that year 1938, and up until my term of office as President of the State of Illinois Progressive Mine Workers expired on January 31, 1939, the mine remained idle, and no further conferences of any nature were held by myself, Mr. ELSHOFF and his representatives of the Mine "B" Coal Company.

"The above statement was dictated by me in the presence of Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on the morning of August 23, 1943, in the offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1107 Illinois Building, Springfield, Illinois. The above statement consisting of six typewritten pages has been read by me, and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

"Joe Ozanic (signed)

"WITNESSED:

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[redacted] (signed)
FBI, Springfield, Illinois
Special Agent

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent, FBI, Springfield, Illinois"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC (~~continued~~)

In connection with the interview with Mr. OZANIC, it should be noted that it was perhaps conducted prematurely with relationship to the logical development of the case. This was necessary because Mr. OZANIC was momentarily expecting orders from his Washington, D. C. headquarters which would assign him to the west coast for an indefinite period. In event he is subpoenaed in this case, Mr. OZANIC requested that he be given advanced notice in that he might be involved in negotiations on the West Coast which would require notice before breaking them off. Mr. OZANIC is willing to testify, and he will not make a hostile witness. He is definite and straightforward in his statements, intelligent and presents a good appearance. From the manner in which he gave his information and answered questions concerning his participation in the attempts to negotiate with CARL ELSHOFF and other representatives of Mine "B", it is believed that he will not be easily confused by aggressive cross-examination.

With reference to Mr. OZANIC's statement, particular reference is made to the telegram dated August 20, 1937, and the letter dated January 17, 1938. Copies of these documents were found in the papers and files of the Progressive Mine Workers of America furnished this office by

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[redacted] The telegram which reads as follows was addressed to Mr. CARL ELSHOFF, Mine "B" Coal Company:

"Urge you to reconsider signing contract with U.M.W. of A. Your employees are members of L.U. #54, P.M. of A. and demand you recognize them as Progressive Miners, and their officials as their bargaining agents for collective bargaining purposes.

"Joe Ozanic, President
Progressive Miners of America"

There was no indication that this telegram was ever answered in the files. The files also disclosed that Mr. OZANIC followed this telegram with a five-page letter to Mr. ELSHOFF dated August 25, 1937, which is so pertinent to the issues at that time that it is believed advisable to set the letter forth in full:

"August 25, 1937

"Mr. Carl E. Elshoff, President
Mine "B" Coal Company
Springfield, Illinois

"Dear Mr. Elshoff:

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INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC (continued)

"I am taking this means of conveying to you my thoughts and frank expressions concerning the raging controversy over your Mine "B" at Springfield.

"On Friday, August 20th, I sent you a telegram urging you to reconsider your intentions or attempt to sign Mine "B" to a contract with the United Mine Workers of America. In this telegram I pointed out to you that the employees of Mine "B" were members of the Progressive Miners of America, holding their membership in Local Union #54, P. M. of A. at Springfield, which has jurisdiction over your mine, but I am sorry to state that the telegram was entirely ignored by you since I have received no reply from you. I have been informed by [redacted] that his messages to you have also been totally ignored.

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"For the sake of refreshing your memory I call your attention to the fact that your mine has been operating under contract with the Progressive Miners of America ever since its inception, and your mine was operating with the Progressive Miners on March 31st, 1937, the date upon which the contract expired.

"I call your attention to the fact that your mine, like all other mines throughout the state which are under jurisdiction of our organization, were permitted to continue operating under the terms and provisions of the contract that expired March 31st, 1937, pending final scale negotiations and the making of a permanent agreement.

"I call your attention to the fact that on April 2nd, 1937 you signed a tentative agreement with our organization, accepting the above terms and you continued operating your mine under contract with our organization.

"I call your attention to the fact that the April 2nd tentative agreement which you signed carries with it any and all features in the final making of an agreement that is binding on both parties. This provision just mentioned provided for the retroactive feature that was agreed to in joint scale conference on April 6th, 1937, a copy of which was presented to you by [redacted] for your signature. You refused to sign the April 6th tentative agreement for reasons bestknown to yourself and on the strength of the tentative agreement that you signed on April 2nd being binding upon you until such time as a permanent agreement could be made, your mine was permited to continue operations. It was common knowledge to this office and to the membership of Local Union #54, P. M. of A., whose entire membership are employees of your mine, that you were collaborating with Ray Edmundson, provisional president of the U. M. W. of A., and that you were attending secret meetings with Mr. Edmundson and other U. M. W. of A. provisional representatives for the purpose of attempting to take your mine from under jurisdiction of our organization and place it

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INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC ~~(continued)~~

under jurisdiction of the United Mine Workers by signing a contract with Mr. Edmundson.

"It was also common knowledge that certain members of Local Union #54, P. M. of A. were collaborating with the U. M. W. of A. officials for the purpose of overthrowing the local union, and they were being paid a certain sum of money for their traitorous work. Needless to say, 12 of these men who were charged and found guilty of conspiracy in the organization were suspended from membership. These men accepted the penalty, acknowledging their guilt, for they have never to this day availed themselves to their right of appeal to the high courts of the organization, claiming an injustice was done them.

"On May 12th, last, your employees of Mine "B" were thrown idle by virtue of a lockout, due to your stubborn refusal to comply with the terms of the contract to which your coal company is signed, and which provides that members of the Progressive Miners of America be employed.

"I call your attention to the fact that we, knowing of the secret, underhanded conferences taking place between you and the United Mine Workers, circulated a petition among your employees who are members of Local Union #54, P. M. of A., as a precautionary measure and to assure our members of their rights under the provisions of the Wagner Labor Relations Act, which gives employees the absolute right to an organization of their own choice, without coercion or intimidation by the employer and the right to bargain collectively through their chosen representatives. You have in your possession an original petition bearing the signatures of 412 of your employees out of a total of 445 who were employed on May 12th, 1937, the last day your mine operated. By a simple process of mathematics, 412 signatures for our organization out of a total of 445 means that approximately 98% of your employees bear true allegiance to the Progressive Miners of America and they insist upon their right to their jobs at your mine, and that you recognize them as members of the Progressive Miners of America, and that they continue in your employment under a Progressive Miners' contract the same as they have the past several years.

"Notwithstanding the above facts, you nor anyone else can deny you either signed, attempted or intend to sign a contract with the United Mine Workers. You no doubt know full well that your attempts along these lines are wholly un-American and are in every respect open, flagrant violations of the employees' rights under the terms of the Wagner Act.

"I call your attention to the fact that we have lodged our complaint on Saturday, August 21, 1937, with the National Labor Relations Board, and we are demanding justice under the terms of the law. I predict that you will be forced to concede to the lawful right of your employees before the Mine "B" controversy is determined.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC (continued)

"I am wondering if you expect the employees of the Mine "B" Coal Company who, as already stated, are loyal members of our organization, to permit themselves to be coerced or intimidated into joining the United Mine Workers, and organization that is not to their choice or liking.

"I wonder if you expect the 412 employees of your mine to sit idly by and permit the provisionally controlled United Mine Workers with whom you are collaborating to import outside labor to take the jobs that they are rightfully and lawfully entitled to.

"I wonder if you expect your mine to operate peacefully under such a plan. It has always been the aim and desire of the Progressive Miners of America to carry on pleasant and peaceful joint relations with the employer and certainly you would have no reason to contend that our organization did not carry on pleasant and peaceful relations with your company.

"For the sake of peace in Springfield and community, and for the sake of yourself and company, I sincerely ask you to reconsider your position and that you support the rights of your employees who have made it possible for you to successfully operate your mine during the years that they have been in your employe.

"I say to you openly and frankly that as far as the Progressive Miners of America are concerned, I especially, that there is going to be no pussyfooting by us in the Mine "B" controversy and we will see you through, no matter what legal steps might be necessary to gain justice for our membership, your employees who have made you prosperous.

"Should you attempt to start operating your mine with imported labor we are holding you wholly responsible for anything that might develop in the premises.

"Please do not construe any of the above as a threat for I am merely pointing out to you the situation as it exactly exists and what our intentions are for certainly no red blooded American would sit idly back and not defend his rights under the law which was enacted to protect the right of employees and labor organizations by the Congress of the United States.

"I call your attention to the fact that we know that Mr. Falsetti, Superintendent at Mine "B", has approached your engineers and other employees personally, urging them to attend meetings of the United Mine Workers and to join that organization.

CO - CO

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

96560

INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH OZANIC (continued)

"I call your attention to the fact that we know that one of your bosses, who resides at Virden, has made house to house canvass of Mine "B" employees living at Virden, urging them to attend the United Mine Workers meetings and to join that organization. This boss who did this work in Virden received his orders from his superiors of the Mine "B" Coal Company and no doubt the orders came from you as president of the coal company.

"I want you to know that all of the fact enumbrated in this letter are included in our charge and complaint before the National Labor Relations Board.

"This morning I have also mailed by special delivery letter four copies of the resolution adopted by Local Union #54 at Springfield on August 22nd to Mr. Bajork, Regional Director of the board asking that the resolution be included in our complaint. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote at a special meeting of all of the employees of your mine.

"In our fight for justice in this particular case we are not only supported by the provisions of the Wagner Act, but we have the full support and co-operation of the American Federation of Labor, President Green of the American Federation of Labor being very deeply interested and is handling the matter in Washington with the head officials of the National Labor Relations Board.

"Trusting that you will carefully consider the above facts in this most important case, I remain

"Sincerely yours,

"President."

With regard to the letter to ELSHOFF dated January 17, 1938, by Mr. OZANIC, it is pointed out that Mr. OZANIC in his statement advised that he received no answer to the letter. The files of Progressive Mine Workers discloses he was in error concerning this as attached to this letter was a brief reply from ELSHOFF dated January 21, 1938. Mr. OZANIC also sent a copy of his letter to OSCAR FALCETTI, to which there was no answer. These letters are quoted as follows:

"January 17, 1938

"Mr. Carl H. Elshoff, President
Mine "B" Coal Company
Springfield, Illinois

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

96561

INTERVIEW WITH
JOSEPH OZANIC
(~~Continued~~)

"My dear Mr. Elshoff:

"As you know, the National Labor Relations Board rendered its decision on January 3, 1938, giving Local Union #54 of Springfield, Illinois and Progressive Miners of America, exclusive bargaining rights over the Mine "B" Coal Company.

"Since the National Labor Relations Board has rendered its decision on the above date, I have, on numerous occasions, endeavored to arrange for a joint conference between yourself and I so that we could enter into collective bargaining with respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment and other conditions of employment for the employees of your mine, but, due to your arbitrary attitude, such conference has failed to materialize.

"I am reliably informed that the supervisory force at your mine are performing work for which there is a scale of wages provided and which work properly belongs to members of Local Union #54, P. M. of A. having jobs at Mine "B". Such action on the part of your company is in strict violation of the Labor Board's ruling, and, in my opinion, this action will not be condoned by the Labor Board or the higher courts to which we shall immediately appeal.

"In compliance with the order of the National Labor Relations Board, I am using this means to again insist that you meet me in conference for the purpose of collective bargaining for the employees of your mine.

"I am enclosing for your information a copy of that contract that is in effect between the Coal Producers Association of Illinois and the Progressive Miners of America and which could be used as a basis in our negotiations.

"I request that you advise me at an early date as to the time and place of conference.

"Anticipating an early reply, I am

"Sincerely yours,

"President
Progressive Miners of America"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

96562

INTERVIEW WITH
JOSEPH OZANIC
(continued)

"January 21st, 1938

"Mr. Joe Ozanic, President,
Progressive Miners of America,
Gillespie, Ill.

"My Dear Mr. Ozanic:--

"I wish to acknowledge your letter of January 17th and to thank you for the contract enclosed.

"When conditions warrant the opening of the mine, it will be a pleasure to advise you so that your wishes as outlined in your letter above mentioned can be carried out.

"Very truly yours,
The Mine "B" Coal Co.

Carl H. Elshoff (signed)
President."

The originals of these documents with the exception of the Elshoff letter dated January 21, 1938, should be in possession of ELSHOFF. In case ELSHOFF is unable to produce these letters, Mr. OZANIC is competent to introduce the copies in evidence which are being retained in the files of this office.

Upon inquiry, Mr. OZANIC advised that he had never been involved in the violence resulting from the conflict between the two labor organizations from 1932 to 1937, and, consequently, had never been arrested or indicted on charges of this nature. He did state, however, that in 1923 or 1924, when he was unable to obtain employment as a coal miner, he had opened a tavern with the result that he was subsequently arrested for violation of the National Prohibition Act and sentenced to three months in jail in Federal Court. He was then living at Mount Olive, Illinois.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

96563

INTERVIEW WITH WALTER BECKER

Mr. Walter Becker who has been actively engaged as a key employee with the Citizens B and B Coal Company, Peoria, Illinois, for many years was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Peoria. Mr. Becker operated mine B prior to the time that it was taken over by Carl Elshoff in 1925. At that time the mine was operated by three men, one by the name of Buckley, the second George Schwanner, present U. S. District Court Clerk for the Southern District of Illinois, and Elshoff. Elshoff bought out the interests of the other two partners two years later in 1927.

b7C

Mr. Becker appeared to be entirely cooperative, answering all questions freely, and furnishing whatever books and records were desired for inspection during the course of the interview which took place on August 27 and 28, 1943. Special Agent [redacted] made an accounting analysis of the records furnished by Mr. Becker, and he will submit the results of his study. [redacted]

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b3

[redacted] Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103

Mr. Becker recalled definitely that Elshoff called him at the time the Progressives broke away from the United Mine Workers, saying that his men refused to work under the United Mine Workers, but that they would work as Progressives, and what should he do. Becker stated that he advised Elshoff to work it with Progressives, bricklayers, or anyone who would be willing to get the coal out. After that Elshoff reopened the mine with Progressives. During the period from 1932 to 1937 the mine continued with uninterrupted production under Progressive control. Mr. Becker could not recall any definite statements reflecting Elshoff's attitude toward the Progressives during this period. In general, however, Mr. Becker stated that Elshoff gave the impression that he had a hard time getting along with the Progressives, that he could never win a case or grievance with them, and that he thought that he could get along better under the United Mine Workers.

Mr. Becker stated that he was not acquainted with the merits of the strike of May 12, 1937. He and Mr. John H. Bontzes, Jr. made repeated attempts to determine the cause of the trouble and to get Elshoff to put the mine in operation. Elshoff was resentful of any inquiries, stating that as long as he lived up to the terms of his lease, it was none of the lessor's business. Elshoff paid his minimum royalty every month which was $2000. He continued to pay this royalty up until 1939 just before the mine reopened, at which time he was able to get the royalty reduced to $19,000 a year instead of $24000. He is presently paying $19,000. An almost daily check was and is being made of the mine at present by [redacted] who resides at

b7C

INTERVIEW WITH WALTER BECKER (continued)

Springfield, Illinois, who submitted written reports to the B and B Coal Company. Mr. Becker advised that when Elshoff was pressed as to why he could not deal with the Progressives that he would argue that he had a contract with the United Mine Workers and that the Progressives would not let him work the mine under this contract. Basing his opinion on the reports of [redacted] Mr. Becker was of the opinion that the mine had no maintenance crew. A careful scrutiny of these reports, however, indicated that some of the supervisory force did go down into the mine during the early months of 1938, until one of the force walked into a pocket of black damp, and was killed as a result. During the time that the mine was shut down, there were no serious fires reported. Since the mine has reopened, however, there has been one fire that Mr. Becker knew about. This happened about one and one half years ago, and that section had to be shut off.

67c

The circumstances surrounding the sale of Mine A were discussed in detail with Mr. Becker. Mr. Becker stated that the transfer of the lease came as a complete surprise. They were not notified of the transfer until the date of its accomplishment, when Ryan and Elshoff called to ask their "blessing" on the deal. This transfer was not to the liking of the lessor, however, there was nothing that could be done about it as there was no provision in the lease which necessitated the consent of the lessor to the sale. The records disclosed that this sale was made on September 4, 1941, and that full operations were resumed on September 23, 1941 according to [redacted] report. Inquiry disclosed that Elshoff actually did try to drive an entry into Mine A. Particular inquiry was made into these facts inasmuch as it has been alleged that Elshoff threatened to mine Mine A coal through Mine B with United Miners in order to swing an election at Mine A in favor of the United Mine Workers. Mr. Becker produced maps which showed in detail the course which Elshoff was working in both mines to connect them. The report of this activity came to the B and B Coal Company through their man [redacted] early on January 13, 1942, when evidently it had been going on for some time. Previously it had been agreed that there should be no connections between the two mines without the consent of all three parties concerned, including the lessor. Mr. Becker and Mr. Bontzes immediately went to Springfield to look into this matter. Upon asking Elshoff as to why he was making this entry into Mine A, Elshoff stated that it was not of their business, that neither Becker, Bontzes no[redacted] was going to tell him how to run his business and that he would make no explanation. Becker then stated that he would ask Oscar Falcetti the reason and Elshoff promptly stated that neither would Falcetti tell them anything about it. Mr. Becker then advised that they got tough and told Elshoff that he would have to seal the openings up, which was done. It should be noted that this work apparently started early after Mine A opened under Elshoff, and if it

INTERVIEW WITH WALTER BECKER (continued)

b7c

should actually be proven that threats were made to close Mine A and work it through Mine B, Mr. Becker, Bontzes an[redacted]ean testify that steps were actually taken toward this end. Mr. Becker stated that from a business point of view it would be unprofitable to do this, and that it would entail some expense of cleaning before actual operation. However, there seems to be no question but what it could have been done, even though according to Mr. Becker it would have been easier to have mined Mine B through Mine A than vice versa.

All the files of correspondence between the B and B Coal Company and Elshoff, also the reports o[redacted] for the pertinent period were reviewed by the writer. All the letters of Elshoff were brief and contained nothing pertinent to the case. Mr. Becker advised that Elshoff was never one to put matters in writing, and used the telephone wherever possible in answering correspondence to him. Dealings with Elshoff were so difficult at times that Mr. Becker and Mr. Bontzes began making written notes of their conferences with Elshoff for inclusion in the files. Very little of these notes, however, referred to Elshoff's labor matters in detail enough to warrant reporting. One particular letter was noted however. This was the copy of a letter written by Elshoff to Mrs. Florence Bontzes Newell at Seattle, Washington, dated July 26, 1939. This letter spoke of the hardship of operating Mine B under the lease, and also spoke of the fact that he did not have to do it, indicating that he was financially independent. In the same letter he mentioned that he was out of debt and comfortably fixed, but that to operate the mine under the $24,000 minimum would drive him into bankruptcy. One paragraph which referred to his labor problems is quoted as follows:

"Now as to the labor situation. You probably know that seven of the 34 men of the bombers and terrorists worked at this mine, and in order to deal with the Progressives, I had to deal with those men which was of course very distasteful and next to impossible. They are now in the penitentiary and this clears up the future in that respect. The only thing stopping me now is the lease."

Due to this letter and another written to Elshoff by Mrs. Newell, there is some indication that she sympathized with his situation more than her brother, Mr. Bontzes did. It was through her intercession and the support of Mr. Becker that Elshoff was able to get his royalty reduced to $19,000 a year.

include in judge

Mr. John H. Bontzes was interviewed by the writer on August 28, 1943. His comments on the Mine B situation was essentially the same as Mr. Becker's. It was his understanding from Elshoff

INTERVIEW WITH WALTER BECKER (continued)

During the period in question that Elshoff was dissatisfied with the Progressives and would like to make a change of unions. When pressed for specific dates and statements, however, Mr. Bontzes could not give any, stating there were numerous occasions. With reference to these two men, it should be noted that although they were very cooperative, they were apprehensive lest they be called to testify or produce their records in event of prosecution. It was their belief that to openly participate would work against their interests as lessor of the mines and also with the unions. Both insisted that if they were called they were willing to testify, but felt that they could be of much more assistance as a confidential source.

Mr. Bontzes stated that recently he had taken a trip to Washington D. C. with Elshoff for the purpose of seeing official of the Interior Department. During the visit, Elshoff arranged for him to meet John L. Lewis, and during the interview Lewis always referred to Elshoff as Carl. A short time ago Elshoff had also approached him concerning the Mine A properties. Elshoff wanted Bontzes to pay off the note which is presently held by Edmund Burke, Attorney for the United Mine Workers. He suggested that the note could be paid off by applying the royalty from Mine A to the note until such time as it was retired. Bontzes refused to do this and Elshoff stated that if there was a foreclosure, all the equipment would be taken out of the mine leaving Bontzes with nothing but a hole in the ground. Bontzes felt that Elshoff intended to bring this subject up at the time of the Lewis interview but such was not the case.

Bontzes stated also that since April, 1945, Elshoff has claimed that he is not obligated to pay the royalty; that this is the obligation of the Federal Government. He is presently in arrears with his royalties. He also claims that the Federal Government should subsidize his payroll. The following wire from Elshoff to the Interior Department is quoted from the files:

"Your wire stating no funds available acknowledged. Reference made to your wire June 7 to District managers re vacation pay and tools. This company cannot carry out these instructions because of lack of funds or collateral security to obtain them. Would like to discuss this and other matters with you on Tuesday or Wednesday in Washington. Advise what day satisfactory. Miners employed at this mine look to Government for this increase. If wages and high cost canneries can be subsidized why not high cost mines. Some provision must be made to avert failure to pay miners on June 27. June 12 last pay day taken care of. Signed Carl Elshoff"

Re: JOHN LEWIS, ET AL

96567

INTERVIEW WITH WALTER BECKER (continued)

Elshoff is presently the Federal Manager of these mines under the present emergency conditions.

It was noted in a casual study of tonnage production from the records, that Mine B produced much more coal under the United Mine Workers prior to 1932, than it did under the Progressives subsequent to that date. However, this rate of production did not increase after the mine opened in 1939. There is a letter on file from Elshoff dated December 6, 1940 advising Bentzes that he was not after heavy tonnage, but economical operation of the mine. This may be used to rebut any contention on Elshoff's part that Progressive operation resulted in reduced tonnage. A study of daily tonnage figures during April and May, 1937 did not disclose any evidence of a previous slow-down of production.

Other notes taken from the files which may be of collateral investigative interest are as follows:

1. Elshoff reported to be in Chicago on September 23, 1938 when NLRB ordered Elshoff to deal with the Progressives.

2. Falcotti reported working at the Jefferson Mine on August 24, 1938.

3. Elshoff did not make any cash payment for the lease on Mine B during the original or subsequent negotiations. It has no cash value. Taxes on both properties for coal rights are paid by the lessor. Lessor also pays taxes on buildings of Mine A but not Mine B.

Additional interviews are being had with miners who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America during the pertinent period. Efforts are also being made to locate and interview a considerable number of persons who either were hired at Mine "B" for the first time subsequent to November 1939, or who applied for employment at Mine "B" subsequent to November 1939 and were turned down. Numerous other investigative steps are also under way in connection with the various requests and suggestions which have been received from the Department from time to time.

In view of the complexity of this matter it appears that nothing would be gained by attempting to itemize the undeveloped leads at this time, and accordingly no undeveloped leads are being set forth in this report.

P E N D I N G

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CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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WALKER, ONE

[redacted]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN L. LEWIS

PART 5 OF 13

FILE NUMBER: 44-845

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT JOHN L. LEWIS

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 5

SERIALS 91

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44-845
9/15/43

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

RE: [redacted] ET AL
INTERNAL SECURITY
SABOTAGE

There is transmitted herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 12, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois, in the above entitled matter.

A copy of this report was previously transmitted to the Division of Records on September 6, 1943.

This matter is now being brought to your attention in view of the possible connection between the captioned case and the case entitled "Mine B - Violations of Section 51, Title 18," your file number 144-10.

No investigation will be conducted in the captioned matter in the absence of a specific request from you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

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INDEXED

44-845-91
SEP 17 1943
OF INVESTIGATION
OF JUSTICE

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Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease
Gandy

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Typed 9-13-43

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TO: C. CLARK

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

Reference is made to previous correspondence in the above captioned matter. The Springfield Office of this Bureau has just advised that Mr. Clayton J. Barber, attorney for the Panther Creek Mines, Tenth Floor, First National Bank Building, Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by an Agent of this Bureau on September 7, 1943, at which time he gave the following information.

"Mr. BARBER stated that shortly after negotiations for Panther Creek Mines by CARL H. ELSHOFF failed, a Mr. HERMAN GRANT of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor, 222 West North Bank Drive, Chicago, Illinois, came to his office and asked if he would enter a Consent Decree to an injunction against Panther Creek Mines, Inc. Mr. GRANT stated that a review of the records of Panther Creek Mines revealed that on each pay period all employees of the mine were not receiving the minimum amount per hour, as required under the Wage and Hour Statutes and rules and regulations. Mr. BARBER refused to enter a Consent Decree and advised that it would be, due to the nature of mining business, an impossibility for the mine to have watchmen for every miner in the mine to see that he actually worked the required number of hours; also that on some days a miner will shoot down large amounts of coal and his pay for that period would be light. At the beginning of the next pay period he might spend several days loading this coal, during which time his pay period would be much above average. Mr. BARBER pointed out that the company was attempting to comply with all these rules and regulations.

RECORDED 44-8-43

After Mr. GRANT's call, Mr. BARBER said he addressed a letter to the Wage and Hour Division in Chicago and sent a copy of this letter to the Labor Department in Washington, D. C. He received an answer from Chicago, wherein that office denied that he had ever been asked to enter a Consent Decree in connection with the injunction. Later he received advice that Mr. HERMAN GRANT was to be in the post office building in Springfield at a given time. Mr. BARBER went to the post office to meet Mr. GRANT. Mr. GRANT was not there but instead Mr. BARBER was served with process in conjunction with an injunction proceed-

[redacted]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ings filed earlier that morning by the Wage and Hour Division. The injunction was filed under Civil Docket #191 on November 6, 1941. The case was heard and the court dismissed the injunction complaint on July 1, 1942.

Mr. BARBER pointed out that he was never able to ascertain to his satisfaction where the complaint was received from which caused the Wage and Hour Division to initiate an investigation; further, that the company had never received any such complaint from any of the company's miners. He pointed out that in hand-loading mines in this area and all areas, the same procedure and same method of pay is followed; that due to the nature of hand-loading, coal miners cannot be paid by any other method as it would be impossible and impractical to make any other arrangement. He stated that he made an exhaustive search to attempt to find information as to where the Wage and Hour Division had ever filed any other similar Injunction proceedings, but without success.

Mr. BARBER advised that he felt that in view of the whole situation, and especially in view of the fact that CARL M. ELSHOFF, and the UMW probably through him, knew the financial status of the Panther Creek Mines and the fact that they were burdened with approximately $400,000.00 indebtedness, caused this complaint to be made to the Wage and Hour Division immediately after negotiations with ELSHOFF failed at the price which ELSHOFF was willing to pay, in an attempt to force Panther Creek Mines to sell."

The above data is being submitted in the event you desire to ascertain from the United States Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, whether the complaint in connection with this matter originated with the United Mine Workers and hence may be part of the conspiracy in this matter, or whether you desire this Bureau to make such inquiry. In the event you desire this Bureau to conduct such inquiry, your early advice in this regard will be appreciated. Should you desire to make direct contact with the Wage and Hour Division, it would be appreciated if you would forward any information secured to this Bureau for the completion of the files.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. F. C. Coleman of your Department, there are transmitted herewith two copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 4, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois, in the above entitled matter. Four copies of this report have now been transmitted to the Department. There are also transmitted herewith for your information four copies of each of the following reports: report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 9, 1943, at Buffalo, New York, and report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 10, 1943, at Cleveland, Ohio.

Very truly yours,

b7c

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures Four

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

September 14, 1943

[redacted]
Time: 3:35 to 3:42 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.
CIVIL RIGHTS AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

At the above time SA [redacted] called from the Chicago field office. He is assigned specially to the current investigation at Springfield, Illinois, and stated he had been assigned specific leads to cover at Chicago, Illinois. In connection with covering those leads, [redacted] referred to the local files of the National Labor Relations Board at Chicago in connection with an investigation conducted by an investigator named [redacted] at Mine A in 1941 regarding labor conditions there, that is, at Springfield, Illinois.

It will be recalled that Mine A was immediately adjacent to Mine B, which is the mine concerned in instant investigation.

In view of the fact that there was some indication that the trouble at Mine A was intimately tied in with the trouble at Mine B, the same has been embraced by the investigative purview in this matter.

SA [redacted] stated that when checking at the headquarters of the 13th Region of NLRB at Chicago he contacted Mr. George Bott, Regional Director, who advised him that there was a case in the Chicago office of NLRB identified as #13-C-1665 entitled "Carl H. Elshoff and Progressive Mine Workers of America, District Number 1," in which the complaint was filed on September 23, 1941, by [redacted] The alleged violation was Section 8 (1 and 5) of the NLRB Regulations.

The complaint was withdrawn on December 22, 1941, at the request of the complainant, [redacted] However, in the meantime, investigation was conducted at Springfield, Illinois, in connection with the matter and SA [redacted] feels that undoubtedly the results of the investigation will be very pertinent to instant investigation being conducted by the Bureau.

INDEXED RECORDED

In view of the Attorney General's interest in this matter and, inasmuch as it should be completely covered from all angles, it is believed that the [redacted] contents of the file should be made available for examination. However [redacted]

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the Regional Director advised SA [redacted] that it would not be possible to make the file available for review and possible photostating of any interesting material without specific permission being received by him from the Washington headquarters of the NLRB.

The file is identified as the "Informal File" and contains both formal and informal material. The complaint filed in the matter alleges, according to SA [redacted] briefly that the United Mine Workers Union was not really the representative union of the mine workers in Mine A.

Inasmuch as SA [redacted] is scheduled to leave Chicago for return to Springfield tomorrow, he deemed it advisable to contact the Bureau and furnish the information above in order that if it was necessary for the review to be conducted by Bureau Agents at Chicago he might be able to do so before leaving there for return to Springfield.

ACTION: SA [redacted] was advised that he should contact SAC Hallford at Springfield, who should bring the matter to the attention of Mr. Frank Coleman, the Departmental attorney who is handling the matter, advising Mr. Coleman of the facts and also that the Bureau has been advised and that the Bureau is forwarding a memorandum to the Department requesting specific advice as to the procedure which should be followed in order to obtain access to this file, which incidentally SA [redacted] states has never been forwarded to the Washington headquarters of the NLRB and therefore has not been made available previously to the Bureau or the Department. It was also pointed out that it should be suggested to Mr. Coleman that he should contact the Department in order that the Department may expeditiously advise the Bureau of the action which it desires taken in view of the limited amount of time available to complete the investigation prior to presentation to the grand jury as contemplated.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch (B)

b7c

[redacted] 9/25/43 44-845-93

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOM C. CLARK
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Agents of this Bureau assigned to the investigation of the above entitled matter have advised that the Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board, Chicago, Illinois, is apparently in possession of a file entitled "Carl H. Elshoff and the Progressive Mine Workers of America, District Number One," #13-C-1665, which sets forth the result of an investigation conducted subsequent to a complaint filed September 23, 1941, by one [redacted] It was further reported that this complaint sets forth an alleged violation of the National Labor Relations Board regulations, stating that the United Mine Workers Union was not actually the representative union of the employees at Mine "A", Springfield, Illinois. Although the complaint was allegedly withdrawn on December 22, 1941, at the request of [redacted] it appears that an investigation was conducted at Springfield, Illinois, in the matter.

It is believed that the results of this investigation might very well be pertinent to the investigation presently being conducted in the above entitled matter. It was further stated that the Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board, Chicago, Illinois, refused to make available the file in this matter without specific authorization from the National Labor Relations Board headquarters in Washington, D. C., and further indicated that this file, which was designated as the "informal file", had not been forwarded to the National Labor Relations Board headquarters in Washington.

In view of the fact that you have previously contacted the National Labor Relations Board for information contained in its files at Washington, D. C., the above data are forwarded for your information in the event you desire to directly contact the National Labor Relations Board in order to secure photostatic copies of file number 13-C-1665.

Inasmuch as this file has apparently not been forwarded to the headquarters of the National Labor Relations Board, Washington, D. C., your early advice would be appreciated as to whether you desire this Bureau to take any action with regard to securing the file.

Mr. F. C. Coleman of your Department, who is presently in Springfield, Illinois, has been apprised of the above facts.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[redacted]

Tolson
Clegg
Coffey
Clavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
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Harbo
Hendon
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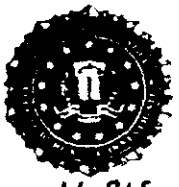
JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



44-845
[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

September 8, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As you know, investigation is presently being conducted in accordance with the desires of the Attorney General into charges that John L. Lewis and certain other officers of the United Mine Workers of America and Carl H. Elshoff, owner of Mine B Coal Company, Springfield, Illinois, conspired during the years 1937 to 1941 in violation of the Civil Rights Statutes to injure and oppress Elshoff's employees in the free exercise of the rights secured to them by the National Labor Relations Act. It is alleged that Lewis paid the sum of $225,000 to Elshoff from the years 1937 to 1941 with the intent to induce Elshoff to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, who were at that time members of the rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

INVESTIGATION AND INTERVIEWS WITH MINERS

The Springfield Office has now submitted a report in excess of 500 pages in this matter, and investigation is being vigorously pursued in order that the matter may be completed by September 25, 1943, inasmuch as the Department has indicated it would like to present this case to a grand jury in the first part of October, 1943.

The report submitted by the Springfield Office indicates that approximately 150 men who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1937 at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois, have been interviewed. Signed statements have been secured from each individual interviewed. A review of these signed statements indicates that 20 men gave no information of value. In these cases either the individual actually did not know anything of value to this case or refused to divulge any information. Forty-nine of the miners interviewed were cooperative with Bureau Agents; however, they gave information of little value, being vague and hesitant in their comments. It should also be noted that a number of these individuals were unable to speak, read or write English, and therefore possessed little information of value in this investigation. Only two of the individuals interviewed were openly hostile and refused to give any information to Agents of this Bureau. The remaining 79 men interviewed gave information that could be considered very favorable to the Government's case and all might well be considered potential witnesses in this matter.

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22 SEP 23 1943

In general, the above mentioned 79 individuals advised that the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois, in 1932 due to the fact that Lewis attempted to impose a lower wage scale on the miners. In general, all of these individuals agreed that conditions were rather quiet and employee—employer relations good at Mine B until shortly before May of 1937. At this time it was discovered that a number of members of the Progressive Mine Workers at Mine B were actually spies for the United Mine Workers Union and were on the latter's pay roll. Many of the miners interviewed will be able to testify that they attended a pit grievance committee meeting at Mine B on the evening of May 11, 1937, at which time five alleged spies were expelled from the Progressive Mine Workers Union. Thereafter, the Union insisted that Elshoff fire these five expelled individuals, and when Elshoff and the Mine officials refused to discharge these individuals, a strike was called on May 12, 1937. Most of the 79 individuals mentioned above will testify that they were at that time and still are in favor of the Progressive Mine Workers Union; however, after May of 1937 it appeared that Elshoff was definitely in favor of the United Mine Workers Union and would not cooperate in any way in attempting to get the Mine back into operation. A number of the men stated that Elshoff received money from John L. Lewis in order to pay the expense of the Mine during the time it was closed down; however, few of the miners have anything but hearsay evidence in this regard.

INTERVIEWS REGARDING PURCHASE OF MINE A BY ELSHOFF IN 1941 FOR THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

In the fall of 1941, Carl H. Elshoff, owner of Mine B, purchased Mine A, which adjoins Mine B, from Mr. William H. Ryan for the sum of $60,000 paid in cash. It was alleged that this money was supplied directly by the United Mine Workers of America and that Elshoff was merely acting as a front in order that the UMW might take over Mine A, which was controlled by the Progressive Mine Workers Union. Mr. William H. Ryan, upon interview, tended to substantiate the above allegation and stated that prior to the consummation of the sale of Mine A, it became apparent that Elshoff was merely acting as a front for John L. Lewis.

In this connection, Mr. Robert C. Solomon, President of the Panther Creek Coal Mines, Springfield, Illinois, stated that in the early part of 1942, Elshoff attempted to purchase the Panther Creek Mines for $400,000 cash. Mr. Solomon stated that although the deal fell through, it was a matter of common knowledge that Elshoff had no money of his own and would be financed by the UMW of America.

It is of interest to note that Mr. Ryan stated that early in 1937, Ray Edmundson, a subject in this case and President of the UMW Local in Springfield, approached him with a proposition to freeze the Progressive Mine Workers Union out of Mine A. Mr. Ryan advised he turned this proposition down flatly.

MISCELLANEOUS INTERVIEWS

A number of the officials of the Progressive Mine Workers of America have been interviewed, and, of course, they gave evidence and statements very favorable to the Government's case in this matter.

The Springfield Office has recently advised that three individuals interviewed have requested copies of signed statements which they gave to Agents of this Bureau. In view of the fact that these individuals were witnesses and not subjects, the Springfield Office declined to comply with their request; however, the question has been referred to the Department with a request for advice as to the procedure to be followed in the future in the event additional requests of a similar nature are received from other individuals interviewed.

ACTION

It is believed that the investigation in this case has progressed very satisfactorily from the Bureau's standpoint to date. The investigation is being vigorously pursued and you will be promptly informed of developments in this matter.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

D. M. Ladd

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

[X] Deleted under exemption(s) b3 b7C with no segregable material available for release to you.

[ ] Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

[ ] Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

[ ] Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

[X] For your information: b3 Statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103.

[X] The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
44-445-95

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EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

FC-287

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. N[redacted]
Miss [redacted]

[redacted]
Call: 10:30 AM
Dictated: 10:45 AM

August 27, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to the attached teletype from the Springfield Office dated August 26, 1943, requesting [redacted].

b3

At the above time I had Mr. Buckley in my office contacted by telephone Mr. Frank Coleman of the Criminal Division of the Department regarding this request. Mr. Coleman advised that he would secure [redacted]. Mr. Coleman was advised that a memorandum would be forwarded immediately to the Criminal Division of the Department, [redacted]

ACTION:

There is attached for your approval a memorandum to the Criminal Division of the Department requesting [redacted] as set forth in the attached teletype from the Springfield Office dated August 26, 1943.

OK
DL

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

b3 statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103

b7c

Attachment

RECORDED 14-845-95
F B I
15 SEP 15 [redacted]

-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b3 b7C with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☒ For your information: b3 Statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
44-845-95

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

[redacted]
3:15 PM
3:22 PM

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
August 30, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: John L. Lewis et al
Civil Rights and Domestic
Violence

At this time SAC Hallford called and talked to Agent [redacted] in my office regarding the above captioned matter. He stated that to date Agents handling this case have conducted over 100 interviews with miners involved in the case and the statements made by them have been favorable to the Government's theory of the case - that is - in general, although there have been a few miners who are members of the United Mine Workers of America who have not been of a favorable nature.

Mr. Hallford requested advice regarding certain exhibits requested by him last week around August 23rd such as membership cards in connection with the voting by the Progressive Mine Workers Union members and the members of the UMW at the time of the first and second elections which were held. I pointed out to him that a letter was on its way to him explaining that the membership cards are not available due to the procedure in voting which is secret and also pointed out the fact that petitions filed by any of the miners with the National Labor Relations Board would not be actually made a part of the records of the NLRB and therefore were not available.

Mr. Hallford pointed out there were certain things which Mr. Coleman, the Departmental Attorney handling this case, had indicated would not have to be done, although he had originally requested the performance of the same and Mr. Hallford requested advice regarding this angle. [redacted] pointed out to him that he should forward a letter to the Bureau setting out these items so that they may be forwarded specifically to the Department and written advice received from the Department for the records.

EX-4

44-845-96

RECORDED & INDEXED

Mr. Hallford indicated that a report should be prepared by Saturday, September 4, and should be available at the Bureau by Monday, September 6, 1943. He indicated that the investigation to date had been proceeding rather smoothly but also indicated that the requests which are continually received from the Department are rather voluminous and in some instances partially repetitive - that is - they request, for instance, that additional angles be covered with certain witnesses who have already been interviewed and the request appears to relate to what would constitute rebuttal evidence at a trial rather than direct evidence, in the Government's case in chief. I suggested that where in his judgment such was the case that these items be set aside [redacted]

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and a letter forwarded to the Bureau describing this situation in order that it may be taken up with the Department and also in order that the investigation may proceed as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Mr. Hallford also raised the point that he had been advised by Mr. Coleman while Mr. Coleman was in Springfield, Illinois, that the Bureau's investigation would not have to embrace certain documents and other evidence developed [redacted] one of the subjects in this case, yet in the suggested trial brief which was forwarded to the Springfield Office and which had been received from the Department it outlined a request for itemization of the payments to Carl Elshoff amounting in toto to $225,000. Again, it was indicated to Mr. Hallford that he should include things such as this in a letter to the Bureau in order that the situation may be immediately called to the attention of the Department for clarification and written confirmation of the oral advice furnished by Mr. Coleman.

b3

SAC Hallford stated that the suggested investigations received from the Department and forwarded to the Springfield Office by the Bureau are being considered by him as suggestions and not as instructions, with which viewpoint Agent [redacted] indicated concurrence on the part of the Bureau. This was done because Mr. Coleman, who is apparently handling this matter in the Department, has indicated an extreme interest in the case to the point of advancing theories which have no basis in facts available regarding the instant case. Mr. Coleman understands that he is offering these points merely as suggestions and that, of course, the matter is being left to the Bureau's discretion as to the exact method of investigation.

While talking to SAC Hallford, [redacted] pointed out to him the recent developments in the Department - [redacted] This, of course, was furnished to Mr. Hallford only for his information and not as a settled fact inasmuch as written advice has not yet been received from the Department.

b3

In response to the inquiry of [redacted] SAC Hallford stated he was pressing the matter in order that no delay would ensue in the handling of this

b3: Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103

b7c

investigation and in order to see that every effort is made to meet the deadline. It appears that to date, as pointed out by Mr. Hallford, the investigation is proceeding rather smoothly and is being handled very well.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch (3)

F. L. Welch

[redacted]

b7c

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

TCC:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 31, 1943

[redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 2 - 8/30/43

Re: Mine "B" -- Violations of
Section 51, Title 18.

I am informed from a reliable source that for some years the U.M.W. organization, possibly with subject Lewis' knowledge, has been using two brothers, [redacted] as gunmen in connection with terroristic activities on behalf of the union. I do not have the address of these individuals, but it is said that they live and operate in southern Illinois. The suggestion is that these men may possibly be used to intimidate and influence witnesses in connection with this current investigation.

I leave to your judgment the question of whether these men should be put under surveillance. Your Field Office will be in the best position to know whether any destructive efforts are being made and what measures are best to combat them.

I am also similarly informed that [redacted] U.M.W., but who is not an attorney, may be used as a diplomat for the organization in connection with this case. Should you discover that [redacted] activities are touching this case at any point, kindly advise me at once.

My memorandum to you of August 30, 1943, numbered 3 concerns [redacted] who is presently employed in some capacity by the U.M.W., [redacted]

Respectfully,

RECORDED & INDEXED

144-845-97

Tom C. Clark

TOM C. CLARK,
Assistant Attorney General.

9/6/43
Mt Springfield
[redacted]

[redacted]

b7c

Joseph L. Lewis

Limited Mine Workers

surveillance be instituted, you should immediately inform the Bureau.

b7c

In the event investigation indicates [redacted] United Mine Workers, appears to be implicated in this matter, you should immediately advise the Bureau in order that the Criminal Division may be appropriately informed.

Enclosure

SPECIAL DELIVERY

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

[redacted]
10:00 AM

CC-287

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
September 2, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

b7c

Re: John L. Lewis et al
Civil Rights and
Domestic Violence

At this time Mr. Frank Coleman called from the Department relative to this matter and stated that the Attorney General was leaving on Tuesday next for Mexico for a two weeks vacation. Mr. Coleman was interested in knowing whether we would have a summary of the preliminary investigation developed by Tuesday because Mr. Coleman feels that the Attorney General would like to take with him some sort of a picture as to what the preliminary investigation has developed.

It was pointed out to Mr. Coleman by [redacted] who took the call that there was a distinct possibility, as he had previously been advised, that the initial report in this matter might reach the Bureau by Tuesday or Wednesday of next week and that every effort would be made, of course, to try and have a summary available for the Attorney General before he leaves on Tuesday. Mr. Coleman stated that under no circumstances, however, did he want to hamper or interfere with the investigation and in the event there was any possibility of such occurring he was sure that the Attorney General would not want the matter rushed just to have the preliminary information available.

ACTION: Attached is a suggested teletype to Springfield, instructing that the report which SAC Hallford stated would be prepared by Saturday of this week, September 4, should be prepared without fail and submitted, to reach the Bureau by Monday, special delivery. These were the plans of SAC Hallford prior to the receipt of this call. However, in order that the report will be mailed Saturday, it is deemed advisable to teletype Mr. Hallford since he was given leeway to hold off for a few days if he thought it advisable.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

RECORDED 144-845-9
SEP 3 1943
EX-98

[redacted]

176

SEP 21 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
September 16, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
(Bureau File No. 44-845)

URGENT

Dear Sir:

For the information of the Bureau the following investigation is requested of the Pittsburgh Field Division:

For the information of the Pittsburgh Field Division this case must receive the most expeditious attention. In view of the extreme emergency and expeditious nature of this investigation, and if this Field Division is to meet a dead line set by the Bureau, a report of the results of this investigation must be in the hands of the Springfield Division by September 23, 1943.

For the information of the Pittsburgh Field Division, the Department has requested a full and complete investigation into the charges of JOHN L. LEWIS, President of the International United Mine Workers of America, RAY EDMUNDSON, President of District 12 (Illinois), United Mine Workers of America, WALTER J. JAMES, Secretary-Treasurer District 12, CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B" Coal Company, a coal mine in Springfield, Illinois, OSCAR FALCETTI, Superintendent of Mine "B", to have conspired during the years 1937 through 1941 in violation of Section 51, Title 18, USC, to injure and oppress ELSHOFF's employees in the free exercise of the rights secured to them by the National Labor Relations Act.

According to information already secured the sum of $225,000.00 was paid in the years 1937 to 1941 by officials of the United Mine Workers of America to CARL H. ELSHOFF with the intent to induce ELSHOFF to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, who at that time were members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, a rival union. If it can be proven that ELSHOFF and the officials of UMW conspired to deprive members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America of their rights, as secured by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act, there can undoubtedly be established a violation of Section 51, Title 18, USC.

CARL H. ELSHOFF is known to have held numerous parties, and to have

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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[redacted]

entertained lavishly at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, during the period from 1937 through 1941. The Morrison Hotel is also known as the UMW hotel in Chicago, and is the hotel where RAY EDMUNDSON stops when in Chicago. In connection with this investigation it becomes important to develop every detail of the relationship between RAY EDMUNDSON, President of the United Mine Workers organization in Illinois, and CARL H. ELSHOFF, President and operator of the Mine "B" Coal Company, Springfield, Illinois.

b7C
b7D

In an interview with [redacted] United Steel Workers of America, CIO, 205 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, he advised that [redacted] of the United Steel Workers of America, CIO, 1500 Commonwealth Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was present at one or two of ELSHOFF's parties held in the Morrison Hotel. [redacted] according to [redacted] allegedly heard ELSHOFF leave instructions with the Morrison Hotel, and with the bar at that hotel to the effect that EDMUNDSON was to have anything he wanted at the hotel, and that it should be charged to ELSHOFF's account.

It is requested that [redacted] be interviewed to ascertain whether or not he can substantiate the instructions left by ELSHOFF with the Morrison Hotel. [redacted] should also be interviewed for any other information he may have concerning the relationship between CARL H. ELSHOFF and RAY EDMUNDSON or WALTER J. JAMES, or JOHN L. LEWIS. In the event that [redacted] is able to furnish any pertinent information in connection with this matter, or substantiate the allegation, an attempt should be made to secure a signed statement from him. This statement should include, of course, all circumstances, date and place of the instance or instances of which he may have knowledge.

In view of the nature of this interview, it is believed that two Agents should be present during the interview. For your information the Bureau has instructed that only "experienced and well qualified Agents" be assigned to this investigation.

b7C

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted]

b7C
b7D

The Department has suggested that in interviewing [redacted] it be pointed out to him very specifically that the statute of limitations has run [redacted] and accordingly, prosecution of that case is now barred. The Department has suggested that if this is pointed out to [redacted] he may be willing to tell the whole truth.

Nine copies of this report should be furnished to the Bureau and four to this office. Springfield is the Office of Origin. I again wish to impress upon you the importance of this investigation, and the fact that it is imperative that these leads be covered immediately. In addition, it is the Bureau's desire that you give this matter your personal attention.

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD
Special Agent in Charge

[redacted]
AMSD

2cc: Pittsburgh (AMSD)

TCC:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 17, 1943

150

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: John L. Lewis, et al.,
Civil Rights and Domestic
Violence.

Your memorandum of September 8, 1943, in regard to request for copies of signed statements given by three individuals interviewed by your Springfield office, has been discussed by Frank Coleman of this Division with your Special Agent in Charge at Springfield.

The Bureau's refusal to grant the request for copies of the signed statements has my approval. Mr. Hoover advises that no further efforts to obtain copies of signed statements have as yet been made. If any further requests are received in this connection, I wish you would advise me immediately. The policy in respect thereto must be determined in accordance with the circumstances of each particular case.

Respectfully,

Tom C. Clark [redacted]

TOM C. CLARK,
Assistant Attorney General.

RECORDED 44-845-100

[redacted]

EX-6

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60 SEP 21 1943

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[redacted]
44-845
9/17/43

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith four copies of each of the following reports in the above entitled matter:

Report of Special Agent [redacted], dated September 13, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois;

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 15, 1943, at Norfolk, Virginia.

Investigation is continuing in this matter and as subsequent reports are received they will be made available to you immediately.

Enclosure

MUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 5
SEP 17, 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

44-845-10

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 20 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEP 17 12 10 PM '43
RECEIVED READING ROOM
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

b7c

[redacted]

38 SEP 22 1943

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Case originated at: SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS File No. 44-19

Report made at:	Date:	Period:	Report made by:
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.	9-10-43	9-8-43	[redacted] lh

Title:	Character of case:
JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America; CARL H. ELSHOFF, Owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois.	CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS: MARTIN WAGNER, NLRB Regional Director, San Francisco, Calif., arrived in Chicago on 4-28-41 as a field examiner. Never assigned to investigation of Mine "B" controversy. Did investigate similar matter involving Mine "A". This latter investigation developed nothing of significance. With reference to instant investigation.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Letter from Springfield to Bureau dated 9-8-43.

DETAILS: AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

On September 8, 1943, Special Agent [redacted] and the writer interviewed MARTIN WAGNER, National Labor Relations Board Regional Director, at his office, 1095 Market Street. Mr. WAGNER advised that he had not arrived at the NLRB office in Chicago which office covers Springfield, Illinois, until April 28, 1941. He had previously worked for the NLRB in West Virginia, and he was classified as a field examiner on his arrival in Chicago. He stated that he never

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Approved and Forwarded N. J. L. Pieper Special Agent in Charge

44-845-102

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9 Bureau (AMSD)
4 Springfield (AMSD)
4 San Francisco

39 [redacted]

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did any work on the controversy concerning Mine "B" and that as a matter of fact by the time he got to Chicago this controversy had largely been settled. Mr. WAGNER stated, however, that he did investigate a controversy concerning Mine "A" which mine was purchased by CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B", in late 1941 or early 1942. WAGNER stated that under the previous operator the mine had been unionized by the Progressive Mine Workers. Shortly after ELSHOFF's acquisition, the United Mine Workers held a meeting in the Elk's Hall at Springfield, Illinois, in which a majority of the employees of the mine, which also constituted a majority of those present at the Elk's Hall, signed "authorizations" that the United Mine Workers should be their bargaining agent.

Following this the Progressive Mine Workers filed a charge with the NLRB alleging that ELSHOFF had failed to bargain with them and had assisted the United Mine Workers in taking over Mine "A". Mr. WAGNER stated that he conducted a thorough examination of this matter and had been unable to develop any indication of collusion between ELSHOFF and the United Mine Workers. He did establish that when the Mine "A" re-opened under ELSHOFF, the United Mine Workers had a clear majority of the employees working in the mine at that time, which majority was represented by validly signed signature cards.

WAGNER stated further that during his investigation of this matter rumors were prevalent in Springfield that OSCAR FALCETTI was in reality an employee of JOHN L. LEWIS. WAGNER was unable to develop any concrete evidence of this.

Concerning the election at Mine "B" held on December 15, 1937, WAGNER stated that he had no personal knowledge of this election but that the decision of the NLRB concerning the validity of the election could be found in Volume 4 of the "Decisions and Orders of NLRB", Page 323, and that this decision indicates that in the opinion of the Board there was no foundation for the United Mine Workers allegations of fraud. WAGNER stated that a copy of the Regional Director's report to the NLRB upon which this decision was based can be obtained from the National Labor Relations Board at Washington, D. C.

While WAGNER was very cooperative throughout the interview he advised that he did not care to express an opinion as to, first, the purpose of the payments by the United Mine Workers to ELSHOFF; and second, on the merits of the controversy, inasmuch as his knowledge thereof was almost entirely second hand. In conclusion he stated

that to the best of his knowledge he had no information of a probative value concerning either the controversy involving Mine "B" or the controversy involving Mine "A" which would be of any aid in the prosecution of instant case.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 44-17

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA	SEP 12 1943	9/9,10/43	[redacted] [redacted]

TITLE

JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America; CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois.

CHARACTER OF CASE

CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JAMES C. CLARK, Field Examiner for National Labor Relations Board, Chicago, from August of 1940 to January or February of 1941, interviewed. CLARK investigated petition for contempt proceedings filed by PMW as well as charges that UMW had violated N.L.R.A. and subsequently UMW petition for certification. A detailed report and work papers in regard to union membership at Mine "B" were submitted to Chicago Office of N.L.R.B. CLARK stated that he was unable to secure evidence that CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B" Coal Company would not bargain with PMW in good faith although both ELSHOFF and OSCAR FALCETTI, Superintendent of Mine "B" openly expressed dislike for PMW and stated that it was impossible to deal with the organization as it failed to adhere to contracts. CLARK stated that he was suspicious of some of the men hired who were members of UMW after Mine "B" reopened in 1939, but that in general FALCETTI could justify the employment of each man. In one case an individual gave up well paying employment as a mine inspector to work as a miner and shortly thereafter a change in work gave him access to the entire mine. Violence and coercion participated in about equally by both unions. And according to CLARK, ELSHOFF and FALCETTI did not approve. There were logical reasons why some PMW members shifted to UMW. RAY EDMUNDSON, President of District 12, UMW, cooperated in turning over his records and furnishing witnesses to CLARK.

- RUC -

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: D. S. Hostetter — SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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4- Springfield (SD)
3- Indianapolis

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[redacted]

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Op. 5

b7c

Indpls. File 44-17

REFERENCE: Letter dated September 6, 1943, from the Springfield Field Division to the Bureau.

DETAILS: JOHN C. CLARK was interviewed at the Indianapolis Field Division office on September 9 and 10, 1943. He advised that his present residence is [redacted]

In regard to his employment with the National Labor Relations Board, CLARK advised that from April of 1938 until November of 1939 he was stationed at Indianapolis, and from November of 1939 to May of 1940 at Los Angeles, California, and from May of 1940 to April of 1941 at Chicago, Illinois. Thereafter he was Director for the National Labor Relations Board at Indianapolis until April 10, 1943, at which time the Indianapolis office was closed.

CLARK stated that from July or August of 1940 to January or February of 1941, as Field Examiner for the National Labor Relations Board at Chicago, he was actively interested in the Mine "B" controversy at Springfield, Illinois, and investigated proceedings filed by the Progressive Mine Workers, as well as charges that the United Mine Workers had violated sections of the National Labor Relations Act. Subsequently, CLARK investigated a UMW petition for certification.

By way of background, CLARK stated that CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B" at Springfield, Illinois, in November of 1939 notified PMW that he intended to open Mine "B", after it had been closed for a period of approximately two and a half years because of labor difficulties. CLARK stated that the PMW was anxious to get in the mine and agreed to go to work before a contract was signed. By way of explanation, CLARK stated that at this time the Progressives were slipping in Illinois and western Kentucky, the only two states in which they had ever had a strong foothold.

The miners who had been on Mine "B"'s payroll as of May 12, 1937, the time the mine was closed, were not all called back at once for the reason that cave ins and other repairs were necessary before the mine could be put into full operation. He stated that less than half the total number of employees on the payroll of Mine "B" as of May 12, 1937, actually returned to work when called during the latter part of 1939 and the early part of 1940.

CLARK interviewed at least 150 employees who had returned to Mine "B" and took statements from 50 or 60 of them. In regard to the union affiliation at the time of re-employment, agent was advised that during the period of the shutdown many miners had secured employment in other mines which were controlled by UMW, and as a result had joined that union. The general situation was that there were many Progressives who had not been loyal to the PMW, and UMW was able to persuade these men to become members of that union.

CLARK further stated that in some cases miners who had shifted from the Progressives to UMW when they received notice that Mine "B" was re-opening returned to Mine "B" because of its proximity to Springfield, Illinois, where they maintained their homes because of the convenience of the location. The UMW offered no objection to this, and in CLARK's opinion suggested that the change be made.

CLARK stated that two other factors influenced employees to shift their membership from PMW to UMW, the first being that it was a policy of the Progressive union not to hire any apprentices as long as any Progressive members were unemployed, whereas UMW fostered the hiring of the sons of UMW workers as apprentices, even though some UMW members might be unemployed.

CLARK stated that it was common knowledge around Springfield that the Progressive union was not paying death benefits when due. He stated that UMW capitalized on this and made a point of paying death benefits very promptly and dramatically. He stated that he knew of two instances when on the death of a UMW member a large committee was appointed to attend the funeral of the deceased and pay the benefit to the miner's widow at the funeral.

CLARK stated in regard to the use of violence and coercion on the part of members, that there was no question in his mind but that some violence did occur. It was his opinion that the responsibility was about equally divided between the two unions. CLARK stated that the acts of violence were certainly known to the management of Mine "B", but that there was no indication that they were approved by it. Both ELSHOFF and FALCETTI stated to CLARK that it was impossible to give individual miners enough protection while working in the mine or to stop the violence which was occurring between November of 1939 and January of 1941. Local authorities were not cooperative. Both ELSHOFF and FALCETTI stated to CLARK that they wished the violence would stop.

In regard to discrimination on the part of the management in hiring new workers, CLARK stated that it was the contention of PMW that FALCETTI, who was primarily concerned with the employment of new men, had discriminated against PMW. On investigation, it was determined that

FALCETTI had valid reasons for hiring miners, and that in so far as possible, in the opinion of CLARK, he adhered to a strict middle-of-the-road policy. FALCETTI gave CLARK a long statement in regard to the hiring of individual men, and in many cases it was found that an individual miner had been recommended by a Progressive, or had been employed by Mine "B" at the time it closed in 1937.

CLARK advised that in general FALCETTI could justify the employment of every man. CLARK further stated, however, that in some cases he was suspicious of individuals employed. He mentioned an instance of FALCETTI's hiring a mine inspector for the State of Illinois who gave up this position to work as a miner. This individual (name unknown) was a member of the UMW. Shortly after his employment, the former mine inspector was given work having to do with the ventilation of the mine and had access to the entire mine because of this fact.

In connection with the charge alleging violation of what Mr. CLARK believed to Section 8 (5) of the National Labor Relations Act which has to do with refusal to bargain in good faith, Mr. CLARK stated that JOHN KANE, attorney for the Progressive Mine Workers, contended that ELSHOFF had delayed the proceedings by failure to attend meetings that had been arranged, and in every other possible way. CLARK had no specific information to offer in regard to this contention. He did state that he had talked to ELSHOFF in regard to his negotiations with the PMW and had been advised by ELSHOFF that he was having great difficulty in negotiating a contract with the PMW inasmuch as the local union at Mine "B" refused to give him the same terms that were effective in the mines of nearby competitors.

CLARK stated that ELSHOFF showed him photostatic copies of the books of competing PMW mines, indicating that maintenance men were paid only when the mine worked. ELSHOFF stated that he was attempting to secure terms that were as favorable to him but was unable to secure them with the PMW. ELSHOFF also indicated that he knew that the UMW adhered strictly to the terms of their agreements, whereas this was not true of the PMW, who made side agreements with various mine owners. Both ELSHOFF and FALCETTI expressed at various times to CLARK their dislike for the PMW, giving as their reasons loose organization and the tendency the union had to indulge in side agreements with operators.

CLARK stated in regard to the contempt charges that the National Labor Relations Board was requested to file by PMW, that they involved the refusal of Mine "B" to rehire four PMW workers who had been sentenced to Leavenworth on Federal charges arising during the early part of the Mine "B" controversy when a great deal of violence was indulged in. These men had been paroled and were attempting to secure employment at Mine "B". CLARK

stated that the case was presented before the National Labor Relations Board at Washington, and it was decided that as a matter of policy not to go ahead with the contempt proceedings because of the facts involved.

When investigating the UMW's request for certification of the Collective Bargaining Agent made approximately July 30, 1940, CLARK stated that he analyzed the membership of both UMW and PMW, showing date of hiring, including all those employed as of May 12, 1937, and that he also secured union membership cards from both unions. He stated that in some cases individual miners belonged to both unions, and that it was his recollection that, including transfers, the UMW had a majority.

CLARK advised that the UMW had cooperated with him to the fullest extent in supplying witnesses and factual data. He further stated that he had submitted a complete report on the results of his investigation to the National Labor Relations Board at Chicago, as well as various statements taken from mine officials and miners. He stated that his work papers were also included in the N.L.R.B. file, presumably at Chicago, and that from these papers he could give more detailed information in regard to the status of union membership at the time of his investigation.

CLARK stated definitely that he was not connected with the Mine "B" matter on May 12, 1937, and that he had no details in regard to the dismissal of twelve miners expelled from PMW, nor had he ever taken up the matter with CARL ELSHOFF. He suggested that O. S. SMITH, former N.L.R.B. Field Relations Examiner, Chicago, Illinois, now Director of the Field Division in Washington, D.C., could give pertinent information in regard to this.

He also advised that he had not seen a petition signed by members of UMW dated between August 18, 1937, and December 15, 1937. He did state, however, that RAY EDMUNDSON, as before mentioned, had turned over to him application cards of UMW workers in 1940, and that probably some of these had been completed during this period.

CLARK appeared to the writer to be unbiased in his attitude toward both unions, and it is believed that he would make a good witness if given an opportunity to review his reports and work papers.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

Indpls. File 44-17

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION

At Springfield, Illinois:

Will attempt to determine the identity of the individual who resigned his position as Mine Inspector for the State of Illinois to become a miner in Mine "B", and who subsequently was put in charge of the ventilating system of that mine.

Will interview this individual, if his identity is learned, for information concerning his affiliation with UMW and organizational work performed by him. Will also secure details of how he secured employment at Mine "B".

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
This Case originated at SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS File No. 44-9

Report made at	Date when made	Period for Which Made	Report made by
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	9-15-43	9-14-43	[redacted]

Title JOHN L. LEWIS: RAY EDMUNDSON: WALTER J. JAMES, CARL H. ELSHOFF: OSCAR FALCETTI

Character of Case CIVIL RIGHTS & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[redacted] at two meetings of P.M.A. during which members decided to go over to U.M.W. Advises no direct efforts made by any of subjects at these meetings to influence decision of miners. Indicates ELSHOFF created impression among committee of miners that Mine A would reopen and men return to work if P.M.A. would go over to U.M.W. States that EDMUNDSON made promise to do all in his power to reopen Mine A when men came over to U.M.W.

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REFERENCE: Bureau file No. 44-845.

Letter from Springfield to Bureau dated September 9, 1943.

DETAILS: AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA:

[redacted]

[redacted] was located at this address and advised that he had been living there since May and was presently employed as [redacted]

DEFERRED RECORDING

Approved & Forwarded G.R.M. Swain SAC

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44-845-104

9/13/43 4 copies clerk [redacted]

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[redacted] was thoroughly interviewed with respect to his knowledge of the events surrounding the circumstances involving the miners at Mine A changing unions in the latter part of 1941. [redacted] furnished the following information giving a signed statement which is set forth hereinafter:

"Norfolk, Virginia
September 14, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make this statement and I have been advised that I am not required to make any statement, and that anything I say may be used as evidence in court.

"I recall that in the summer of 1941, Mine A in Springfield, Illinois was sold by its owner, William Ryan, to the owner of Mine B, Carl Elshoff, the reason apparently being that Ryan was 'broke'. I know that in 1937, due to a dispute over the fact that about twelve spies of the UMW were causing trouble among the men of Mine B, which men the operators of Mine B refused to discharge, the P.M.A. union pulled the men out of Mine B causing it to close down. I know that eventually Mine B reopened and that it operated with men of the UMW union.

"I know that at the time Mine A was sold to Mine B, Mine A closed down, as it usually did each summer due to a regular seasoned closure. While Mine A was closed there were substantial rumors to the effect that Mine A would reopen only under men in the UMW. There were also rumors to the effect that if Mine A did not open under the UMW that the coal would probably be mined through Mine B, which connected underground with Mine A, and which was a UMW mine. It was pretty well understood by the PMA men as a result of these rumors that the owners of Mine B, who were now also the owners of Mine A, were in favor of the UMW and would not open Mine A under the PMA.

"About this time a special meeting of the PMA local was called by the PMA local officers. This meeting was held at the PMA Hall and I was present as a member of the local. I did not hold any official position at this meeting. At this meeting a number of the members discussed the general situation which I have mentioned, and the talk was that the men of the local wanted to get back to work at Mine A regardless of what

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was involved. No one came out and flatly stated that the PMA local should go over to the UMW, but the general trend of the meeting was to the effect that Mine A was now owned by Elshoff and that he favored the UMW and that he probably would not open it under PMA, and that therefore if work was to be had it would be necessary to join the UMW. No one in particular led this discussion at the meeting.

"Shortly after this I received an unsigned form letter in the mail, and I think that there was a notice in the newspapers, both to the effect that there would be a meeting of the Mine A local at the Redmen's Hall, giving the time and date, and stating that the purpose was to discuss the current situation.

[redacted] The main talk at this meeting was made by [redacted] who indicated that he was on a committee which had visited Mr. Elshoff. The whole trend of [redacted] talk was that it had been indicated by Mr. Elshoff that Mine A would reopen and employ the men only if they came over to the UMW. [redacted] stated that Mr. Elshoff had not flatly stated this, but that this was the impression which Elshoff had left with the committee. As a result of [redacted] talk, and the general discussion, the general feeling expressed by the men present was that they wanted to go over to the UMW. I cannot positively say whether the men wanted to go over to the UMW because they liked the UMW or because they wanted to get back to work at any cost, but I believe that it was for the latter reason. Ray Edmundson was not present at this meeting at Redmen's Hall. [redacted]

"Due to the fact that there were not a sufficient number of men present at the meeting at Redmen's Hall to take a vote, no vote was taken, but another meeting was decided upon at the Redmen's Hall meeting It was subsequently announced that this meeting would be held at the Elk's Club. A few days after the Redmen's Hall meeting, the meeting at Elk's Hall was held. It was held on a Sunday, [redacted]

[redacted] again spoke, and [redacted] spoke, and also [redacted], who was also on the committee which visited Mr. Elshoff, spoke. The only hope of the men to get their jobs in Mine A, was to join the UMW, inasmuch as this was the impression left on the committee by Mr. Elshoff, and was the general rumor around.

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"At this meeting a vot was taken, which vote was practically unanimous in favor of the PMA local going over to the UMW. At this point Mr. Edmundson was invited to come to the meeting, and he was informed as to the decision which had been reached. He thereupon addressed the meeting and stated that he was pleased to welcome the men into the UMW, and that he himself would do his best to make it possible for the men to go back to work at Mine A.

"At the conclusion of the meeting, a group of men went to Edmundson's office at his invitation. This group numbered about six or seven men, [redacted] and myself. When we got to Edmundson's office we discussed the getting of a charter for the new union local, and Edmundson said he would arrange for it and he also called his stenographer in and dictated a statement, which he signed, to the effect that he would do all in his power to get the mine reopened and get the men back to work in Mine A. Edmundson kept one copy of the statement, and gave the original to [redacted] with the understanding that if the mine reopened that the statement would be given back to Edmundson.

"At the meeting in the Elk's Hall, after the vote was taken and Edmundson called, he sent his secretary for some application blanks and every man in the hall signed an application to join the UMW. After this officers were nominated from the floor and someone suggested that [redacted]

"Other than as stated above Ray Edmundson made no assurances in my presence that the mine would open if the union were UMW; nor did he ever indicate in my presence the extent of his relationship with Elshoff. I have never heard of the plans which Elshoff or Falcetti may have made concerning their plans for the operation of Mine A, or their relationship with the UMW, except as I have indicated above wherein I heard the statement of [redacted] relative to the impression left by Elshoff on their minds after they had conferred with him; and other than the general knowledge which most of the men had of the fact that the Mine B operators favored the UMW.

"Throughout this statement by UMW I refer to the United Mine Workers of America.

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"I have read this statement consisting of nine hand-written pages, and state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge. I have initialled each of the pages and place my signature on this last page.

[redacted]

The original of this statement is being furnished to the Springfield Field Division with its copies of this report.

[redacted] was questioned closely as to whether or not there were two P.M.A. meetings at the P.M.A. Hall but stated that as far as he knew there was but one meeting and that he had not realized that there was a meeting at which a committee of the P.M.A. was appointed to contact ELSHOFF. He did state, however, that [redacted] apparently were members of such a committee since they spoke at subsequent meetings of having contacted ELSHOFF.

[redacted] was specifically asked whether he was present at a meeting held on the same night after meeting at the Elk's Club at which negotiations were made for signing a contract with the U.M.W. He stated that he knew of no meeting that night other than the meeting mentioned in his signed statement at which several of the officials and men present at the Elk's Club meeting went to Edmundson's office at which time EDMUNDSON prepared the signed statement promising to do all he could towards the reopening of the Mine.

It appears from the interview with [redacted] that he was not in a position to have heard ELSHOFF make any direct statements with regard to his attitude toward the reopening of the mine and the changing of the Unions. However, it is apparent that [redacted] were both present at the conference with ELSHOFF and it is probable that [redacted] was present at any negotiations which may have taken place concerning the formation of the new U.M.W. Union [redacted]

The following information concerning [redacted] is being det forth in the event it will be of any value in instant investigation:

Age: [redacted]
Date of Birth:
Place of Birth:
Height:

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Weight:
Eyes:
Hair:
Complexion:
Selective Service:

Occupation:
Marital Status:

[redacted]

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ENCLOSURE:- Springfield Field Division - signed statement of [redacted] dated September 14, 1943, Norfolk, Va.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT John L Lewis

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 6

SERIALS 105 p. 1

thru

105 p. 150

[redacted]

JANUARY 1, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NICHOLS
RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
BUREAU FILE # 44-845-105

Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

The attached copy of a report dated September 13, 1943, by Special Agent [redacted] was forwarded to the Bureau by the Springfield, Illinois Field Office.

It does not appear that the Bureau would have use for the four (4) copies on hand of this report and inasmuch as they are occupying valuable space in the Records Section, it is requested that the file in this matter be reviewed by Division Five for an expression as to the disposition of this material.

RECOMMENDATION:

All but two copies of the report be destroyed here at the Seat of Government.

2 copies destroyed 1-5-45 [illegible]

Respectfully,

R. F. Cartwright

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1/2/45 [illegible]

[redacted]

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~~THIS MEMORANDUM IS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES TO BE DESTROYED AFTER ACTION IS TAKEN AND NOT SENT TO FILES~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated At SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS File No. 44-18

Report Made At	Date Made	Period	Report Made By
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS	9-13-43	9-2 thru 11, 1943, incl.	[redacted] b7c

Title	Character of Case
JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL	CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Statements set forth of approximately 125 additional persons who were members of PMA Local No. 54 at Mine "B" in May 1937. In general, these statements reflect that the vast majority of Mine "B" employees favored PMA in May 1937; that the sit down strike which followed the attempted opening on September 27, 1937, was carried out voluntarily by Mine "B" employees without outside assistance; and that the NLRB election of December 13, 1937, was carried out in a fair and impartial manner. Concerning alleged UMW spies operating in PMA membership during the spring of 1937, statements obtained from [redacted] and was not located for interview. [redacted] declined to be interviewed, claiming they had been so advised by an attorney. Various reports received indicating employees at Mine "B" and Mine "A" have been advised to refer requests for interview to ARTHUR M. FITZGERALD, a Springfield attorney. Statement of [redacted] Board Member, set out. JACK GLASGOW, former UMW Board Member, furnished statement concerning pertinent conversations with subjects ELSHOFF, PALCETTI, and EDMUNDSON. ROBERT C. SOLOMON, President, Panther Creek Mines, Inc., and his attorneys, L. G. PEFFERLE, and CLAYTON J. BARBER, furnished information concerning ELSHOFF's negotiations

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Approved and Forwarded: Fred Hanyard SAC

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEWS WITH PMA MINERS WHO WERE
EMPLOYED AT MINE B IN MAY 1937

Re: JOHN L.LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence at [redacted] on September 7, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is not considered by interviewing Agents as a good witness due to his poor speaking and difficulty in expressing himself. He gave information as set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 7, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I was born in [redacted] I became an American citezen in [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court, and repeat any part of this statement.

"I have been a coal miner since [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and have been a coal miner ever since. I have been working at Mine B since [redacted] Before 1932 I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America. After 1932, the local at mine B belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was never an officer of either union. I attended the union meetings frequently, under both unions. In 1937, when the strike started, I was satisfied with the way that the local and the Progressive Mine Workers of America were being operated. I do not recall that the men out there were against this union. I do not recall exactly why the strike started out there in 1937. There had been some quarrels over the amount of pay, but I do not know if that was what the strike started over.

[redacted] John Ananias, who is known as "Cotton" was expelled from the PMW. I was not at the trial when he was expelled, and do not know exactly what it was that he was expelled for. I think it was because he violated a rule of the union that a PMW member should not associate with a member of the UMW. Cotton had been a good friend of Tony Plotch for many years. Tony had been expelled from the PMW before, and Cotton had gone out to help Tony paint his house. Someone saw him, and preferred charges against him. When Cotton was expelled from the union, I think he was satisfied with the way that the union was being operated. I did not hear him make any remarks about being disatisfied with the operation of the union. [redacted] I have never heard him say that he wanted to change unions then.

"I do not recall what happened during the time of the strike. I did not work for about nine months. I remember that I was out at the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

mine during the sit down strike, and stayed out there part of the time. I was not working there on the day that the sit down strike started, and do not know what happened. I stayed out there part of the time. The men who were there on the sit down were all men who had worked at Mine B before, as far as I know.

"I recall voting at an election for the unions in the winter of 1937. As far as I know that was a fair election. No one told me how to vote, or tried to influence my vote in any way. As far as I know everyone had a chance to vote as they wanted to at that election.

"I do not recall exactly when I went to work at the Jefferson mine. [redacted] "Cotton" was working out there, and he got me a job. I worked out there about 11 months. It was a UMW mine, and so I joined the UMW when I went to work out there. When that mine closed I had my card switched over to the Mine B local of the UMW. I did not care particularly which union I belonged to then.

"I went back to work timbering when the mine reopened. There had been no big fires in the mine during the time that it was closed.

"There had been some big cave ins, and they have not been cleaned up yet, in the south part. Some I helped to clean up myself.

"I knew [redacted] when he worked out there at mine B. He was an Air Check man, or something like that. I went around testing air. He had not worked at Mine B before the strike. Before the strike there had been a man checking the air part of the time, and working on other things. We called him [redacted] When the mine came back, after the strike, [redacted] came back and continued to do the same sort of work that he did before, and that [redacted] was doing. After [redacted] left, no one was hired to do that kind of work, and [redacted] is still out there doing the same sort of thing.

"I heard that there was fighting going on at the mine after it reopened. I was not interested in the tings that happened out there, and did not see any fights. I was a member of the UMW and did not try to do any organizing or anything like that. I do not know of any organizing that was being done out there at the mine during that time.

"I do not recall Falcetti or Elshoff saying anything about either union, or which one they preferred. I did not see any papers handed out anywhere on the mine property. I do not recall signing any papers or petitions after the mine went out on strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have read the above statement on this page and two other pages. It is all true and accurante.

(Signed) [redacted]

[redacted] Special Agent F B I
[redacted] F.B.I."

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 7, 1943. [redacted] advised he was unemployed prior to the time he was employed at Mine "B" in July 1940. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. Although [redacted] speaks and understands English, he would not be considered as a good Government witness as it was obvious during the interview that he was not telling the truth and was in sympathy with UMW.

[redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,
September 7, 1943.

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted]

"I first became a member of UMW in about [redacted] in Springfield, Ill.

"I was employed at the Jefferson Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill. in about 1937 where I was employed for [redacted]

"I was employed at Mine "B" in July 1940. I obtained a job as driver through OSCAR FALCETTI at Mine "B" as FALCETTI was the supt. when I was employed at the Jefferson Coal Mine. [redacted]

"In August 1940 I voluntarily joined UMW as I perfered UMW to PMA.

"When I was employed at Mine "B" I did not see any organizing for either UMW or PMA and I did not see any fights between UMW and PMA members.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941. So far as I know the election was fair and each miner at Mine "B" was allowed to vote as he wished.

[redacted]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I never took an active part in the activity of UMW and I have never been an officer of the union.

"I have read this statement consisting of two pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED: --

[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.

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RE; JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 8, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] speaks and reads English very well, and can understand questions asked of him. He stated he is willing to testify, but noted that his memory as to specific dates is not too good. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

September 8, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made me.

"I live at [redacted] Illinois, and am working [redacted] I was born [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers at [redacted] and was a member of than union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, when I was working at the Peabody Mine. I started working at Mine B in 1934, and joined the P.M.A. local there at that time. [redacted] I've never been an officer in any union.

"From 1934 until 1937, things went pretty smoothly at the mine, until about six months before the strike. At that time some friction started, and some men began talking up the U.M.W. union. Some of the men talking were Bohannon, Plotch, Carter, Austin, Sirtout, and Pasquale. Although they never talked to me about the U.M.W., it was generally known that they were doing it.

"I went to quite a few P.M.A. meetings. Every member had a chance to speak his mind, and I, as well as most of the men, was satisfied with that union. I don't remember hearing of any favoritism shown by the management to the U.M.W. before the strike.

"I don't remember the P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. A few days before the strike, I heard, at the mine, that the P.M.A. had demanded that the management fire some men for acts done in violation of P.M.A. regulations. One of the men was AUSTIN, but I don't remember the names of any others. I heard of a P.M.A. meeting to discuss this question, but don't remember when it was.

"I went to work on the day of the strike, and saw men loading their cars short. I felt that some trouble was brewing, and didn't want any part

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

of it. [redacted] When I got to the top of the mine, I saw men coming up from the mine. The men were loading short weights because the management refused to fire the men as asked. The men didn't want to go on open strike, but hoped to force the company's hand in that way. They weren't instructed to load short, and agreed among themselves to do it.

"When the men camp up from the mine there was a lot of dissatisfaction among them. I don't think the trouble was caused by the wage dispute, or any feeling against the P.M.A., because the men felt that the P.M.A. could do them as much good as the U.M.W. I think the controversy between the management and the P.M.A. over the retroactive clause in the contract was brought on by the management to start trouble, and give the management a chance to join up with the U.M.W.

"On the day of the strike, when I came up from the mine, I saw Plotch, Pasquale, and Pasquale's son, come up and go into Falcetti's office. It struck me as funny, because the miners didn't usually associate with the management. It was especially peculiar, because I know they had been agitating for the U.M.W. I saw them in Falcetti's office, but I don't know what they were talking about. When I went home from the mine that day, I knew that the P.M.W. men wouldn't go back to work until a settlement was made. I don't remember if the P.M.A. officers told us to stay out or not.

"I don't remember signing any P.M.A. petition, or any other, in the summer of 1937. I heard at P.M.A. meetings that the U.M.W. was trying to take over Mine B, and we'd have to fight to hold our jobs. I knew that a U.M.W. local was organized in the summer of 1937, but I wasn't asked to join.

"I didn't go out to the picket line in the fall of 1937. It seems to me that I went back to the mine the night after the strike started to picket one or two days, but not after that. In the fall of 1937, I paid my dues to P.M.A., and went out to the mine to pay them. That was the only time I was around there. The decision to picket the mine was made at a P.M.A. meeting, but as I was working, I didn't go.

"In December of 1937, I voted in an election at the State Arsenal. I went voluntarily, but don't remember how I got the notice. I voted for P.M.A. because I was satisfied with that union. I felt that a small group of men were trying to shove something down the throats of the rest, and refused to have anything to do with it.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"When I got notice that the mine would open in 1939, I went back to get my tools, and quit for good. No one, at any time, ever contacted, or said anything to me, about joining the U.M.W.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of approximately four pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection

(s) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI , Springfield, Ill. (at [redacted] Ill.) "

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at [redacted] home on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This man exhibited a lack of interest in union activities. He also showed a very poor memory, and an inability to express himself coherently. He said he never was arrested.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and I am employed at Mine D. I was born [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] I was naturalized in [redacted] Ill.

"In [redacted] I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. in 1940. I have never held an office in any union.

"I don't remember anything about the reasons for the strike in 1937. No one came to me before the strike to try to get me to join the U.M.W. I was satisfied with the P.M.A. and it made no difference to me whether I belonged to one union or the other.

"After the strike started Dominic Pasquale, Andy Schrelevious, and Frank Austin at one time or another talked to me about joining the U.M.W. They did not threaten me. I think I joined the U.M.W. in 1940, but I am not sure. I joined the U.M.W. because everyone else was joining that union.

"I was only interested in working for my living and I did not pay much attention to union activities. I was willing to belong to whatever union would look out for me, and satisfied the majority of the miners.

"I have had this statement read to me and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] expresses himself poorly and his knowledge of English, which is below the average miner, makes it difficult for him to properly answer questions put to him. He is cooperative. [redacted] furnished the following signed signed statement:

[redacted] Illinois
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted] residing at [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to get me to make a statement. I was born on [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a U. S. citizen in [redacted] I have been working in the mines since [redacted] and joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] I started to work at Mine B about 1935 and am still employed there. I joined Progressive in 1932 and have never held an office in any union.

"Progressive was started in 1932 when John Lewis stole some ballots. I had nothing to do with starting PMA. I do not go to many union meetings.

"As I remember, we had no trouble at Mine B in 1937 because of wages or contracts. We did have trouble with some spies, men who were working for U.M.W. Some of these men were Cotton, Tony Plotch, Bowling Green, and other's. There were about twelve or fourteen of these men. They never talked to me. P.M.A. gave these men lay off, (expelled) because they were spies. This happened at a PMA meeting. I wasn't there but I heard about it the next day. The company wouldn't fire these men although they were supposed to. The rest of the PMA men got mad because the company wouldn't fire these men. I don't remember any talk about wages at this time, although I recall that we were supposed to get some back pay when the new contract was signed. We felt that P.M.A. would get a good contract, as good as U.M.W.

"On the day of the strike I was working as a digger [redacted] I went down in the pit that morning, same as usual, and I don't remember any trouble or argument that morning. I don't remember any cars being loaded short maybe I heard about it, but I am not sure. As I remember we were called out of the mine early that day, the men were mad because of the spies working there to. Then I came out of the pit, I went on home. I am not sure when I learned there was a strike, whether it was that day or the next. The reason for the strike was because the men wouldn't work with those spies.

"I do not recall signing any petitions that summer, maybe I did

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] but I can not remember well.

(continued) "In September, 1937 I was notified that the mine was going to open. When we got out there those spies were there too, and we wouldn't work with them. We started a picket line then and wouldn't let anyone go to work. I stayed on the picket line, coming home once in awhile, and remained there until a Federal man came and made us leave. I could come home whenever I wanted to while the picket line was there.

"I voted in the NLRB election in December of 1937. A bunch of us went from Auburn to Springfield where we met at the Union Hall. Small groups then went from there to the Armory and voted. The election was quiet and I saw no trouble.

"When the mine opened in 1939 I was notified to come to work and I did. At that time I was still a member of P.M.A. I remained a member of P.M.A. until sometime during the summer of 1940 at which time I joined United. I joined United because there was too much trouble, fellows going around hitting other fellows. [redacted] tried to get me to join U.M.W. and told me if I didn't I might get kicked out of the mine, or it might cost me a lot of money. One morning while I was at the mine I saw one man knock another man down but I went right into the washhouse. [redacted] came to my house just once, trying to get me to join U.M.W.

"The above statement was read to me by [redacted] and I declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]
Auburn, Illinois

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI,
U. S. Dep't. of Justice"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] On September 3, 1943, Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] at his home at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] advised that the above is his complete name although he is generally known as [redacted]

[redacted] was observed to be a person of ordinary intelligence. He appeared to be honest and cooperative, although he claimed that due to his position as [redacted] at the mine he had little knowledge as to what went on in the mine and paid little attention to union matters. It is not believed that [redacted] would be a particularly good witness but he would be willing to act as such in the event he is needed. He advised that he has no criminal record.

[redacted] gave the following signed statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 3, 1943

"I [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agts. of the F.B.I. no threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement.

"I was born [redacted] near Springfield, Ill. At present I am employed at Panther Creek Mine No. 1. I joined a mine union at Barclay, Ill. when I was about [redacted] yrs. old I have never held any union office. I first worked in Mine "B" in Aug. [redacted] I have worked there continously while the mine was running until Aug. 1943.

"Prior to 1932 Elshoff and UMW got on alright as far as I know. In 1932 John Lewis was supposed to have stolen the ballots and the Mine "B" men went to P.M.A.. I did not care which Union we belonged to, never did. From 1932 to the time of the strike Eshoff and P.M.A. seemed to get along good. I know they hoisted more coal than they ever did. I never heard Elshoff or Falsetti say anything about getting rid of P.M.A. and getting U.M.W. back, they wouldn't say anything to me. I think the P.M.A. officials and members had some difficulty, seemed to me there were some few who wanted to go back in U.M.W. even then. As far as I know local 54 P.M.A. was alright, I never suspected the P.M.A. officials of stealing any of the money, the dues were no higher than U.M.W.

"I remember the convictin of the P.M.A. men for bombing. I couldn't say who done it. Between 1932 and the time of the strike in 1937 I don't

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

believe U.M.W. ever picketed the mine. I heard that Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Geo. and Emory Jacaway, Chas. Bohanon and James Hale were trying to see how many wanted to go over to U.M.W. none of them bothered me at this time.

"Between 1932 and 1937 I never heard of Elshoff or Falsetti giving any parties for the U.M.W. officials. I wasn't in any position to hear this. I was not very active in union affairs.

"Just before the mine closed I recall the contract ran out the first of April as always. I did not hear anything about any agreement under which the men were working. No one said anything to me about it. I never heard anything about the possibility of the P.M.A. not being able to get as good a contract as U.M.W. at that time I was on a switch Engine and didn't have to belong to the Union. I don't remember anything about any disputes on pay day at this period.

"I did not attend the meeting at which some the men were kicked out. I heard some men were kicked out but I don't know for sure. On the morning of May 12th I was working on the Mine "B" railroad and knew nothing about any possibility of a strike. I believe they quit working sometime before quitting time. I don't really know whether the strike was caused over wages or over the Co. refusing to fire the expelled men. It might have been either one. I know or rather heard that some cars were loaded short the day of the strike but I didn't see any of them at the time. I heard one of the men who favored U.M.W. say he loaded cars that way because his buddy did and he felt he had to. I don't know why the cars were short loaded or who gave the orders for it.

"I don't remember the petition of the P.M.A. on May 26, 1937. I wasn't around most of the time as I would get work one place or another most of the time. I do recall signing some petition for the U.M.W. thinking at the time that the U.M.W. was in the majority_ I found out later that I was misinformed. I don't know who told me that. When I found out that this was wrong I went up and withdrew my name. Prior to signing the U.M.W. petition I had joined the U.M.W._ the other engineers did too_ we then went out to the mine and saw the majority of the men were still P.M.A. and went back and signed an affadavit. This affadavit was dated Sept. 10, 1937 at Springfield, Ill. it states that the signers revoke their membership in any union other than P.M.A. The affadavit has been shown me by F.B.I. Agents and I acknowledge it to be true and made freely by me. The signature thereon is my own.

"I attended a meeting of the new U.M.W. local formed in the summer of 1937. I was told by several I don't know who now that it was being formed

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

and they claimed they had a majority.

"I don't remember signing any other Petitions during the summer. It made no difference to me which union I joined. I wanted just to go with the majority of the men. I don't remember anything unusual happening during the summer of 1937 up to the time of the strike.

"I was there when they tried to open the mine in Sept. 1937. I just went out and set on the engine and did no work. I don't know if anyone went into the mine or not. I had been working all along up to this time the engineers don't go out on strike. Sometime during the sit-down strike the mine operators laid the engineers off because the mine had been shut down so long. I never participated in the picketing at all. I was there in my capacity as an engineer. After I was laid off I never went back to the mine till it reopened for good. The strike was peaceful and I know of no outside men being brought in by P.M.A. to help in the picketing. If any drunks came out the P.M.A. men took them away. I think the men were there of their own free will. I heard one man say they were just protecting their jobs.

"I think Elshoff was appointed receiver over the Jefferson mine. I understood that some of the men from Mine "B" went over there and did some work. I don't know why this was done. I don't know how Ellshoff was able to keep the mine closed for so long. I just heard some talk that he was getting some money from Lewis.

"I heard of the first N.L.R.B. election but took no part in it.

"When the mine opened the last time I received some notice that it was going to open. At that time I was working at [redacted] so I told Falsetti I would have to give some notice. He told me that was alright to work another shift and come back. When I went back I paid my dues to the Progressives up until the time I saw it was useless. They finally when all the men were signing up, brought me an application and told me I would have to sign up again even though I had signed before. Some Italian fellow brought this blank to me at the mine. I signed it without being compelled because everyone else was going over. The men I believe went over to U.M.W. because they felt it was their only hope of keeping working. They knew that Elshoff would refuse to do business with the Progressives and figure that was the only way to keep the mine open. From the time we went back to work up until the 2nd N.L.R.B. election I don't recall signing anything for either side except when I went over to U.M.W. I never even saw a fight during the time from when we went back to work and the 2nd N.L.R.B. election.

"I voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. Nobody forced to vote in this election or how to vote. As far as I know the election was square.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

Most all the men had already signed up for U.M.W. but I heard they still didn't all vote that way. I reckon I voted U.M.W. but I really don't know. I think the U.M.W. won because a lot of the P.M.A. men were gone lots of them didn't come back and I think the men just decided that was the only way out if they wanted to work. The Co. just refused to have anything to do with the Progresives_ I don't know why but they did. I don't know anything about the condition of the mine when opened. I know they don't get out as much coal as they used to but they don't have as many men either. I don't know anything about any fire in Mine "B" while it was closed. I don't remember anything about the meeting at which [redacted] was kicked out because of an argument over money matters.

"I have read the foregoing statement of 9 pages and it is all true to the best of my knowledge. I am therefore signing this of my own free will.

Signed: [redacted]

Witnessed:
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted]d
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw., Wis.)
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 3, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] appears to be above the average miner in intelligence, is co-operative, and it is felt would make a satisfactory witness. It is noted that he was not working at Mine "B" from 1934 until 1940. He was rehired at Mine "B" in 1934 after an absence of several months. However PMA would not allow him to work and as a result he felt bitter toward PMA. It is noted that OSCAR FALCETTI was aware of this trouble when he rehired [redacted] in 1940. [redacted] furnished the following statement.

"Springfield, Ill
Sept 7, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U.S. in [redacted] I am a U. S. citizen and presently reside at [redacted] I am not employed at the present time.

"I started working for Mine B in [redacted] the first Progressive Convention in 1932. At this time in Springfield the men in the United Mine [redacted] getting pretty sick of the U.M.W. A lot of the men were being kicked out of their jobs and 'put on the road' for minor reasons. The men in United figured if they formed a new union their troubles would be over, but it didn't turn out that way. The men then started Progressive in about 1932. The Progressive and militant members of United flocked to the Progressive and it seemed to have a good start to be the best union.

"The Progressive element seemed to fall off after April of 1934 & the U.M.W. union seemed to be growing. I left Mine B in 1934. When I left Mine B it seemed to me as though the union officers of progressive were a bit weak and didn't seem to be able to lead the common membership. The local never seemed to be able to control the men and keep them in line as far as my opinion goes. The union seemed to be getting along OK with the company though up till the time I left the company at least.

"All the time I was in the Progressive union I was trying to have that union organize all the miners and unify them for a common cause to better themselves. I left Mine B in 1934 [redacted] went to [redacted] I came back to Mine B in about October or November and tried to get my job back at Mine B. I saw Oscar Falcetti and he gave me my job back. Then I went up to the Progressive union meeting and was told

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

that I was behind in my dues and they didn't consider me a member in good standing. I had worked at Mine B one day when the pit committee told Falcetti I was not in good standing at the union and that I should go to the union hall and straighten it out. When I got to the union hall I talked to [redacted] of Progressive and asked him if I could be reinstated. He said I couldn't start out at Mine B while other Progressives were out of work. He more or less evaded the direct question as to my reinstatement and in my opinion the Progressives didn't want me to get back in the union or work at Mine B.

"I drew up an appeal from this decision and mailed it to the National Secretary, Mr. Keck, at Gillespie, but I never got an answer. I was going to fight the case, but made up my mind I would never join Progressive again and in fact was quite mad at Progressives. I worked at WPA and odd jobs from 1934 to the fall of 1940.

"In the fall of 1940, I knew there was a little trouble at the mine & was told by some of the men that United was in majority & that I could probably get a job out at Mine B. I called Falcetti and asked him if I could have a job. He told me I could always have a job at Mine B and asked me if 'I had a card.' He knew that I had some trouble with progressive and I suppose he was referring to that when he asked me about the card. He asked me if I could get a card and although he didn't say it, I took it for granted that he wanted to know if I could get a union card in United. When I went out to the mine I was approached by Joe Albanese who asked me if I wanted to join United. Nobody told me to see Joe, but he was on top near the tipple and asked me to join. It is almost a matter of policy for all miners unions to have a man on top whose job it is to see all new men and try to sign them up. I joined the U.M.W. at that time. I heard that there was a lot of fighting going on at Mine B from 1939 until 1941, but I personally never saw any fighting.

"I worked at Mine B from 1940 until [redacted] During the time I was the mine and before the election, I personally had talked to some of the men and talked to them about joining the U.M.W. In my opinion there isn't room for two unions in the coal mining business and as far as I'm concerned I would be satisfied if the U.M.W. was the only union in the industry. [redacted] During the time I was in office I don't know of any transactions or 'deals' which aroused my suspicions. There was nothing to indicate anything was being done wrong in the local.

"I did notice that during the period from 1940 there were a great many strangers hired at the mine. A lot of them were from the south

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

and many of them were united men, and I think that a lot of those men are still working there. I was quite regular in my attendance at meetings up until a short time ago. I haven't been to a union meeting of the U.M.W. though for about a month.

"I believe that Falcetti worked at the Bremerton mine in 1934 when Ilshoff was appointed receiver. The mine was then under progressive I believe. I don't know anything further about Falcetti working at that mine at any other time. I did hear that the men were only paid 75% of their wages, but I don't know who got the balance.

[redacted] I also think that Falcetti felt that I was given some poor treatment by the progressives and that he would give me a job because he felt I was entitled to one. I voted in the NLRB election in Feb. of 1941 and everything seemed to be all right at that time. I have read over this entire statement of 6 pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnesses

/S/ [redacted]) Special Agents, FBI
U.S. Dept. of Justice."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed at his home on September 2, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks English very well and is able to understand and answer questions asked of him. He expressed his willingness to testify in court if necessary. [redacted] admitted that he has been arrested several times for drunkenness, but denied any other criminal record. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 2, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I was born [redacted] I am not employed at the present time. I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] when employed at Mine B. I remained a member of that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers. I took no part in the organization of the P.M.A., but joined it when the rest of the men at Mine B did. As I remember it, the P.M.A. was organized by the men in 1932, because of certain ballots supposed to have been stolen. Lewis had tried to sign a contract with the mine operators, making the miners take a reduction in pay. The miners voted on the question, but before the vote could be counted, the ballots had disappeared. Lewis signed a contract with the mine operators at a lower wage, thus forcing the men to go back to work at a lower wage scale. The locals of U.M.W., because of this, stayed away from the U.M.W., and swung over to P.M.A. when that union was organized. I was dissatisfied with the U.M.W. even before this time, because I didn't think the U.M.W. was doing all it could for the men.

"I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A. and with the way the way the P.M.A. was run by its officers. The P.M.A. always made the operators of Mine B live up to the terms of their contract, and always treated the men squarely. I don't remember of any trouble between the mine management and the P.M.A. between 1932 and the strike in 1937.

"The only thing I can remember about company favoring of any union was one time when I was talking to the superintendent, Falcetti. He asked me to join the U.M.W. He said he could get better conditions out of the U.M.W. than out of P.M.A., that the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

conditions would be to the advantage of Mine B operators. This occurred some time before the strike in 1937. No one else ever spoke to me about joining the U.M.W. before the strike in 1937.

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"I remember seeing a notice of a special meeting to be held by the P.M.A. on the night before the stike. This bulletin was placed on the bulletin board at the mine. I did not attend the meeting, and don't remember why the meeting was held, although it might have been to discuss the terms of the contract to be signed by the P.M.A. with Elshoff.

"On the day of the strike, we were called out, as I remember, about ten o'clock. I don't know if the men were called out by the P.M.A. or by the management. I don't remember hearing anything about the cause of the strike, and I don't recall any of the men loading their cars short on that day. I don't remember hearing any talk about U.M.W spies being discharged.

"I don't remember getting any notice that the mine would be reopened before the fall of 1939, when it actually did open. In September of 1937, when the mine attempted to open, with U.M.W. men also to work, the P.M.A. agreed by vote, to picket the mine and not allow any U.M.W. men to work it. The purpose of the picket line was to keep the management of Mine B from using U.M.W. men, and allowing them to take over the jobs of the P.M.A. men. I remember that some of the men who were in the U.M.W. at that time, and wanted to go down in the mine, were Bohannon, Hale, Pasquale, Carter, Austin, and some others whose names I can't remember. At the time of the federal injunction, in 1937, I felt, as did most of the men, that its purpose was to get us off the mine property. I was on the picket line, and saw only Mine B men there. After the union vote, we decided on the picket line, but no one was forced to go out to the picket line.

"In December of 1937, I saw a notice in the paper that there was to be an election held by the labor board. I also heard about the election from the P.M.A. On the day of the election, we met in Progressive Hall, and went over to the election twelve at a time. The P.M.A. gave us no instructions how to vote, and it was a very orderly election. A ballot was received from a representative of the labor board, when the miner's name and check number, had been checked off the list in his possession. Each union had the right to challenge any vote they chose. There was supposed to be a U.M.W. man as well as a P.M.A. man assisting the labor board man, but the U.M.W. failed to appoint a man, so the labor board man selected a man to help him. I voted for the P.M.A. in that election because I felt that it was a better union than the U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I don't know much about the bombings in the territory, but I seem to remember that most of the men didn't believe that all who were accused of it were guilty.

"In the fall of 1939 I heard through the P.M.A. officials that the mine was going to reopen. I think they said that the mine would reopen under a U.M.W. contract. About one week before the mine opened, Bohannon and [redacted] came to my house, and asked me to join the U.M.W. They told me that all the men were going U.M.W. and I had better join up if I wanted to work. Aside from that, they did not use any threats. I told them I didn't want to sign up, that I didn't want to work in coal mines any more. When I went back to work, in the fall of 1939, I just cleaned up some of the work left at the time of the strike, not taking more than a couple of days, and then quit. I had some loose coal, that had been shot, and wanted to load it, and get credit for it. I also thought that sooner or later the mine would go back U.M.W. and I didn't have any use for the U.M.W. I also wanted to get out of the mines and into something else if I could.

"One day in town, after I quit the mine, I saw one of the men, [redacted], who was hurt. I asked what had happened, and was told that he had been beat up in the mine. I heard of others who were beat up, but I can't remember their names & did hear that they were beat up because they didn't want to join the U.M.W.

"I remember hearing, while the strike was going on, that Elshoff told Dan McGill and William Compton that he never would sign another contract with the P.M.A. I also heard somewhere that the Mine B management and the U.M.W. men had a beer picnic, but I don't know the time and place, or any more about it.

"I did not vote in the election of 1941, and never joined the U.M.W.

"I know that there was no position at the mine before the strike for an air-checker. After the strike, [redacted] had a job called that, and I heard that a person had to see him if you wanted to get a job at Mine B.

The above statement, consisting of approximately five and a quarter pages, has been read to me, and I state it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:
/S/ [redacted]

Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 3, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks English very poorly, and is able to understand it only when spoken very slowly and plainly. He can write only his name. He expressed his willingness to testify in court on this matter, and claimed that he never has been arrested.

The following is the signed statement as executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 3, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made

"I was born in [redacted] and entered the United States in [redacted] I became a citizen in [redacted] at Springfield. I work at the Panther Creek Mine Number 4, and live at [redacted] Springfield.

"I joined the United Mine Workers in Springfield in [redacted] and remained a member of that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. In January of 1941, I joined the U.M.W. again, and was a member of that union until I quit Mine B, and went to work at Panther Creek. I am now a member of the P.M.A. again. As I remember, the P.M.A. was formed because the men didn't like the idea of Lewis accepting lower wages for the men against their wishes.

"The P.M.A. union was a good one. The union looked out for the men's interests, and treated them fair and square. Although I didn't go to many meetings, I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A. From 1932 to 1937, I didn't know of any trouble at the mine between the mine and Elshoff.

"I don't remember anything about a P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. On the day of the strike the men all went down into the mine. When the Mine Management let some men, who were kicked out of the P.M.A. because of U.M.W. work go down into the mine, the men, members of P.M.A., began loading the cars short. The union officials hadn't told the men to do this, but the men did it on their own. About two o'clock, the strike was called and the men left the mine.

"I don't remember signing a petition for P.M.A., in the summer of 1937. I don't remember signing papers of any kind that summer. No one

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] came to me that summer, at any time before I went back to work, and tried to get me to join the U.M.W. In December of 1937, at an election, I voted for the P.M.A., because I liked that union, and didn't like the U.M.W.

"I started work at Mine B again in December of 1939. Almost every day men came to me and talked to me and tried to get me to join the U.M.W. I don't remember who they were except one was [redacted] They all told me that if I didn't sign with U.M.W. I'd lose my job. I finally joined the U.M.W., sometime before the election of 1941. I joined only because I was afriad I would lose my job if I didn't.

"Right after I joined the U.M.W. I was given a different place to work in, much worese than the one I had before, and was told that if I didn't like it I could quit my job. In the election of 1941, although I was a member of the U.M.W., I voted for the P.M.A. because conditions were 100% better under the P.M.A., and I liked that union much better. Under the P.M.A. I had better rooms, and conditions were much better.

"One day, after the election, [redacted] and another man came to my room in the mine, grabbed me by the arms, and wanted to know why I said that I had been made to join the U.M.W. They didn't hurt or threaten me, and, when I told them I hadn't said it to anyone, they left. I never did tell anyone I was made to join the U.M.W., because I was afraid to say anything like that, because I know I would have been beat up if I did.

"In September of 1937, when they tried to open up the mine, we went out to the mine to go to work. Falcetti asked the president of the P.M.A. for 50 men to open the mine. The president said he would give him 100 men to work the mine. Falcetti told him that he, Falcetti, didn't want P.M.A. men, he wanted U.M.W. men. He said he wouldn't open the mine if the U.M.W. men didn't come in to work it. I heard Falcetti say this at Mine B in September of 1937. I went on the picket line at that time, because I wanted to, and not because anyone forced me. I didn't see anyone there who wasn't a Mine B man.

"I saw [redacted] after he was beat up in the mine. He was beaten because he didn't want to join the U.M.W.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of about three and a half pages, read to me and I state that it is true to the best of knowledge. [redacted] was present when this was read to me.

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] who has also used the name [redacted]. [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on September 2, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was not able to explain clearly why he used the name [redacted], but it is believed that he worked as an apprentice under [redacted] and used [redacted] name on his work papers. [redacted] is able to understand English fairly well, but is able to express himself only in simple terms. He claims a limited reading and writing ability in English. [redacted] said he is willing to testify in court. He stated that he has never been arrested.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943

"I, [redacted], also known as [redacted] give the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I presently live at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, and am employed at Mine A. I am registered on the mine lists as [redacted] which name I used to get a job when I first came to this country. [redacted] I couldn't have gotten a job unless I had papers, and this [redacted] had the experience. When he left the mines, I used his papers.

"I was born in [redacted] I entered the United States in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen at Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] under petition number [redacted] certificate number [redacted] I joined a union, the United Mine Workers in [redacted] and remained a member until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I began work at Mine 3 in [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. just after the election in February 1941, when the U.M.W. won.

"I joined the P.M.A. because the majority of the men were in favor of it. I didn't take any active part in organizing the P.M.A., but just went along with the men. I was never an officer in any union. From 1932 to 1937, I saw or heard of no trouble between the P.M.A. and the management, and I did not know of any bad feeling in the union, on the part of the men against the officers of the P.M.A., or anything like that. I went to some of the P.M.A. meetings, but not very many. The

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

P.M.A. tried to do the best it could for its members, and was run all right.

"I do not remember going to any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. I don't remember if a notice of the meeting was posted or not, and I don't know the reason for the meeting. A day or so before the strike, in 1937, I knew that there was going to be a strike. A couple of men told me there would be one, but I don't remember who they were or exactly what they said. Because of this I didn't go out to Mine B on the day of the strike, so I don't know what happened that day.

"I don't remember signing any paper for the P.M.A., or for any union, in the summer of 1937. I do know that I was not asked to join the U.M.W., either before the strike, or during the summer of 1937.

"I don't remember any notices being sent me about the mine being reopened. I did picket at the mine in the fall of 1937, when the other P.M.A. men did, but I was not forced to. I did it because I wanted to be with the majority of the men. I do not remember seeing any men there who were not working, or had been working, at Mine B. I do not know the reason we were picketing, but I do remember that we heard of the federal injunction several days before the U. S. Marshal came out to the mine.

"In 1937, I remember that I voted in the election held at the state armory. I don't know how I knew about the election, but I do know I voted for P.M.A., because I thought it was the better of the two unions. No one made me vote at the election, but I did it of my own free will.

"I don't remember exactly, but I think that I heard about the reopening of Mine B in 1939 over the radio. I don't remember getting any notice from the mine management or from the union. I was sick at the time and think I started back to work at Mine B in 1940. About a week after I started back to work, some man I didn't know came to me and told me I ought to join the U.M.W. because they were going to run the mine. I told him I wouldn't join up right away, but would when I thought the majority of the men wanted that union. This is the first time anyone ever talked to me about the U.M.W., and I never was threatened in any way. I joined the U.M.W. about two weeks later, because I thought most of the men wanted it, and I would have to, to keep my job. No one ever told me that I would lose my job if I didn't sign up with the U.M.W. If anyone had said so, I would have quit. As it was, I joined without any threats being used.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I don't remember voting in the election of 1941. If I had, I probably would have voted for the P.M.A., because I had a lot of friends in the P.M.A., and liked it better than the U.M.W. Today, however, it makes no difference to me which union is in. I just want to work, and keep my job.

"The above statement has been read to me in the presence of [redacted] and I state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge. This statement consists of about four pages.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is a [redacted] citizen and speaks English good and should make a fair witness except that his knowledge of pertinent facts to this case is limited due to his not being employed at Mine "B" during the whole controversial period. He has no known criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.
September 4, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] Ill. and reside at [redacted] Ill.

"I began working in coal mines at [redacted] Ill. about [redacted] I joined UMW at that time and remained such until 1932 when I joined P.M.A. I was working at Panther Creek Mine #1 at that time and our local voted to change to PMA and then the mine shut down. I did not work in the mines after that until I started at Mine "B" in 1936.

"I knew of no trouble at Mine "B" when I first started to work there but a month or so before the P.M.A. contract ran out, I remember someone telling me that U.M.W. was attempting to sign up the miners in UMW. A little later a man named [redacted] told me that the shot firer whose name was "Jimmy" was asking the men to join U.M.W. and that I should watch my step but he never did ask me to join U.M.W.

"During this time I heard that Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Charles Bohannon, James Halo, were all working as spies at Mine "B" but none of them ever approached me to get me to join U.M.W. before the strike in 1937.

"I did not know any of these men had been expelled from P.M.A. at the time of the strike and I did not hear that we were supposed to load cars short on the day of the strike. I worked a full day and loaded all cars the same as I had been and had two cars loaded in the mine which were later hoisted when the mine was opened for one day by U.M.W. I learned that the mine was on strike the next day when I went to work the next day. I learned that the reason for the strike was because the men refused to work

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

with those men who had been expelled, and that the men were expelled for trying to organize for U.M.W.

"I signed a petition for P.M.A. about two weeks after the strike.

"I don't recall signing any other petitions in the summer of 1937. I saw in the paper that the mine was to reopen and I went to the mine with my bucket expecting to go to work but when I got there these 12 men or so were lined up at the company office with Oscar Falsetti and the P.M.A. men refused to work with these 12. I did not hear any comments by Falsetti at that time but Falsetti did tell me at my home one time while the mine was closed that he didn't think Mine "B" would ever open up under P.M.A. contract.

"I picketed at Mine "B" until we were served with an injunction. Only Mine "B" employees were picketing.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in 1937 and in my estimation the election was fair and conducted in a satisfactory manner. We went in groups from the P.M.A. hall to the election and there was no violence at this time that I know of, nor were we threatened at anytime during the election.

"There was an attempt to open the mine again shortly after the election but only 18 men who were U.M.W. went down the shaft and the rest of us refused to work with them.

"I then got a job in February, 1938 at Panther Creek No. 5 Mine and am still employed there. I am still a member of P.M.A. and I have not held an office in any union.

"About Christmas, 1937, Pete Carter and another man unknown to me came to my house attempting to get me to join UMW so the mine could be opened but I refused because I like PMA better than UMW.

"I have had this 4 page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted], Special Agent, FBI.
[redacted], Special Agent, FBI.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] seemed to be quite a verbose talker and advised that inasmuch as he had always been interested in union political activities he had many enemies within both unions. [redacted] spoke in very bragging tones of his political connections. [redacted] speaks in an intelligent manner, but it is not believed he would be a reliable witness. There is being set forth below the following signed statement executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill
9-7-43.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and presently live at [redacted] I started working as a miner in about [redacted] and joined the U.M.W. at that time. I have held various offices in the U.M.W. but can't remember the dates. I haven't been going to union meetings for the past month or two. I recall now that I started mining in [redacted] and started at Mine B in [redacted] I worked at Mine B fro[redacted] until [redacted]

"I believe it was in 1938 or 1939 that I went back to Mine B and worked for a few days. When the state went progressive in 1932 [redacted] I was given an honorary card in Progressive. This meant that I didn't have to pay dues in the union and made it sure that a man wouldn't lose his job.

"I believe it was in April of 1940 that I started working at Mine B again and have worked there ever since. When I started back at the mine I thought that my card in progressive was still good. The progressives told me at first I would have to pay a fee of $25 and when I objected they lowered it to $10. This was supposed to be an initiation fee for new miners and since I didn't think I should even pay $10 I told them so. I was finally accepted as a member in good standing of progressive and I believe I paid dues for about three months.

"To the best of my recollection I had worked at the mine at least a month before I even inquired about my status with progressive.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

My heart had always more or less been with United Mine Workers so after about 4 months I decided to join U.M.W. No pressure was put on me to join and no threats were ever made against me.

"In view of the fact [redacted] I don't know much about the events at the mine during that period. During the time I have been employed at Mine B I have never seen any fighting. On one occasion when I first started back at Mine B the first time after the strike [redacted] asked me how I liked 'scabing for United.' [redacted] The union knew I had made an agreement with [redacted] that if either of the two got more votes than the other then the man with the lower votes would throw his support to the other. [redacted]

"Nobody ever told me I had to be a member of any union to get a job at Mine B. The progressive men asked me to come to meetings but no threats were made against me to join any union. I joined the United in 1940 because I figured I would be with the majority.

"I have read over this entire statement of 4 pages and it is true to the best of my memory.

[redacted]

"Witnesses
[redacted] } Special Agents, FBI
[redacted] } U. S. Dept. of Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] replied to all questions asked, but gave the impression he studiously avoided making replies that would be helpful to the government's case. From personal contact with this person he does not appear to make a desirable government witness. He executed the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 6, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

[redacted] I am presently employed at Mine "B" Springfield, Illinois and living at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union at [redacted] Illinois, about [redacted] and worked at the [redacted] Coal Company near [redacted] Illinois. I worked at four other mines from the time I started working at the [redacted] Coal Co. until the time I started working at Mine "B".

"I started working at Mine "B" in October [redacted] and left there two years later which was about [redacted] I returned to work at Mine "B" two months later in [redacted] I worked under the UMW during the above periods.

[redacted]

"As far as I know relations between Elshoff and the UMW prior to 1932 were good and the same applies to the relations between Elshoff and the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA from 1932 to the Spring of 1937.

"I never heard that the PMA miners were dissatisfied with PMA officials. I know of no fraud being used by PMA officials against the rank and file miners of PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932. I liked the P.M.A. and felt I was getting more benefits under the PMA than under the UMW, but I do not care which union I belong to.

"I knew the following miners who worked at Mine B prior to the close-down in May, 1937: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale, and Cudge Bumgarner.

"I never knew that any of these men aggitated or organized for UMW before the strike in May, 1937. Before May, 1937 I was never contacted by anyone to get me to join UMW.

"I feel that PMA had the majority at Mine B from 1932 until the strike in May, 1937.

"I am not familiar with the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937.

"I have never attended many union meetings before I became a trustee of the UMW.

[redacted] I noticed on every trip on the last day the mine worked in May, 1937 which was May 12th, that the coal cars were being loaded short. I did not know the reason for this. I noticed the men were uneasy, but I did not know why.

"I was at Mine B during the picketing, and stood around the yard with the other PMA men. I did not work.

"I do not remember the PMA petition of May 26, 1937, and I do not recall any other petitions being circulated that summer. I do not remember any of the occassions Mine B tried to reopen. I did not go the the mine when it tried to re-open.

"I started back to work in Mine B. in November, 1939, as a member of PMA.

"I joined the UMW sometime after I started back to work in November. 1939. and before the second N.L.R.B. election in February, 1941.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"When I returned to work at Mine B. in November, 1939, I saw a lot of miners starting to work there that I had never seen before. I do not know where they came from. Later I found out from conversations I had at the mine that these new men who I did not remember were UMW organizers. I do not mean to include in this group the men whose names I mentioned heretofore in this statement.

"I would like to relate how I happened to sign up with UMW. One morning I was alone on the "bottom" of the mine and FRANK AUSTIN came up to me and asked me what I thought about signing up with UMW. I said I did not know, but I would wait to determine what the rest of the miners did. He told me not to wait. He said he did not think the mine would work if we did not sign up with UMW, but he did not say why. He said if we did not sign up with UMW the mine would work steady in Mine B. He did not threaten me. I have never talked to any miners that had been threatened.

"I never heard there had been a big fire at Mine B or any fire at all until the winter of 1942.

"I think the results of the first NLRB election held in December, 1937, presented a true picture how the miners felt. That election was won by the PMA.

"I have read this statement consisting of three and one half pages and have initialed the first three pages and it is correct to the best of my knowledge.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
Special Agent, F.B.I. "

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted], Illinois on September 3, 1943.

At his residence [redacted] agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he has never been arrested in his life. It was noted that he had some difficulty in understanding some questions asked him but was able to give understandable answers. He mentioned he went to the second grade and did not have any further education. If his testimony is necessary, it is felt that he will make a fair witness. [redacted]

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[redacted], Ill.
Sept. 3, 1943

"I, [redacted] Ill. am making this free & voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of F.B.I. U.S. Dept. of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me.

"I was born [redacted] & I came to U.S. about [redacted] & became a citezen [redacted] at Springfield, Ill. I worked for Mine B at Springfield, Ill. from [redacted] as a coal digger [redacted] Then I joined U.M.W at [redacted] Ill. in [redacted] & I never held any office. I don't recall of any trouble between ELSHOFF & U.M.W. before 1932. I can't recall for sure if PMA & ELSHOFF got along O.K. before Mine B closed or if ELSHOFF complained of P.M.A. Just before the mine closed I heard from other miners that JOHN L. LEWIS was giving some money to ELSHOFF but I can't recall more about it. As far as I know PMA officials got along O.K. with PMA miners. I have no opinion re the bombings by PMA men.

"I never attended any PMA meetings because they are too far away. As far as I know PMA officials were running the local O.K. I don't hear nothing of trouble between PMA & UMW before Mine B closed & I don't know of any spies being there. I never heard a thing about any parties bet. U.M.W. & ELSHOFF or others. I don't recall much about the wage question at Mine B before it closed as it is such a long time ago. I know nothing about a meeting before Mine B closed. I can't recall what happened on day mine closed as it is so long ago, and I don't know why the mine closed at all as I never paid much attention to it. I think I once heard PMA was going to kick out several men but I don't think they did it. I heard from the miners that [redacted] had told them to put only a shovel full of coal in their cars on the day Mine B

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

closed. I recall of signing several petitions for PMA but I never signed any for U.M.W. I signed them of my own free will & no one forced me to sign. I can't recall if UMW lead a petition out in 1937 but I know I never signed for them. I heard something about UMW forming a new local but I never paid any attention to UMW matters at all. In fall of 1937 I was at Mine B because I saw in paper it was going to open under UMW & FALCETTI wanted to let some UMW men down but he wouldn't let PMA men down so no one went down & strike started & I went out part of the time. We were protecting the property & our jobs. No force was used to make me go out. It was peaceful. No outsiders were there except local 54. I was there when MARSHALL came out & we all left & we were glad so we could get home. Papers said several times mine was to re-open but I never went out till it opened for good. I recall of voting at first N.L.R.B. election at Armory in Springfield, Ill. I voted the way I wanted to & it was for PMA. No one forced me to vote & it was a good election. I never heard about men going to Jefferson Mine. In fall of 1939 I got a registered letter from Mine B telling me to come out on a certain day & I went & saw FALCETTI & he sai[redacted] was caved in & he put me in [redacted] but I worked only 3 days as room was finished then & they could not shoot anymore. FALCETTI said he would send word to me & he did about 7 weeks later. I worked about 2 months & some air-boss of UMW came to me & said I shouldn't pay any more dues to PMA but I should pay dues to U.M.W. & I should join up. [redacted] A lot of men got their sons jobs. I signed up at home with 30 M.W. men so I could get [redacted] a job. I was well satisfied with P.M.A. then but joined over to get [redacted] work. I heard too that men were being beat up but I never saw it. I don't know if I signed any membership cards in 1940 or not. I never heard anyone of Mine B tell us we had to join UMW - it was just UMW men who were around. PMA felt they lead majority so didn't do anything.

"Just before the second NLRB election I went to a UMW meeting & Edmundson & several others there told us to vote for UMW & not for PMA. I & others still felt that P.M.A. was better but because I had joined up with UMW I felt if I voted for PMA that UMW might find out & I was scared so voted UMW. It was a good & secret election. I first was going to vote for PMA but after attending the meeting I felt I had better vote for UMW. P.M.A. lost that election because Mine B would not hire P.M.A. men - but did hire a lot of new UMW men.

"There were a lot of cave-ins when I went to work. [redacted] never was re-opened & my tools are still there. I never heard of a fire at Mine B in 1939. I don't know [redacted]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I can't read English good s[redacted] has read this 6 page statement to me & I have signed it of my own free will.

Witnesses:

[redacted]

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw)
Pawnee, Ill
Sept. 3, 1943."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted], Illinois, on September 3, 1943. He appeared willing to answer the questions put to him, and said he would be willing to testify to the facts as set forth in the following signed statement which he submitted. He can neither read nor write.

[redacted] Illinois
September 3, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] Illinois. I am presently employed at Mine 'B' as [redacted] and live at [redacted] Illinois. [redacted]

"In [redacted] I first joined the United Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW, at [redacted] Ill. & worked at the [redacted] mine near [redacted]

"I worked in four mines from [redacted] under the UMW until I started at Mine 'B' in 1933 under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"I was a coal digger for the first year at Mine 'B' and then worked as [redacted] I am presently employed a [redacted]

"I have never held an office in a mine union.

"As far as I am concerned I liked the PMA and was satisfied with its leaders. As far as I know there was no dissatisfaction between the PMA rank and file and PMA leaders.

"I went to many UMW meetings because I was fined if I didn't but I only went to a few PMA meetings because of the distance from my home.

"I know nothing about the relations between Elshoff and PMA prior to 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(Continued)

"I was not acquainted with the wage scale controversy, except that I have about seventeen dollars owing me by Mine 'B' dating back to 1937.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 and I do not remember what the discussion was at the meeting except that it concerned some miners who were thrown out of the PMA.

"I remember that on May 12, 1937 coal cars were being loaded short. Sometimes that day I pulled whole trips with the cars shorted. I did not know why the cars were shorted.

"It was seldom during this period because of my job that I got a chance to talk to the miners during working hours.

"I helped picket Mine 'B' after the strike started, for three or four weeks.

"I do not remember the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 or if I signed a petition at that time I do not remember signing it, or any other petition.

"I remember that I went to Mine 'B' with the intention of going to work each of the three times it tried to open.

"I heard it was going to try to re-open on each of the three occassions by talking to other miners near my home. I was too faraway to hear the mine whistles blow and I never saw notices in the newspapers nor did I ever get notification about this from the mine.

"Each time I went to mine 'B' to go to work the only men that went down in the mine were UMW sympathizers. There were about fifteen or twenty of these men and PMA members would not work as long as these 15 or 20 were allowed to work. This was due to the fact that PMA still had a closed shop agreement with Elshoff. I think some of these 15 to 20 men were already signed signed over to UMW.

"I know the following miners who worked at Mine 'B' both before and after the strike and I believe they were UMW sympathizers, and aggitating for UMW; Cudge Bumgarner also known as Lee Bumgarner, Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"These above mentioned men aggitated for UMW both before and after the strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(Continued)

"I started back to work at Mine 'B' on November 6, 1939, and numerous times thereafter before I signed up with UMW Charles Bohannon talked to me and said 'When are you going to get right [redacted]. No one else ever said anything to me and no one ever threatened me.

"I do not know if any of these men whose names I mentioned above worked at Mine 'A' during the time Mine 'B' was closed down on strike.

"I never heard any threatening remarks made to anyone.

"I think the N.L.R.B. election held in December, 1937 at Springfield, Ill. was fair and I never heard any miner say it was a fraud or was not fair.

"If I had a chance now of working either under UMW or PMA I would rather work under PMA, because I do not like John L. Lewis. I felt the same way after I returned to work at Mine 'B' in 1939, but I had to have work and felt that the majority of the miners were signing up with the UMW. I believe that most of the miners were signing up with UMW at that time because they were afraid they would not be able to work there any longer as members of PMA because Elshoff wanted the UMW.

"Inasmuch as I am unable to read and write and there is no member of my family at home this statement consisting of three and one half pages was read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence in [redacted] Ill., on September 2, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He advised he was born [redacted] came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] He speaks English very poorly and can understand it only with difficulty. His memory is not good and it is felt that he would not make a satisfactory witness. [redacted] advised that he had no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 2, 1943

"I, [redacted] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U.S. in [redacted] In [redacted] became a U. S. citizen in Springfield, Ill.

"I started working in Mine 'B', Springfield, about [redacted] and I then became a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union. In 1932 most of the men in our local went over to join the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union, and I became a member of PMA in 1932.

"I took no part in the organizing of any union and I have never held an office in any union.

"Between 1932 and 1937 I never noticed the UMW to picket or try to organize at Mine 'B'. The company did not appear, to me, to favor one over the other, that is either PMA or UMW. I know of no strikes or close downs during this time. I would prefer to work under no unions, and it does not make any difference to me which union I belong to. From 1932 to 1937 I thought PMA was an honest union, and I thought the officials were honest. I do not know anything to speak of about the bombing cases.

"I never noticed anyone being a spy for UMW during this time and the only thing I know about the strike is that on some day in May, 1937, [redacted] told the engineers not to pull any more coal and we were to come out. This was about an hour before quitting time and I came up to the top, washed and went home.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

I did not know why we went out, and I still do not know. I heard there was some trouble about some PMA men being kicked out of the PMA and I also heard there was some trouble about the contract, but I do not know which, if any, of these was why we walked out.

"I went to the Mine 'B' the next day but we did not work again until in November of 1939, when I got a letter from the company telling me to come back to work. I do not remember ever being notified in any way to come back to work before that time, and after May of 1937.

"I remember there was a picket line by PMA in the fall of 1937, but I was never in that picket line and I have never been in any picket line. I do not remember signing any petitions during the summer of 1937. I might have signed a PMA petition during this time, I am not sure, but I am sure I did not sign a UMW petition during this time.

"I do not know anything about a UMW local being organized in 1937.

"I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Board election in about Dec., 1937, when PMA beat UMW. [redacted] told me there was going to be an election but no one forced or threatened me in any way in that election and I thought it was a fair election.

"When the mine opened in Nov., 1939, I went back to work and I was a PMA. I don't remember when I changed to UMW but I know I was one of the last and it was probably near the end of 1940. No one ever threatened me or forced me in any way to join UMW and I joined because I didn't want to lose my job. I heard most of the men had signed up with UMW so I did. For about four months before I signed with UMW I belonged to no union.

"I do not remember whether UMW tried to organize at Mine 'B' - and all I remember is no one tried to get me to join UMW. I never saw anyone get beat up, and I only remember that I heard some of the PMA men were beat up, but who they were or anything about them I do not remember.

"When I went back to work in 1939 I did not notice whether there had been any fires or cave ins.

"I do not remember voting in a second NLRB election.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(Continued)

"This statement of four pages has been read to me by Agent Reitman and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/[redacted]

"Witness

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 8, 1943. [redacted] was born [redacted] and is employed [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] speaks and understands English well. He states he has never been arrested.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted], Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943

"I, [redacted] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] I am presently employed [redacted]

"I first started working in mines in about [redacted] I then joined the United Mine Workers of America Union and belonged to UMW until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union. I was working at Panther Creek Mine #1, Auburn, Ill., at the time. I joined PMA because I didn't like the actions of UMW. I refer to the time in 1932 when John L. Lewis' men stole the ballot box. I remained a PMA until August of 1938 when I quit mining and stopped paying dues. I did not join any mine union or work in any mine from August of 1938 until about July 27, 1940, when I went to work as a digger in the Mine "B", Springfield, Ill., at which time I joined UMW.

"In July of 1940 I was working for the WPA and [redacted] a neighbor, who was working at Mine "B" told me they were putting men on at Mine "B" so I went out to Mine "B" on about July 27, 1940, and [redacted] pointed out a man whom I later found out was "Cudge" Bumgarner, and told me Cudge was the fellow to see about a job.

"I went up to Cudge and asked him for a job. He took me to see Oscar Falcetti and then Cudge told me to come out and bring my tools. Nothing was said about any union at that time. I got some tools and started working a couple of days later.

"About three or four days after I started working [redacted] came up to me and told me to join UMW by signing with a little Italian fellow whose name I cannot remember. No one forced me or threatened me physically, but [redacted] told me if I wanted to work at Mine "B" I would have to sign with UMW, so I signed with UMW. I joined UMW because I knew if I did not join

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

UMW I would not keep my job at Mine "B" and I wanted to work at Mine "B" to make more money than I had been on WPA.

"I worked at Mine "B" a little more than a year. I had been hurt doing work in the mine during this time and after I came back after being laid off sick for a while, Jack Falcetti told me I would have to pay $7.00 because he had to have a man clean my room which got dirty he said after I shot my face. I did not want to pay him $7.00 so I quit and have never been back to mine "B" since. When I first started working in Mine "B" I had a good room. Then I had a couple of entries - and then I got a bad room. That is when I hurt my back.

"While I was working at Mine "B" I saw Hungarner and maybe Bohannon take new men into Oscar Falcetti to be hired. I do not remember seeing any one else doing any organizing.

"The only fight I remember seeing was one morning I saw a little Italian fellow whose name I cannot remember, come out of the wash house hollering that he'd been hit. But I saw nothing except the Sheriff came at that time and went in the wash house and brought out Bohannon.

"On February of 1941 the National Labor Relations Board held an election. The morning of the election the UMW had a meeting and told us how to get down to the voting place and only a few at a time was to go in. They did not tell us how to vote and no one forced or threatened us in any way. I voted in that election and thought it was fair.

"This statement of four pages has been read to me and it true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed: -

[redacted] /S/ Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted] /S/Special Agent-F.B.I."

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 7, 1943. [redacted] advised that he does not have a criminal record. [redacted] is able to speak and understand English and would make a fair witness.

[redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,
September 7, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted]

"I first began mining coal in Springfield, Ill_ in [redacted] at which time I joined UMW. I remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I joined PMA. In 1932 the local UMW union of which I was a member changed from UMW to PMA and I changed with my local. I took no part in the formation of PMA.

"I was employed at Mine "B" in 1935 as a company man and have been employed at Mine "B" ever since, except during the time of a strike.

"Between 1935 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B" and the management did not close Mine "B". During that period of time the management was not hostile in settling grievances and the management did not show any partiality toward UMW.

"I thought PMA was a good union and one being operated for its members, No unusual special assessments were made against me. I took no interest in union activities and I have not been an official of any union.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases and I do not know if the convicted PMA members got a fair trial or not.

"Between 1935 and May 12, 1937 there were no UMW pickets at Mine "B" and I did not see any UMW literature being distributed. During that period of time no one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW.

"Prior to May 12, 1937 I did not see any officials of UMW with the management of Mine "B".

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I do not remember any wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend a meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937. I do not remember if I received notice of the meeting or not.

"A few days prior to May 12, 1937 someone told me that PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, JOHN ANANIAS, GEORGE JACAWAY, EMORY JACAWAY and CHARLES BOHANNON were expelled from PMA because they were labor spies for U.M.W. None of the above named men ever mentioned union activities to me.

"On May 12, 1937 I went to work as usual and no one reflected any intention of striking. On the afternoon of May 12, 1937 someone told me that Mine "B" was on strike because the management would not discharge the above named men who were expelled from PMA. I noticed coal cars were loaded short that day, but I do not know the reason for the cars being loaded short.

"I do not remember if I signed a PMA petition in the Summer of 1937, but I know I did not sign an UMW petition.

"I did not know of the formation of a new UMW local in the Summer of 1937.

"PMA informed me that Mine "B" was to open sometime in Sept. 1937. On the day Mine "B" was to have opened I voluntarily went to the mine to act as a picked. I acted as a picket from time to time until an injunction was obtained to prevent the picketing. It made no difference to me whether the injunction was served or not.

"I do not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair and I voted as I wished.

"I received notice in Nov. 1939 to return to work at Mine "B". I returned as a member of PMA. I did not hear of any large fires at Mine "B" on my return to the mine, but I did hear there were many cave-ins. No one asked me to join UMW for two or three months after my return to work, but after two or three months passed many of the employees at Mine "B" informed me that I would either have to join UMW or I would not have a job. In the spring of 1940 [redacted] at Mine "B" asked me to join UMW and I thought that if I did not join I would loose my job. I was not at anytime threatened if I did not join UMW. I heard that some of the miners were threatened and beat because they did not join UMW, but I did not see anyone threatened or beat. The management of Mine "B" did not seem to favor either

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] UMW or PMA.

(continued)

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941. I think this was a fair election and I voted as I wished.

"It makes no difference at the present whether I am a member of PMA or UMW.

"I have had this statement consisting of five pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED: --

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW [redacted] was interviewed at his home at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he executed a signed statement. It is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to understand or speak English very well. He is [redacted] by birth and is a naturalized citizen of the United States. He has no known criminal record. The following is the signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] I came to U.S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen of U.S. in [redacted] at [redacted]

"I first joined UMW in [redacted] when I began working in the mine at [redacted] Ill. I never held any office in any union.

"I joined PMA when I began working at Mine "B" in November 1935. I joined P.M.... at this time because I needed a job and Mine "B" would hire me. I worked at Mine B then until the men came out on strike and during this time I knew of no strikes or closedowns and as far as I knew there was no difficulty between the mine management and the union.

"I had no trouble with PMA and saw no difference in the unions. I wanted to work and which ever union had a majority at the mine, I would join it.

"No one attempted to get me to change from PMA to UMW and I did not know of any labor spies at Mine B.

"I heard that we were to get some back pay but we never got it and I don't know why the strike was called. The majority of the men went on strike so I struck with them.

"I remember signing some kind of petition for P.M.... just after the strike in 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I went to Mine B 3 or 4 days after an attempt was made to reopen it in September 1937 and all the P.M.A. men were on a sit-down strike or picketing. I stayed here then as a picket until an injunction was served on us. All the men who picketed were from Mine B and I did not see any fights or violence of any kind while the mine was picketed.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Dec. 1937, and as far as I could see it was fair election. P.M.A. won by a large majority.

"I went to work in November 1939 at Mine B as a member of P.M.A. but I knew the mine was operating under an open shop agreement. I paid dues to PMA for 2 or 3 months after I went back to work. P.M.A. dues at that time were $3 a month and U.M.W. was $2 a month About a month later I joined U.M.W. because I wanted to belong to a union and I thought most of the men were U.M.W. members at Mine B because a lot of the old employees had quit and didn't come back.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 and I think it was a fair election. I am now working at Mine B as a trapper and I have no fault to find with either union and I like whichever one I may be working under.

"I have had this three page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted], F.B.I., Springfield, Ill., Sp. Agt.
/S [redacted] FBI, Spfld., Ill., Sp. Agt."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] also known as [redacted] was interviewed at his home at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is a native of [redacted] He has [redacted] It is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to speak English very well, although he appears intelligently alert. He has no known criminal record.

[redacted] supplied the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted] sometimes known as [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted] I am not a citizen of U. S. [redacted] I emigrated to U. S. in [redacted]

"I began working in coal mines in [redacted] in about [redacted] and first joined a union at that time. I joined U.M.W.

"I first worked at Mine "B" about [redacted] and then I worked in several other mines and came back to Mine "B" about [redacted]

"I think the miners and the management got along o.k. before the P.M.A. was formed. In 1932 I joined P.M.A. because there was a condition existing within the U.M.W. that the miners did not like. We had no voice in the election of officials and we had to do as the union officials said so my local quit U .M.W. and joined P.M.A. I have never been a official of any union.

"I liked P.M.A. at that time and I thought the miners were about 50% better off under P.M.A. than U.M.W. As far as I know there was no difficulty with P.M.A. and the mine owners until just before the strike at Mine "B" in 1937.

"I did not see any spies at Mine "B" before the strike and no one attempted to get me to change from P.M.A. to U.M.W. at this time. I heard a day or so before the strike that 2 or 3 men had been expelled from P.M.A. for spying activities.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"On the day of the strike I loaded all my cars as usual and worked a full day. I understood that the company had refused to deal with P.M.A. and also that the company wanted to deal with U.M.W.

"I signed a P.M.A. petition shortly after the strike to show the Federal Government that P.M.A. was in majority.

"A few months after the strike we heard the mine was going to open under U.M.W. so at our union meeting we decided we would picket the mine to protect our jobs. On the day the mine was supposed to open only a few UMW miners went in the mine. We continued to picket until we were served with an injunction.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in December 1937. It was a fair election and P.M.A. won by a large majority.

"I started back at Mine "B" when it opened on an open shop basis. I worked as P.M.A. until I saw the majority were going U.M.W. and because I wanted to work and as long as both P.M.A. & U.M.W. were working there was always trouble. I had no recourse if I was shorted on my cars, unless I belonged to the union who was able to deal with the mine operators. I have been short weighted on my cars loaded and I can't get the proper settlement under U.M.W.

"I prefer P.M.A. to U.M.W. because the miner has something to say in electing the officers under P.M.A. while in U.M.W. we have to accept any officer who is appointed.

"I have had this 3 page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:
[redacted] Special Agent
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted], at which time he gave the following signed statement.

[redacted]

At the time of the interview [redacted]

The following is [redacted] statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted] do voluntarily give the following signed statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have made themselves known to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind were made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born [redacted] and presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. [redacted]

"I first started working in the mines in [redacted], joining the United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started at Mine B about three or four years before the union split up in 1932. Before 1932 so far as I know the relations between UMWA and Mine B officials was alright.

"Theft of ballots was the immediate cause of the Progressives being formed in 1932. Most of Mine B joined up with the Progressives. Between 1932 and 1937 PMA officials got along fine with Elshoff.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"The trouble in the Spring of 1937 started because of an argument over whether the new wage scale would be retroactive or not. At this time there was about a dozen men at Mine B who were believed to be spies and in the pay of UMWA who stirred up trouble about the wage scale. Some of these men that I remember off hand are Charles Bohannon, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, Frank Austin, Jimmy Hale, Andrew Skreleveous (phonetic spelling). I believe that there were three trials at which these men were suspended for 99 years. These trials took place a short time before the strike on May 12, 1937. I was at the trial the night Charles Bohannon and Domonic Pasquale and at least one or two others were suspended. The only persons present at these trials were the witnesses and Trial Board of Five Members. The trials were held at the MMA Meeting Hall.

"The day of the strike I loaded two cars and came home and didn't know about the strike until the night of May 12, 1937. I have heard that short cars were being loaded on the day of the strike.

"I was on picket duty at Mine B nearly every day after the picketing started in September of 1937. During this period a few UMWA men tried to open the mine but they never had enough men to be successful.

"I never saw any violence or blood shed while I was picketing at Mine B.

"I remember the first election in December of 1937. It went Progressives ____ won 404 - 25. I remember that there was some trouble about pamplets being passed out but can't remember what was on them. I voted Progressive.

"After the election Elshoff didn't seem to want to deal with the Progressives. I was on the committee to see Elshoff in the fall of 1939 about opening the mine. At the meeting Elshoff said, 'I will let you go back to work, and give you the check off, but if we run short of men I'll hire whoever in the hell I want to.'

"There was a rumor going around at the time that the United Mine Workers were paying Elshoff during the strike. I heard that they had given him as much as $200,000.00, but can't prove it.

"When I went back to work in 1939 under the 'open shop' agreement the majority of the miners still favored the Progressive Mine Workers. Soon after we went back to work a man by the name of [redacted] was put on as an 'air inspector' - this was the first time they ever had that job at Mine B. He tried to make friends with all the men and get them to join UMWA. Other UMWA men who came in ____ [redacted] and [redacted] These men all talked for UMWA. I heard that

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

these men along with several others were the ones who beat up a number of the PMA men. I never actually saw any of these acts of violence.

"Altogether during the period 1939 and 1940 early 1941 the UMWA must have brought in about 50 men, and kept signing men over all the time.

"During this period the UMWA men were in the office all of the time, and seemed to be very friendly with Elshoff.

"I voted Progressive again at the second election but we lost by quite a number of votes. Before the election at the NLRB hearing they had a number of men there wearing buttons to show their preference of UMWA; I heard that there was a $10.00 fine for members who did not go and wear these buttons. I was asked to go to this meeting and wear a UMWA button but I refused.

"Before the election mens tools were stolen, sulpher thrown in coal cars & men docked, & men were beat up to get them to join the UMWA.

[redacted] a list of 21 Progressives whose tools were stolen during the above mentioned period.

"I remember that a petition was passed around after the strike and over 450 men signed in in original handwriting and gave their address showing that they favored the Progressive Union.

"I have read the above four and one half ($4\frac{1}{2}$) pages of statements made by me. The same are true and I do hereby sign my name.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] /S/
Special Agent, F.B.I., Springfield, Illinois
[redacted] /S/ F.B.I. Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois, on September 2, 1943:

At [redacted] Illinois, agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he never has been arrested. It was noted that he understood the questions asked him and gave answers all right. However, he did not seem to know much about the pertinent period as will be noted in his statement. He appeared to be an honest individual and was cooperative.

His statement is as follows:

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943

"I, [redacted] hereby make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement.

"I was born [redacted] I have been employed at [redacted] I first joined a union at [redacted] when I was [redacted] I have never held a Union office. I started at Mine "B" about 1935. I was a charter member of P.M.A. because the U.M.W. local to which I belonged went to P.M.A. in 1932.

"From the time I started at Mine "B" to the time of the strike I had no chance to observe relation between P.M.A. & Elshoff. I never heard the management favor U.M.W. in any way however. There were no unusual disputes between the local officials and the members so far as I know. So far as I know there was no racketeering by the local officials. I don't think that in this period I attended more than 5 meetings this was because of the time it took to go to Springfield to attend. Concerning the Progressive men who were sentenced for bombing and such I certainly dont think they did all they were accused of. While I was there the Union dues seemed normal and I didn't know of any money being handled wrong. From the time I went to Mine B up to the time of the strike I never saw U.M.W. picket the mine. I heard that there were some men in the P.M.A. who were trying to switch the men to U.M.W. I never saw any literature distributed by U.M.W. I never heard of ELSHOFF giving any parties for U.M.W. officials.

"I rember that just before the mine closed we were working under a temporary agreement. As I recall there was some kind of a settlement

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

where we were supposed to get some back pay. There was a lot of talk about this at the time. So far as I know the miners did not feel the U.M.W. would be able to get any better contract than the P.M.A.

"I dont remember any dispute over wages prior to the strike. I felt the Union officials would see I got what was coming.

"I heard of a meeting being held the day before the strike. I did not attend it however, and didn't hear of it till May 12. What I heard was talk up on top. When I went to work May 12, 1937 I had no idea there would be a strike. What I heard was that the men were going on strike because the Company would not fire some expelled miners. I felt these men should have been fired, but can't speak for the others. I heard the names of some, I reconize as being one of them the name of Frank Austin. I dont remember any thing about any cars being loaded short this day.

"I dont recall now signing any petitions the summer after the mine closed. If I had signed any they would have been P.M.A.

"I signed no petition for U.M.W. and didn't know they had one.

"I heard nothing about the U.M.W. forming a local the summer of 1937.

"I remember nothing unusual happening during the summer of 1937.

"Just prior to the starting of the picketing at Mine "B" I was working [redacted] and paid little attention to what happened at the mine. I did not go out to work when the picket line started and know nothing about the time the Marshall ordered the men out. I did go out on 2 or 3 occasions to help with the picketing this was after my [redacted] Everything there was peaceful so I remember and the men were just there to protect thier jobs.

"I dont recall going back to the mine after this until the mine reopened for good.

"I voted at the first NLRB election. The vote was by secrect ballot & as far as I know it was an honest and good election. I voted P.M.A., which was the way I wanted it and no one forced me to do this.

"I heard nothing about Falsetti or any of the men from Mine B going to work at the Jefferson Mine.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I got a letter from the Co. advising me that the mine was to open. I went to the mine right away before the date called for in the letter. I asked Falsetti to give me a new room and he said that because of a Labor board ruling every man had to go back in his old room. I never went down in the mine and have never been back to Mine "B" since. Falsetti made no mention of wages to me and said I could go back when my turn came he never asked me to what union I belonged. I was well satisfied with P.M.A. and still feel it is a good union.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read to me the foregoing statement of 6 pages, as I have trouble reading myself. This statement is all true to the best of my recollection, I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

"Signed:
[redacted]

"Witnessed:
[redacted], /S/
Special Agent, F.B.I.,
St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted] /S/
Spec. Agent FBI (Milw.)"

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] was jointly interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Illinois, on September 8, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He appeared to be willing to answer questions propounded to him and submitted the following signed statement:

[redacted], Illinois
September 8, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statment to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside on [redacted] Illinois and I am presently employed at the Panther Creek Mine #2, Springfield, Illinois, as a PMA miner. By PMA, I refer to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was born [redacted]

"The first mine union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union about [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois when I worked at [redacted]

"The only union office I ever held was a Pit Committeeman at the [redacted] under the UMW, in [redacted]

"I worked as a member of the UMW in mines in the Springfield area from [redacted] In September, 1932 I was working at the Peabody Mine #59, Springfield, Illinois and there, in that month, I voluntarily joined the PMA.

"I was well satisfied with the PMA leadership and feel that the officials of the PMA treated the rank and file miner fairly.

"I took no active part in the formation of the PMA.

"In the latter part of 1934 I started working at Mine B as a PMA member and I worked there continuously until the mine closed on May 12, 1937.

"The relations between ELSHOFF and the PMA appeared to be satisfactory from 1934 to May 1937 when it closed. The closing of Mine B, was a surprise to me. I never had any knowledge of UMW organizers in this mine in the Spring of 1937, and was never contacted by them or heard that they contacted other miners.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

"I went to very few union meetings because I lived too far away from Springfield to make such trips.

"I was not familiar with the wage scale problem in 1937 between the PMA and ELSHOFF. However, I thought the PMA miners were to get some back pay which was not paid.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937, but I heard the next morning at the mine that four or five men had been expelled because they had joined the UMW. I did not know the details.

"The PMA members felt that the UMW men should have been expelled, and that ELSHOFF should not permit them to work.

"On May 12, 1937 some coal cars were loaded short, and the mine closed down. I do not know why the cars were loaded short.

"I never did go back to Mine B after May 12, 1937. I thought the NLRB election of December 15, 1937 was fair and represented the desires of the mine workers. When the next N.R.B election was held, I was not working at the mine. I had no knowledge that ELSHOFF favored the UMW at Mine B.

"I have had the two pages of this statement read to me by [redacted] and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] told his story in a clear and convincing manner and seemed to have a fairly good recollection of events within his knowledge relative to instant case. It is believed that [redacted] would make a good witness for the Government. There is being set forth below the signed statement which [redacted] executed at the time of this interview:

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted], both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] and presently live at [redacted] I first started mining in about [redacted] & joined the UMW at that time. I worked at Mine B from 1930 until Jan. of 1943 when I started working at the old West Mine. I have never held any office in the union.

"I joined the PMA in 1932 when the state went progressive and it was my opinion that all the men wanted to change over to Progressive. Things went along smoothly in the PMA until 1937 & all the men felt satisfied with the officers.

"In March of 1937 our contract with Mine B expired and the union was trying to settle on a new contract with the company. All of the men thought the PMA could do as well on a wage increase as the UMW. At about this same time our local discovered that some of our men were acting as spies for the U.M.W. Some of these men were Charles Bohannon, Dominick Pasquale, Frank Austin, Jacaway and others that ran around with these men. These men started agitating about a week before the strike and kept going around among the men telling them to go on strike because a new contract hadn't been signed. I was in one of the groups when these men were telling us to strike.

"I know that these men were expelled from the Union before the strike for their actions. I don't know how long they were expelled for and didn't attend the meeting, but I think most of the men knew they were expelled.

"I went to work at Mine B in box [redacted] as a digger on the day of the strike. All of the PMA men said they wouldn't work with these men. Our [redacted] told Falcetti the men shouldn't be allowed to work, but the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

company said the men should work. I think the company was playing favorites in letting these men work. When we saw the company was going to let the men work we all went below and started working. When I saw that some of the other fellows were loading cars short I decided I would also load some cars short. We continued loading short until we were called out of the mine. I think it was about 3:00 PM when we got on top and were told the mine was on strike.

"I went to work the next day as I think it was pay day and I also thought the strike might be over. When we got to the mine we were handed a pamphlet by our union man [redacted] & this pamphlet had the provisions of the new contract set forth showing a retroactive clause. The management put out a pamphlet which was distributed by [redacted] and this pamphlet had the contract set forth, but there was no retroactive clause in it. We decided we wouldn't work so we all came home.

"During the summer of 1937 I signed two or three PMA petitions. I think I signed one at the mine and one at the union hall. I was never forced to sign any of these petitions. In Sept. of 1937, after a notice was in the paper that the mine was to open we all went out to the mine. When we got to the mine we were told by our union men that the company had said we couldn't go to work unless we signed up with United. I don't believe any of the men tried to go to work that day.

"The next day we started a picket line and kept it up until Dec. of 1937 when we were served with an injunction. Most of the men felt pretty bitter about the injunction. We felt that the court was wrong in issuing the injunction and we felt the company wasn't giving us a square deal. The mine was our bread and butter and although we felt our union was doing as much as they could, we felt the company was against us. I stayed on the picket line from Sept. to Dec. and stayed because I wanted to. We were allowed to come home and change clothes & see our families when ever we wanted to.

"About the same time Charles Bohannon came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.W. He did not threaten me and I told him I didn't want to join the UMW at that time.

"There was an NLRB election in Dec. of 1937 and I voted in that election. To the best of my knowledge there wasn't any fighting and the voting was conducted in a fair manner.

"I didn't go back to the mine until November of 1939 when I got a letter from the company. I went out to the mine a few days later and my section wasn't ready due to dirt, etc. The bottom had heaved up and

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

threw the tracks up. [redacted]

"I think that when we started to work in 1939 that progressive had a majority. In my opinion the company was unfair because they wouldn't sign a contract with us. I know that the company sometimes refused to hire new men if they wouldn't agree to sign up with United. The only men who could get jobs were those men who were sponsored by the United. I know that [redacted] and [redacted] went out to Mine B for a job and they were told that there were no jobs. These men were members of Progressive. [redacted] now work at Panther Creek #4, and [redacted] works at Panther #5. Most of the men felt there was a deal on between United and the company. I never saw any evidence of any money being paid by the company or union to any of the men referred to as spies, since I live in [redacted] and they all lived in Springfield. I never ran around with any of those men.

In about the fall of 1940 I joined the U.M.W. union. I joined the union because I had heard that some of our men had been treated pretty rough by the U.M.W. men. I was never threatened or beat up, but figured it would be the best thing to do to join up. I had a family to support and didn't want to lose my job. I was never told by the company that I had to join United, but it was generally felt by the men that to hold their job they had to sign up. The men also felt that if they didn't sign up that sooner or later they would get beat up.

"I have read over this entire statement of 6 pages & wish to state it is true to the best of my recollection.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnesses

[redacted] /S/) Special Agents, FBI
[redacted] /S/) U. S. Dept of Justice"

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] On September 4, 1943 Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] at his home in [redacted] Illinois. [redacted] at this time advised agents that he had no criminal record. Immediately upon meeting agents, [redacted] advised that he had been told by one [redacted] Illinois, that on September 3, 1943 that [redacted] had heard a couple of men talking in the mine about holding a meeting on September 4, 1943, concerning the investigation being conducted of the Mine "B" situation by the FBI. As near as this man was able to gather, the persons to attend this meeting were the twelve alleged labor spies. [redacted] stated to [redacted] that these men were wondering if the FBI had been to [redacted] yet and talked to [redacted] and seemed to take the attitude that it would be too bad if [redacted] had been interviewed by the FBI.

It was noted in the course of the interview that [redacted] seemed to have an exceptional recollection of events that took place at Mine B during the questioned period. [redacted] seemed to be an honest and reliable person and he expressed his complete willingness to appear in court at any time to testify to what he had told agents.

It is to be noted that [redacted] gave agents a note turned over to him by [redacted] concerning the alleged attempt of [redacted] to contact UMW men to sell out the PMA. [redacted]

It is believed that [redacted] would make an excellent and willing witness. [redacted] gave agents the following five-page typewritten statement:

[redacted] Ill.,
Sept. 4, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made to me to give this statement.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I first started at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] as a coal digger and I still am there in [redacted] I was born [redacted] In [redacted] I joined the UMW at [redacted] Ill., with my dad, and I never have held any union office. Before 1932 our UMW local was alright at Mine B and it was a company union and we miners just paid our dues into the local but did not get any support and if we had any disputes we did not get far with them at all. During that time ELSHOFF would get whatever he got from UMW and it is even worse now at Mine B than it was back in those days. We UMW men got a dirty rotten deal from JOHN L. LEWIS and he gave us the right to vote and then he stole the ballots and I was glad when we went over to PMA in 1932. We miners felt that LEWIS had sold out to the operators then. I took an active part in starting PMA at Mine B and to get rid of UMW there and I talked to other fellows and told them to join PMA. At that time most of the men went over to PMA of their own free will and no one was forced to join over and I will say that we had a good organization under the PMA leadership.

"Between 1932 and until the mine closed down PMA officials got along alright with CARL ELSHOFF of Mine B. However, around 1935 or 1936 about 13 men established themselves together and they would go into the coal office and talk to them about going back to UMW. These men were SAMMY, also known as JOE; ANDY SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, COTTON ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEO. and EMORY JACAWAY, CHARLES BOHANNON and JIM HALE. There also was a Lithuanian with them who is now dead. ELSHOFF and the management of Mine B did not bother us at all before the mine closed about going back to UMW that I recall of. We PMA miners got along 100% with the PMA officials from 1932 until the mine closed with the exception of the 13 men mentioned about and we liked the officials and things got along just fine then. We men decided what should be done and our committees took up our troubles and got things for us and it was a lot better then in those days than it is now at the present time at Mine B. We never suspected anything wrong with the PMA officials. I attended almost every meeting because [redacted] was our check weigh man and he went to the meetings and I would go along with him. In regard to those PMA men who were convicted for that bombing I felt pretty bad about it and I think that JOHN L. LEWIS gave a lot of money to a railroad dick named [redacted] and he gave it out and I think that the men who went to the pen were all innocent. I attended their trial on several times. Other miners also felt that the PMA men were not guilty. Before the mine closed PMA officials properly accounted for their money and I always was given receipts for dues I paid and they never had a lot of special assessments. There was no feeling at all that the PMA officials were getting any cut out of the money matters. UMW men never picketed Mine B before it closed and I never saw any literature from UMW then. About 3 to 6 months before the mine closed the 13 men

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

mentioned above I heard did a lot of talking around to other PMA men in the mine to join back to UMW but they never talked to me because they all knew that I was a strong PMA man. It is my recollection that some time before the mine closed CHARLES BOHANNON and some one else was expelled from PMA and then later on some more were expelled. I attended all those meetings along then and I recall that the Trial Committee made their reports to us miners at the meeting and after they reported they had a vote amongst the members and we voted to expell them, because they were trying to us to join over to UMW. This was not done at one meeting but happened over a period of time and the Trial Committee had done a lot of checking on these men and we miners had that right to vote on those matters but now under UMW we don't have that right anymore. I recall when the contract expired in spring of 1937 that [redacted] and other PMA officials of PMA told us at our meetings that we were working without a contract pending a new one and that if there was a raise it was to be retroatice and I had 114 tons then and never got a dime for it yet. Our PMA officials told us at these meetings just what was going on in regard to this wage question and they did not hold out any information from us at all but kept us fully informed of all details as at that time I was very active and attended every meeting. In regard to parties I did hear that ELSHOFF and UMW men did hold parties but I don't know where and I also heard that after UMW won the second NLRB election that a big party was held at the offices of Mine B. We PMA miners always felt that PMA would sign a contract with ELSHOFF and we all felt that PMA could get for us just a good a contract as UMW could ever get for us. We miners were all satisfied with the wage question and there was no trouble there at Mine B on pay days nor were there any strike or slow downs because of this wage trouble. Just before the mine closed in 1937 these 13 men mentioned above were very active in going around to homes of miners at Auburn and other places and they tried to get them to join over to UMW but they never contacted me as they knew I was too strong for PMA and I also heard that these 13 men were seen a lot around the UMW building and I recall that I used to see some of those 13 men walk along the street in the direction of the UMW Building but I never actually saw them enter it. At that time I had no use for these 13 men and we did not speak to one another. I don't recall of the management of Mine B telling us anything about the wage scale and it was gossip then that ELSHOFF would not sign up with the Illinois Operators because he wanted to break away from PMA and join over with UMW and at that time the Illinois Producers Association was signed up with PMA.

"The night before the mine closed down there was held a special and not a regular meeting at the PMA Hall at 6th & Washington

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

in Springfield, Ill. I had been told of this by our oager at Mine B and at that time of the meeting there must have been between 300 and 400 present as it was a large group. The main purpose of this meeting was to decide what action should be taken or done in regard to the expelled miners who had been expelled some time before at our previous regular meetings and none were expelled this evening at all as they had been expelled before. Before this special meeting had been held the management of Mine B would not fire these expelled men and it was decided at that meeting that the management should be given one more chance to discharge them and that if the management refused to do so that the Progressives would not work with these expelled men and it was decided that [redacted] should recontact ELSHOFF about this matter. It was decided that we would picket the mine if these men were not fired. At that special meeting there was present [redacted] and I think [redacted] was there. I went to this meeting with [redacted] mentioned above. It was a very peaceful meeting and there was no trouble there and we all felt that those men should not work. At this meeting nothing was said about the wage question at all but it was just about these 13 men. When I went to work the next morning I knew that if ELSHOFF would not fire these 13 men that we would picket the mine and I knew that [redacted] was to see ELSHOFF about it. We did not call any strike but just refused to work with those 13 men who wanted to form a new organization. On the day the mine closed I worked about 6 hours. At the special meeting the night before nothing at all was said about loading the car short but on the day the mine closed some of the PMA miners sent around that we should load our cars short in protest against these 13 men being allowed to work and I don't recall just who told me but I did load 4 cars short too and one I never got paid for till later on. As I heard it no PMA officials gave any such orders to load these cars short but it was started by PMA miners themselves. I don't think that [redacted] called us out that afternoon but as I recall it the company itself closed the mine down because the cars were being loaded short and we never worked a day again until 30 months later. I left all my tools and a full keg of powder in the mine that day and I did not know that the mine would be closed when I came out from the mine. This whole issue was over those 13 men and was not because of any wage trouble. On the folllowing day after the mine closed the whistle blew but we PMA men picketed Mine B on the highway called Jacksonville Hard Road and no one went to work at all except the engineer and the mine officials. This picketing lasted about 15 days and I was there every morning and there was no ill feeling among us men and none of these 13 men showed up at all during that time. It was a peaceful picket line and there was no trouble at all and its purpose was to keep those 13 men from working. I just can't recall if I signed any PMA petition a short time after the mine closed

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

but if there was one I would have signed it as I was very strong then for PMA. I was willing to have signed anything for PMA and it is quite possible that I did sign if they had petitions out. I don't know if UMW got out a petition or not as no one contacted me as all knew I was a strong PMA men. I heard thru the paper that UMW formed a new local in summer of 1937 but I never was asked to join it. Some time between May and Sept. 1937 I read in the paper that ANDY SCHRELEVIOUS shot a man and wife in their tavern because the man would not join the UMW. After the mine closed down PMA did not have any regular meetings any more but around that time there was a lot of stuff in the papers about UMW having a majority etc. at Mine B. I heard then too that the UMW did have small meetings around but I never saw or attended them. I also heard that these 13 men got jobs at Jefferson Mine because they had a UMW local there and I also heard that FALCETTI was a boss there and according to gossip CARL ELSHOFF had an interest or was a receiver of the Jefferson Mine. During the fall of 1937 I attended a meeting of PMA at which time we were told that the mine was going to open the next day or so under UMW and that we should be out and that we would be ready to go to work as PMA and not as UMW. That morning a large bunch of us were out there including [redacted] They had some talk in the office as [redacted] came out afterwards and told us miners that he talked with this President of UMW who said that if the PMA miners would sign UMW applications that we could go back to work at Mine B otherwise we could not and [redacted] said he told this President that we would go back as PMA and not under UMW. I also believe that [redacted] told us that he had a talk with OSCAR FALCETTI who said nothing. [redacted] talked to us out on the highway where we were in a large group, and at this time we did not go on the mine property at all and we did not see these 13 men there at all, and all of us went home then and no picketing began then. During the next week or so PMA held another meeting and we decided again that we would still be PMA and not UMW and that we would picket the mine if UMW men went to work and in a day or so we all showed up at Mine B to go to work and at this time these 13 men were there. FALCETTI let these 13 men go down into the mine himself that day and we went home and that same afternoon we had another meeting at our PMA hall and many men were there and it was decided that if these 13 men returned to work the day that we would picket and would not let them go down. At this meeting no force was used on us at all and it was with wishes of all us miners that these 13 men be kept out of the mine. Each of us had a voice in this matter and no PMA official told us we had to do something. We men ran that local and we had the voice in it and there were a nice bunch of men there in local 54. The next morning we bottled these 13 men up in the coal office and they stayed there till that afternoon when the Sheriff came out and let them go

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

away from the mine. From then on we stayed at the Mine B until the Marshall came out with his injunction. That morning when the 13 men were at the shaft getting ready to go down [redacted] (phonetic) of our Pit Committee told Falcetti that he sure must be a blood thirsty s-- o- a b---- to do what he was doing. Otherwise there were no fights or trouble at all there. I stayed at Mine B day and night except once a week and it lasted for about two months. The PMA officials saw to it that we had good cots and good food and even gave us smoking equipment. There was no trouble at all while this picketing was going on. No outsiders were brot it and the men were just from the Local 54. We did this picketing to protect our jobs. No one was forced to picket at all and we all did it of our own free will. PMA even furnished us with gasoline while we were out there. While we were there no UMW men came around at all. While we were out there we heard something that UMW was coming out with a bunch but they never showed up. We played ball, cards etc. and I took care of the boilers. We shaved and took baths etc. and the Sheriff came out once in a while and wives and friends of ours would come out and visit us and there was no trouble at all. I think that there were about 400 of us out there most of the time on the average. About 7 p.m. at night the Marshall came out and [redacted] told us to leave and about midnight all of us were gone and there was no fights or anything and we felt pretty bad about it as we felt that we had lost our jobs and the Marshall said that we could not come back on the premises. Several days later the Marshall left some injunction papers at my home and I have shown them to Agents [redacted] and [redacted] and it is addressed to me and is in connection with a suit brot by Mine B Coal Co. against the PMA and I will have this paper in my home all the time. A few days later I read in the paper that the mine was going to reopen and I heard that only a few went out but I never went out. Around that time too PMA had several local meetings and we were told to stay away from Mine B because of the injunction and that is why we did not go out as we could not go on the property. At the first NLRB election held in Springfield, Ill., I voted for PMA and it was by secret ballot and no one told me how to vote. Just before we voted we had a meeting at the PMA hall and [redacted] talked to us and said that if there were any men in the hall who wanted to vote for UMW and felt that way that they should go ahead and vote UMW and he said to us also that inasmuch as we had stuck together so far that we ought to know what we wanted and that we should vote the way we wanted. He gave us a nice talk and did not threaten us how to vote nor did he or anyone else tell us how to vote at all. It was decided at the meeting that we should go over and vote in groups of 12 or so and I recall that in the group I went with that at the corner of the Armory at Second St., in Springfield, Ill. I saw CHARLES BOHANNON and the other 12 men around there and they were giving out literature and I took one but don't just recall what was on it. I voted for PMA tho at that election. I also was one of the men who went out and helped carry in

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

a cripple who voted and this cripple, name I can't recall, had wanted to vote and he phoned the president of local 54 and asked if some one could come out and help him get in to vote. His name was [redacted] (phonetic) and he had been [redacted] and I and several others went out to his home and helped him to the Armory. He voted of his own free will and no one forced him to vote but he voted because he wanted to. This was an honest election and expressed the true wishes of the men. A short time after PMA won this election I read in the paper that Mine B was going to reopen under UMW altho PMA had won and I went out but did not go to work and as I recall it they wored for a short time till NLRB sent their decision back and then the mine was closed again until fall of 1939.

"Even tho PMA won I heard thru gossip that ELSHOFF would not allow any PMA men work there except UMW men. During 1938 and 1939 I worked on WPA and I recall that nothing unusual happened then while Mine B was closed. I heard gossip then that JOHN L. LEWIS was paying money to ELSHOFF and I felt that same way because I know that ELSHOFF was a small operator and did not have any money. I also know that ELSHOFF had worked as a coal salesman for the Rush Brewery Co., and had charged too much for coal after the first World War and he was fired and suit was brot against ELSHOFF.

"I got a registered letter from Mine B telling me to report to work within 10 days and I reported and went back to work at once in my same room [redacted] No one asked me what union I belonged to. I saw Falcetti then and he said nothing but gave me check No. 148 and I went right to work. These same 13 men were also working when I started. No one told me what wages was to be paid but I had heard that we were working under the UMW contract and he would not check off dues, I mean ELSHOFF would not, and I paid my PMA dues myself every month. I heard that ELSHOFF had said to the PMA committees that he would never sign a contract with PMA. Aft first there were not many strangers working there but about the second week or so they hired new men and they were only UMW men.

"While PMA was there from 1932 to 1937 they never had an "air man" and UMW does not have any there today. But when I went back to work [redacted] a UMW organizer, was hired as an "air man" and he went around the mine talking to the men to join over to UMW and he would come into my room at the mine but he never talked to me about it as he knew I was too strong for PMA.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

[redacted] (phonetic) and several others were organizers and went around and talked to the men to join over to UMW. One morning in Jan. 1941 [redacted] came to me and asked me whether I was going to sign up with UMW and he said that I would have to either join up with UMW or I wouldn't have any job. I also saw [redacted] of [redacted] Ill., and asked him what he was going to do and he said that if we wanted a job that we would have to join up. [redacted] gave me the application form and I filled it out for him. I had also heard that if I didn't join up by a certain time that it would cost me $25.00.

"I joined the UMW actually because I wanted to keep my job and save my home. I felt too that if I didn't I would be hurt physically. We keep our clothes in baskets in the wash-house, the man next to me was UMW and one day I came to the wash house and the clothes of the man next to me were cut all to shreds, I dont remember his name but he told me at the time that they got the wrong man and had intended to get me. I believe this was because I hadn't joined the UMW this was about a week before I finally decided that I had better join the UMW. I reported this incident to the Sheriff and he told me that if anybody bothered me to let him know and if necessary he would throw the whole bunch of them in jail. After I joined the UMW I wouldn't have anything to do with them this made them mad and one day CUDGE BUNGARTENER came to me and told me that I had better change my way or he'd kick all hell out of me. I heard men hollering around the wash house and heard scuffling and fighting all around the place, but I never saw any of these fights actually. I did know of one fight when a UMW man took [redacted] (ph.) over in the cornfeild and gave him a beating. After I joined the UMW, [redacted] gave me a note which I am turning over to FBI agents, this note pertains to arrangements made by [redacted] to meet with [redacted] who was known to be a UMW organizer. [redacted] according to [redacted] the UMW had turned this offer down as most of these men including myself were already members of the UMW. I heard of a fellow named [redacted] who was beat with a pickhandle in his room. This man had been running a car and the Co. discharged him from this and gave him a room I believe this was done so he could be beaten as he was a strong progressive. After I signed up with the UMW I got a registered letter from them telling me to come down and be iniatiated or I would have no job. I had not gone down as I did not care for the UMW even though I had

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

signed for them and didn't want to be initiated until I had to. This letter came from the UMW state organization. I do not recall signing any cards for either the UMW or the PMA up until the time I joined the UMW.

"I believe that the 2nd. NLRB election was an honest election, it was by secret ballot and was run just like the first one. I think the UMW won the 2nd. election because the mine B had been filled up with UMW men. During this period a miner could get his son a job in Mine B if he belonged to UMW, while a man who belonged to PMA couldn't get a job at this mine. Prior to this when the mine was operating under PMA contract it had always been the companies policy not to hire the sons of miners working for them.

"When I went back to work in Mine B it was in bad shape physically, I think it cost plent of money to put the mine back in operation. It still is not in good shape, there are two territories that have never been reopened. I never heard of any big fire starting a Mine B while the strike was on. JACK GLASCOW is the man I have been talking about who comes from Taylorville. I heard that he was kicked out over some argument concerning the money that was loaned to the Mine B Co. I feel that UMW should be made to pay the Mine B men for every dollars they lost during the 30 months that the strike lasted at that mine.

"I have read the foregoing statement of 5 typewritten pages and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is the truth and nothing but the truth. I want to state that I always liked the PMA better and that the employees of Mine A and B should both be back under the PMA. Having read this statment and knowing it to be true I am signing it of my own free will. I would be willing to testify to the statements herein in court at any time.

Signed [redacted]

"Witnessed

[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI (St. Paul)

[redacted], Spec. Agt. FBI (Milw.)

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943."

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

THE EXHIBIT MENTIONED ABOVE READS AS FOLLOWS:

"MR. [redacted]

HERE IS THE NOTE [redacted] LEFT
AT MY HOME. MY PHONE NUMBER IS [redacted]
SPRINGFIELD BUT HE SAYS HE COULDN'T DIAL IT.

[redacted]

HAVE CALLED THIS NO ON PHONE
63.PM 25343

NOBODY ANSWERED.

I HAVE CALLED HERE

NOBODY HOME

IT IS NOW 710 P.M.

SORRY, BUT I WILL BE HOME

SUNDAY MORNING

[redacted]

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[redacted]: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] makes a poor appearance, is not mentally alert, and had little understanding of the conditions at Mine "B". He executed the following written signed statement:

[redacted] Illinois
September 6, 1937

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] Illinois and presently live at [redacted] Ill. [redacted]

"The first mine union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW. I joined this union at [redacted]

"I worked at three or four other mines before 1933 or 1934 under the UMW. I started working at Mine B in 1933 or 1934 under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"I never held a mine union office.

"I left Mine B on May 12, 1937 when the strike started, and never did go back. I never got my tools.

"I presently work at the [redacted] near Springfield, Ill. under the UMW.

"I got along well with the PMA officials at Mine B. I never found anything wrong with the PMA.

"I only went to a few PMA meetings because Springfield was too far away from my home.

"I believe the following men were trouble makers at Mine B and organizers for UMW in the Spring of 1937: Tony Plotch, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, John Sirtout, George Jaceway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale.

"None of these men ever contacted me. I know very little about PMA troubles and know nothing about the wage scale controversy. I believe

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

UMW was trying to get the men to change over to UMW from PMA and I believe the men I mentioned above were aggitators paid by UMW. There may have been other men aggitating for UMW at this time, but I can not remember their names.

"I was a coal digger at Mine B. I do not remember the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 or what happened.

"I believe I left the mine early that day (May 12, 1937). I think I was called out about noon that day. I never went back to Mine B. after that day.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
Special Agent, FBI.

"

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on Sept. 4, 1943. [redacted] was born in [redacted] and informs he has never been arrested. He speaks and understand English well, but he knows very little concerning the facts of this investigation and consequently would be of no value as a witness to this investigation. He is still employed at Mine "B".

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943.

"I, [redacted] of [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] I started working in the Mine "B" in about [redacted] in Springfield, and then joined the United Mine Workers of America Union. In 1932 most all of our UMW local went over to the Progressive Miners of America Union, and so I joined PMA in 1932.

"I took no active part in the formation of PMA and I have never held an office in any union.

"From the times between 1932 and May, 1937, I did not notice that there were any strikes or close downs at Mine "B". None of the company officials at any time so far as I know ever tried to discredit the PMA or get me or anyone I know of to join UMW. I did not notice that the company was partial to either PMA or UMW.

"During this time I thought the PMA union was an honest one and the officials were honest. I did not think there was any racket connected with the PMA and the only assessment I didn't like was the 10% assessment to be used for other PMA men who weren't working.

"I never took an interest in union activities and went to very few meetings.

"Between 1932 and May of 1937 I never noticed any UMW picket lines at Mine "B" and I never saw any attempt by UMW to organize Mine "B". In Spring of 1937 I heard some of the PMA men were expelled from the PMA union but I do not know why. I cannot remember any of the names of any of these men.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I do not remember whether or not I attended a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the night before the strike. But I do not think I went. On May 12, 1937 I went to work as usual as a company man down in the mine. We did not work all day because some time during the day our PMA officials pulled us out of the mine and said we were on strike. I did not know why we went out, and I'm still not sure why we went out. I don't know why those men were expelled from the union and I never heard of any wage scale trouble at that time.

"On May 12, 1937, I noticed a lot of the cars were loaded short, but I do not know why and I never heard anyone tell the men to load them short.

"After we went out on May 12, 1937 I do not remember ever being notified to come back to work until Nov. of 1939.

"During about Sept. of 1937 I remember the PMA had a sit down picket line at Mine "B" but I was not there when it started. I don't know how long the picket line lasted, but I was out there only about ten days in all. No one made me come out and I went out voluntarily. I was not there when the picket line was taken off and I do not know why it went off.

"Shortly after we went out in May 1937 I believe I signed a PMA petition. I do not remember signing more than one petition and I am sure I never signed a UMW petition.

"During the time of the strike I went to very few PMA meetings [redacted] I do not remember anything about a new UMW local being organized in the summer of 1937.

"When I was at the picket line I saw only PMA local members there.

"I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Board Election in Dec. of 1937 when PMA won. I was not forced or threatened in any way and I think it was a fair election.

"In Nov. of 1939 I got a letter which I thought came from the gov't., telling me to come back to work and I went back to work in Mine "B" as a company man and have been there ever since. I was a member of PMA when I went back, altho I never paid dues the whole time Mine "B" was shut down.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"From the time I went back to work in Nov. of 1939 until the end of 1940 when I joined UMW, no one ever tried to get me to join UMW by telling me to or threatening me to. I joined UMW because the rest of the men were joining and I wanted to keep my job. I never actually saw any organizing by UMW at Mine "B" - and altho I heard about some and heard about some men getting beat up, I never saw any of it.

"When I went back to work in Nov. of 1939 I did not see the results of any fires or caveins and I do not think there were any.

"I remember voting in an NLRB election in Feb. 1941 when UMW won. I thought it was a fair election & I was not threatened in any way.

"This statement of four pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

Witness:

[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 2, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks English with difficulty, and is able to express himself only in very simple words. He stated that he can only write his name, and that he has a very limited reading ability. Questions put to him must be short and plain. He said he is willing to testify in court on the facts as he remembers them. He claims to have no criminal record. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 2, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [redacted], Springfield, Ill. I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in Federal court in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted]

" I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I rejoined the U.M.W. in 1940, as I recall. I never was an officer in any union.

"I took no part in the organization of the P.M.A. in 1932. I merely went along with the rest of the men. I wanted to be with the majority. I never have been one of the minority. I went to quite a few P.M.A. meetings, and also some U.M.W. meetings. Both unions treated me O.K. I wanted a job and was willing to be in any union that would see to it that I got a job.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike started in 1937. I probably did not go to the meeting. I did not know anything at all about the strike until I was called out of the mine. I was told to stay around the mine by the P.M.A. officials. After a time, the sheriff came and then the miners went home. I don't know why the strike was called.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"In the summer of 1937 no one ever contacted me about joining U.M.W. In that summer I signed a petition for P.M.W., but, because I can't read English, I don't remember what the petition was about. I don't remember signing any other petition.

"I don't remember how I received a notice that Mine B was to reopen in September 1937, but I remember that when I went out to the mine, the P.M.A. officials told me that we were not going to let U.M.W. men go into the mine. I stayed around the mine until the U. S. Marshall came and told us to get off the mine property. I saw only Mine B men at the mine at this time.

"In the election of 1937 I voted for P.M.A. because I thought that the majority of the miners favored that union. From that time until I went back to work in 1939 no one asked me to join the U.M.W. After I went back to work in 1939, some man whose name I don't know told me that everyone else was going to join U.M.W. and asked me why I did not join the U.M.W. I finally signed up with U.M.". because I thought that all the rest of the miners were signing up with U.M.". Everyone was saying that if we did not sign up with U.M.", there would be no work.

"I don't care to which union I belong. One union is just the same as any other union. I think that all unions are alike.

"I never saw anyone beat up in the mine or on mine property, but I did see a man in a hospital who was supposed to have been beat up in the mine. I don't know why the man was beat up.

"At present I am working in Mine A, having been transferred from Mine B where there were not enough rooms for the miners to work in.

"This statement consisting of this and one other typewritten page has been read to me, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in the residence of his son, [redacted] on September 4, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Because of [redacted] poor understanding of the English language [redacted] had to act as an interpreter. [redacted] He cannot speak English well. He claimed to have no criminal record. Because of his lack of education [redacted] said he preferred not to testify in court. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises. Because I don't understand English too well, [redacted] has explained the questions to me in [redacted] and some of my answers to him have been made in the same language.

"I live with [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I was born in [redacted] I entered the United States in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen in federal court at Springfield in [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers at [redacted] in [redacted] joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, and rejoined the U.M.W., I believe, in April, 1941. I have never held any office in a mine union. I am presently working at Mine B.

"I began working at Mine B in 1929. I joined the P.M.A. in 1932 at that mine, but I had no part in its organization. I don't remember why the P.M.A. was started. I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A., and the officers of the union treated me all right.

"I remember that the pit committee of the P.M.A. told me about a union meeting to be held the night before the strike. I didn't go to the meeting, but it seems to me that it was something about joining the U.M.W. On the day of the strike I went to work, and the strike was called about 2:30. Some of the men were loading their cars short, but I was not. I don't know why the men were loading short. I don't know who called the strike, or why it was called.

"I don't remember signing any paper for the P.M.A. after the strike started. I don't remember signing any papers for any union. I don't remember getting any notices that the mine would reopen.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

In the fall of 1937, I went out to the picket line at Mine B, because the P.M.A. pit committee told me to. I don't remember voting in the 1937 election held at the arsenal.

"Just after Mine B reopened, in 1939, Jimmy Hale, and Sam (Joe Albanese) came to my house [redacted], and asked me to join the U.M.W. I didn't sign up with the U.M.W., but did so later [redacted]

"I don't remember voting in an election held in 1941, and don't remember if I did vote or not.

"The foregoing, consisting of two pages and this, has been read to me by [redacted] and I state it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 4, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] speaks and reads English very well, but during the interview, exhibited a very poor memory for details which it is believed he should have retained. He claimed to have no criminal record, and denied ever having been convicted of any offense. He said he was willing to testify in court to facts that he remembers. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and am employed at Mine B. I was born in [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] when I began work at Mine B. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America at Mine B when they were organized in 1932. I rejoined the U.M.W. about April, 1941, at Mine B, just before the U.M.W. charter was closed. [redacted]

"Prior to the organization of the P.M.A. in 1932, I heard of some trouble in the U.M.W. I was [redacted] and didn't pay any attention to it, and really knew very little about it. I really don't know the reason for the organization of P.M.A., and I took no part in the organizing of the P.M.A. From 1932 to 1937, conditions at the mine were satisfactory. I heard or saw nothing which might have shown that the management of Mine B was in favor of the U.M.W., rather than P.M.A. As far as I know, the men were entirely satisfied with the P.M.A., for I heard no complaints from any of them about the union or its officials.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike, and I don't remember hearing anything about the meeting the next day. On the day of the strike, I went to work, and didn't know anything about the strike until I had finished work for the day. I heard that men had been loading their cars short, but don't know the reason for it. I also heard that some men in the north part of the mine had walked out. I went right home, and when I got back to the mine the next morning, I was told that

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

there was no work. I know that there was some disagreement between the P.M.A. and the mine management over some retroactive clause in the contract. I don't know anything more about it, and don't know if that was the cause of the strike or not.

"I don't remember signing any P.M.A. petition just after the strike in 1937. I do remember signing a U.M.W. membership card in 1937, just before the strike. [redacted] talked to me in the mine, and told me that most of the men were joining the U.M.W., and asked me to sign a membership card. I did so, because I thought most of the men were doing it. I had no part in the formation of the U.M.W. local in the summer of 1937, and continued to pay my dues to P.M.A. I didn't pay any dues to U.M.W. during that time. In 1939, while the strike was going on, I went to work at Panther Creek No. 4, which was P.M.A. I dropped my membership in U.M.W. at that time. I worked at Panther Creek No. 4, and stayed a member of P.M.A., and went back to work at Mine B when it reopened in the fall of 1939.

"I remember getting a notice for the opening of Mine B, from the company, but don't remember the date, and don't know for which opening it was. In the fall of 1937, I went to the picket line at the mine. The P.M.A. men were picketing the mine to protect their jobs. I heard that the U.M.W. men were talking about starting a local, and signing a contract with Mine B management. The P.M.A. men were picketing to keep the U.M.W. men out of the mine. I was on the picket line when the federal injunction was served, but don't know the reason for it.

"I don't remember getting any notice of an election in the winter of 1937. I remember voting in one election, but I don't remember when it was, or how I voted. I didn't go out to the mine during the strike, except when I was on the picket line, and I didn't hear of any statements made by the mine management for the U.M.W. or against the P.M.A.

"After the mine reopened, a driver, either Hale or Bohannon, came to my room, and asked me to join the U.M.W. [redacted] was working in the same room, [redacted] I wasn't forced to sign, but did so because I wanted to. [redacted] spoke to me several times, but never said anything about joining the U.M.W.

"I don't remember signing any affidavit saying that [redacted] told me and [redacted] that we would lose our jobs if we didn't sign up in the U.M.W. [redacted] I don't remember [redacted] saying that Edmundson would sign an affidavit saying that the U.M.W. would pay [redacted] I don't ever remember Bohannon telling me that my father was suffering because I wouldn't join the U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Condinued)

"I have no preference as to unions. The P.M.A. treated me all right, and the U.M.W. treats me all right. I'm willing to go along with the majority of the men, am signed in the U.M.W. because I thought the majority of the men wanted that one.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of approximately four and one quarter pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated that in view of the fact he lived in [redacted] he had never paid much attention to union activities in Springfield, and so for that reason he had very little information of value to instant case. [redacted] seems to be of average intelligence and spoke in a clear and distinct manner. It is believed he would make a favorable witness, although his information is limited.

At the time of the interview, [redacted] executed the following signed statement:

[redacted] Illinois
"September 6, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement. I reside at [redacted] and get my mail at General Delivery.

"I was born in [redacted] and started working in the mines in [redacted] At that time I joined United Mine Workers. I have never held an office in any union. I started working at Mine B in 1933 or 1934 and at that time I was a member of P.M.A. I had nothing to do with the formation of P.M.A. When I started at Mine B Progressive was getting along fine. The company seemed to like P.M.A. and the men were all satisfied.

"I remember that in the spring of 1937 our contract expired and some of the men objected to working without a contract. However, [redacted] our board member, told us everything was all right, and that we should continue to work. In my opinion the men all felt that the matter would be settled in a satisfactory manner.

"I remember that some of the men kept saying we wouldn't get a contract and that we shouldn't work without one. Afterward, I learned that these men were working for U.M.W. There was about 12 or 15 of these men, one of them was named Andy but I don't know who the others were.

"I didn't attend many union meetings because I lived in [redacted] and the meetings were held in Springfield. I don't remember hearing that some men had been expelled from P.M.A. although after the strike I did hear this.

"On the day of the strike I was working as a digger [redacted] at Mine B and I went down into the mine as usual. About 2:30 that afternoon we were told to leave and we heard a rumor that there was a strike. I remember hearing that some of the men were loading cars short that day. I don't know

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

why they did, no one told me to and my cars were all full.

"When I came on top I was told that Elshoff had refused to pay any retroactive wages, and I thought that that was what the trouble was. I did not hear anything at that time concerning the spies that were working for U.M.W. being expelled from P.M.A. or causing trouble.

"I do not recall signing any petitions that summer, but I could have signed one and forgot all about it.

"I was on picket duty at Mine B for one or two days right after the strike, but that was the only time I was on picket duty. It was at this time that I heard about the spies being expelled from P.M.A.

"I voted in the NLRB election at the Armory in December of 1937. I saw no trouble or violence of any kind at this election.

"I started working at Mine A in about September of 1937 and I have been working there ever since.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
U. S. Dept. of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He related his story in a clear manner and appears friendly to the Government in this matter. It might be noted that [redacted] to be able to take the witness stand if necessary. [redacted]

He would make a favorable witness to testify to those matters contained in the following statement which he signed:

"9/3/43
[redacted] Ill.

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born on [redacted] and came to the U.S. in [redacted] I became a citizen in [redacted] and presently live at [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. union in [redacted] and joined the P M A while working at Panther Creek. I have never held a union office and started to work in Mine B in 1936.

"When I first started at the mine everything seemed to be good at first. The officers seemed to be good men and the company was getting along all right with the union.

"I recall that our union contract with the company expired on April 1, 1937, and some of the men were kicking because it seemed to take a long time to settle on a contract. I think however, that most of the men felt a good contract would be signed.

"At about this time a group of men who were supposed to be P.M.A. men were really working for the U.M.W. I heard these men were paid by the U.M.W. to start to organize a U.M.W. local. I had heard about these men before the strike, but they never approached me. I used to see them talking to our Progressive men and they also seemed to hand around the company office. Bohannon seemed to be the main man & others were Tony Plotch, Austin & Carter.

"I think that before the strike these men were expelled from our union for their actions. In my opinion the whole mine knew these men had been kicked out of the union. I used to attend a few union meetings, but I

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] do not remember being at the meeting when the
(continued) men were kicked out.

"I went to work, as a digger [redacted] on the day of the strike the same as usual. I remember that when I got to the mine there was a dispute as to whether the men who were supposed to be spies would work that day. I saw [redacted] and a crowd of our men complaining to the company that those men should not be allowed to work with us. Most of the men were in the Company office. We all went to work after a short time and took up our regular jobs. I saw cars going by me that were loaded only partially, but I loaded all my cars the same as usual. I think we were in the mine that whole day and left at the usual time.

"The next day I reported to the mine and was told there was a strike. That was the first I knew of a strike going on. I was told that our union was going to strike until the company fired those men. I then went home and stayed there. Since I lived in [redacted] I do not have much contact with the union men in Springfield. I recall that about 2 weeks after the strike some P M A men brought a petition to my house and I signed it. I was not asked to sign anything for United. In Sept. of 1937 they tried to start the mine and I went out to the mine after the picket line had been started. I went on picket duty for 56 days and during that time I was allowed to come home almost any time I wanted to. I was there at the time the injunction was served & it didn't make much difference to me except I wanted to go back to work.

"I didn't go to the mine from the time of the injunction until the time the mine opened in Nov. of 1939. I voted in the N L R B election in Dec. of 1937 and to my knowledge everything went along fine. There was not any fighting and the men could vote for whoever they wanted to.

"I received a notice in the mail to go to work in 1939 & I went to the mine to report. I was told that they were short of rooms and the air was bad and that I should report back in a few days. My room could not be worked in because the parting had caved in so I started work in bo[redacted] when I went back to work I kept up my dues in Progressive for about 4 months. I could see that United had a lot of new men and we all understood that the mine would only operate with the U M W union. I decided to join united so I could keep on working. I was never threatened by any of the united men and didn't see any fights. The management seemed to favor united men and the company hired a lot of strangers. I always understood that in order to get a job a man had to be a member of U. M. W. Most of the organizers for united always seemed to get the best rooms to work in.

"In my opinion the strike was caused because of the fact the P M A men did not want to work with the organizers for united.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have read over this entire statement of five pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

[redacted]) Special Agents, F B I
[redacted]) U. S. Dept. of Justice"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed at his home on September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This man speaks and understands English fairly well, but indicated a sincere fear of receiving another beating from union "toughs" if it becomes known that he has spoken against them. If necessary, he will testify but he stated he will always be afraid that his life will be in jeopardy after that. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following is a signed statement which was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 6, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and I am working in Mine A.

"I was born [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I rejoined the United Mine Workers in 1940. I never have been an officer in any union.

"In 1939 after Mine B reopened, two unions, the U.M.W. and the P.M.A., were working in the mine together. At this time the P.M.A. was the larger group locally. The U.M.W. watched the P.M.A. meetings to see who went to the P.M.A. meetings. Then the U.M.W. men started to sign up the miners.

"Some time after Mine B reopened the officials of P.M.A. and U.M.W. agreed to have a joint meeting of both unions to try to settle the trouble at Mine B. The purpose of the meeting was to determine if all the miners would go with one union or the other. They were going to have a vote to determine which union the miners preferred. The meeting was held in Redman Hall. The president of the P.M.A. local and the President of the U.M.W. local presided at this meeting. It was the idea that the union to have the run of Mine B would be the union that the had the majority of the votes at this meeting. The U.M.W. claimed it had a majority of the miners in the state, and the P.M.A. claimed it had a majority of the miners in Mine B, which it did. Because of the inability of the unions to agree on anything

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

at this meeting, nothing was accomplished.

"I recall that after the mine reopened, [redacted] were trying to get men to join U.M.W. [redacted] threatened those men who would not join U.M.W. He threatened [redacted] who told the boss in the pardon about it. The boss called Falcetti, the super, who fired [redacted] Even though he was fired, [redacted] kept coming around the mine every morning. He came into the wash-house and into the tipple. He was fired in December 1939, and continued to hang around Mine B until the election in February, 1941.

[redacted] had also broken the nose of a man known as [redacted] before he threatened [redacted] There were no witnesses to this incident, but there were witnesses to the incident with [redacted] That is why [redacted] was fired.

"One day when I was working in Mine B, I heard [redacted] ask some miners which man was [redacted] That made me suspicious. The next day the boss asked me what had been done. The boss sent me into the mine. When I reached the place where I was to work, there were a bunch of men there. They got me to sign up with U.M.W.. Bohannon and Albanese were there. I heard that it was against the rules for anyone to sign up a man for a union on mine property, or down in the mine. Bohannon and the others present at this time told me that if I wanted to work, I had to sign up with U.M.W. That was in June or July, 1940. I signed up with U.M.W. at that time, but I did not go to any U.M.W. meetings. [redacted] threatened to beat me if I did not come to U.M.W. meetings.

"Some time later I made an affidavit for the P.M.A. lawyer stating that I had signed up with U.M.W. against my will. Some way the U.M.W. found out about this, even though the P.M.A. lawyer told me that the affidavit would be only for government men. Later [redacted] told me that he had heard about my signing the affidavit. He threatened to beat me. I told a committeeman who told Falcetti about what had happened. Falcetti called a meeting, and [redacted] was there, even though he had been fired. Falcetti told [redacted] to stay off the mine property. That night [redacted] came to my garden, located about a mile and a half from my home. After asking me what I was doing, [redacted] hit me in the head and knocked me out for a short time. I remember grabbing [redacted] as I started to fall, pulling him to the ground with me. I came to, and started to yell for help. [redacted] ran off, and I followed him to the road. I saw a car which had a license number on it, which number was listed to Bohannon. I saw three other men in the car, one of whom I recognized as Bill Sirtout. I did not recognize the other two men. When [redacted] came to me where I was working in the field, about 300 feet from the road, he also asked me if I was coming to the union meetings, and if I would pay union dues. I told him that I was not going to

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

(continued)

do either, and then he hit me on the head with something.

"I reported the matter to the police, and obtained a warrant against [redacted] He was not picked up for several days. The case was called for trial about four times. The second time the case was called for trial I had to leave Mine B at the noon hour. The boss told me that if I wanted to work at Mine B, I should work all day. On that same day Bohannon asked me if I was going out of the mine at noon. Bohannon asked me to ride to town with him. Later, Bohannon told me that he had changed his mind. I left my work at 11:30 AM, and tried to get the cage going to the top at 12 noon. I missed that cage by two minutes and had to wait until 12:15 PM. Bohannon caught the 12 o'clock cage, and reached the top before I did. When I tried to start my truck to go to Springfield, it would not start. I looked under the hood, and discovered that all the wires in the distributor had been pulled out. When this case was finally settle, [redacted] who was represented by a U.M.W. lawyer, was fined $25.00 and costs.

"In 1940 the members of the U.M.W. said that unless a man joined the U.M.W. before December 15, 1940, he could not become a member of that union. I then told Tony Plotch that if the U.M.W. would take me in, I would pay dues from the start of 1941. Edmundson at this time said that I had been a member of U.M.W. since June of 1940, even though I did not pay any dues.

"Two weeks before the election in February, 1941, I quit working at Mine B, and went to work in Mine A. I was still afraid to work in Mine B.

"I wish to state that at the time I told Tony Plotch that I would join U.M.W., I paid him $2.00, because I was afraid that I would get beat up if I did not pay some money at this time.

"As I recall I joined the P.M.A. in 1932 when I was working at the [redacted] I started to work in Mine B in 1936.

"Just before the strike in 1937, there was some talk about scabs being in the mine because the miners were working without a contract. Bohannon told me that he was scabbing because there was no contract. No one tried to get me to join the U.M.W. before the strike started. I did not hear anything about the U.M.W., before the strike started, trying to get new members.

"I don't remember anything about the meeting the night before the strike started. On the day of the strike, I was working in the mine, and a driver, I can't remember his name, told me to quit. At this time I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

was [redacted] I don't know if anyone was loading cars with short weights. I think the strike started because the P.M.A. wanted the company of Mine B to fire some men who violated the rules of P.M.A., and the company refused to fire the men.

"One day before the strike [redacted] Schrelevious was talking to me about the C.I.O. being a good outfit. He did not say anything about joining.

"I don't know what rules the men who the P.M.A. wanted fired had violated. The men were: Joe Albanses, Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, and Charlie Bohannon. Their P.M.A. union cards were taken away from them. Cotton's card was not taken until after the strike.

"I remember signing a petition for P.M.A. in 1937. This petition was to be sent to the Labor Board to show that board how many members P.M.A. had. I also signed another petition, but I do not know whether it was at the same time or not. It was just about the same as the first petition, and was made so that if anything happened to the first, the P.M.A. would have the second petition.

"In the summer after the strike started no one tried to get me to join U.M.W., and I signed no petition for U.M.W.

"I think I saw a notice about the mine reopening in September 1937. I went out to the mine to go to work, and found out when I got there that if I did not sign up with U.M.W. I could not go into the mine. I recall that Falcetti called off about 15 names of men who were to go to work at that time. They were only U.M.W. men. He did not call any P.M.A. men. Bohannon said that the men could not go into the mine unless they signed with U.M.W. All the P.M.A. men came home from the mine. I got another job right away and did not go back to Mine B. I don't know anything about the picket line.

"I voted in the election in December 1937, and voted for P.M.A. because I preferred that union. No one talked to me about joining the U.M.W. until I went back to work in 1939 at Mine B. After I started back to work, that's when they started to work on me.

"I joined the U.M.W. because I had to to keep my job, and to keep my good health. I was willing to stay with the majority. It really makes no difference to me to which union I belong. If I had thought the U.M.W. had a majority at Mine B after the mine reopened, I think that I would have had no trouble.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"This statement consisting of this and five other typewritten pages has been read to me by [redacted] and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

(s) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill. "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] At Auburn, Illinois

[redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This person reads English with difficulty but appears to be mentally alert. Many details at Mine B are well fixed in his memory, particularly during that period when UMW was attempting to gain control, from 1939 to 1941. It is felt that he would make a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement:

[redacted] Illinois
September 2, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to get me to make a statement. I reside at [redacted] Illinois, and was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a U. S. citizen in [redacted]

"I first started mining in [redacted] and joined the United Mine Workers that year. I have never held any office in any union. I joined Progressive in 1932 and started working at Mine B in 1934. When I first started at Mine B everything seemed all right at the mine with the Union, P.M.A. I never heard of any trouble at all.

"I do not recall much about any contract expiring on March 31, 1937. I never went to many meetings of the union and I just barely remember that there was to be a new contract.

"I remember that about this time there were men in the P.M.A. that were supposed to be working against P.M.A. and for U.M.W. Andy was one of these, also Charles Bohannon, and Frank Austin were others. I heard that there was about twelve of them and that they were working for U.M.W. trying to organize P.M.A. men into the United. They never talked to me though.

"I remember that there was some kind of an argument about these men and I also heard that these men had guns in the mine office. I never heard that these men were kicked out of the union but I know that there was some kind of an argument about their working.

"On the day of the strike I went to work as usual as a digger in Box [redacted] As I remember the P.M.A. men didn't want these men, the spies, to go to work. I loaded three cars, not full, and the driver would take them away. As I remember, I worked until my regular quitting time and went on top. When I got on top I found that there was trouble. Some of the men

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] said they wouldn't work with those men who were working for U.M.W.
(continued)

"I went to work the next morning but nobody went down. At that time I didn't know there was a strike and that is why I went. When I got there I found out there was a strike and I remember there was some discussion about a contract.

"I don't remember signing any petitions during the summer of 1937. I might have signed, but I don't remember, it is too long.

"In September, 1937 I heard the mine was going to open, I think there was a notice in the paper. I went out on the day it was to open, ready to go to work. We didn't go to work though because it seemed as though the U.M.W. men were going to work. We started a picket line then, the fellows said we had to stay to protect our job. I was there until the injunction was served by the U. S. Marshall. I would come home once in a while, I was free to come home whenever I wanted to. Nearly all of the miners were on the line. In one way I felt glad when we were told to go home, I was getting tired of staying there. The only one I was mad at was U.M.W. for I felt that they were the ones who had made us get out.

"I voted in the NLRB election in December, 1937 at Springfield. I went to the Union Hall and a few of us went to the Armory and voted. The election was nice and quiet and there was no trouble of any kind.

"I did not go back to the mine again until it opened up in November of 1939. I was notified to go to work, I don't remember how I was notified. I went back to my same job and for quite a while things were quiet. After I had been working for a while Sam Albanese tried to get me to join U.M.W. He told me I would be surprised to know how many belonged. He didn't threaten me, however, and I told him I wouldn't join.

"Later another fellow named [redacted] tried to get me to join, and I told him I wouldn't. He tried to get me to join U.M.W. and followed me around where I was working. His last name was [redacted] or [redacted] or something like that. He did not work at Mine B before the strike and he doesn't work there now. I told him I wouldn't join and he grabbed me by the neck and pushed me clear to the ground. He told me he was going to cut my head off and I was scared. I grabbed my lunch box and ran out of the mine. I told the pit boss what had happened. I also told Oscar Falcetti what had happened. This must have been in the fall of 1940. Falcetti asked me if I knew who the fellow was but at that time I didn't know who he was. Falcetti told me to work in another place in the mine but I didn't want to change. Falcetti then gave me a note to the pit boss and after that this fellow didn't bother me anymore, although I saw him in the mine. That was the only time I was ever bothered. When [redacted] grabbed me he had an axe in his hand.

Violence

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I also wish to state that [redacted] and Bohannon came to my house and tried to get me to join U.M.W. I refused and [redacted] told me I wouldn't work in Mine B if I didn't join. I told him that the government was behind me.

"About the last of 1940 Tony Plotch told me I should sign up for U.M.W. and that night I signed up for U.M.W. The next day I heard that some fellows who hadn't signed up were beaten up in the wash house. I was scared that they might be looking for me if I hadn't signed up. The only reason I signed was because I was scared I would be beaten if I didn't sign.

"The above statement was read to me by Agent [redacted] and I declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

"X [redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed)
[redacted] (signed)
"Special Agent, F.B.I.
U. S. Dep't. of Justice"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted]

[redacted] had difficulty in comprehending some of the questions put to him, inasmuch as he does not speak or understand the English language very well. It is believed that [redacted] would only make a fair witness.

There is being set forth below the signed statement executed by [redacted] at the time of instant interview:

[redacted], Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a U. S. citizen in [redacted] and started mining coal in [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. union in [redacted] and have never held an office in any union. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and worked there until May of 1942. At the present time I do not have any job.

"I remember that it was sometime in 1932 when the P.M.A. was formed and I joined the P.M.A. union at about that time. I didn't have anything to do with the start of the P.M.A. and so I don't know the reason why P.M.A. was formed. I have never gone to many of the union meetings and never paid much attention to union activities.

"I recall the strike at Mine B in the spring of 1937, but I do not know what caused the strike. I know there was some question about a new contract and I remember that [redacted] our union man, told us to go to work as usual and the union would see to it that we would get a good contract. I remember that before the strike some of the Progressive men didn't want some of the other men to work with them. I believe Pasquale and Bohannon were two of the men that the other men didn't want to work with. I heard that these men along with about fifteen others were on the company payroll to act as organizers. I don't know who they were supposed to be organizing for though. I heard some men had been kicked out of the union, but I don't know the reason.

"On the day of the strike I went to work as usual in box [redacted] and started digging coal. I know that we worked until about noon when a

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

driver came along and said, 'everybody out', so we came out of the mine. We loaded the cars as usual and I don't know anything about any of the men loading the cars short. When I got on top, somebody said there was a strike about money on wages.

"I remember that about two weeks after the strike some young fellows came to my house in [redacted] and had me sign a petition. The men didn't tell me what it was for they just told me to sign so I did. I don't know if it was a Progressive or U.M.W. petition.

"In the fall of 1937 I went out to the mine on picket duty and the men who lived in [redacted] had to stay on the picket line all week long. The men in Springfield could go home once in a while, but we never had a chance to get home. I asked [redacted] a couple of times if I could come home, but he said I had to stay on the picket line. He never said anything about what would happen if I left the picket line. I stayed on picket duty until some time in December of 1937 when the Marshal came with an injunction.

"I voted in the NLRB election in December of 1937 and to my knowledge everything went along fine. I didn't see any fights and don't know of anyone who was frightened or threatened.

"I heard the mine had tried to open several times, but I didn't go near the mine again until after the mine opened in 1939. After the mine had opened I went to see Oscar Falcetti and asked him why I hadn't been called back to work. He told me some body had reported to the office that I had died. Then I told him I wanted to go back to work, he told me to start the next day. Box [redacted] had caved in so I went to work in box [redacted] Nobody was allowed to go in box [redacted] as there was a sign there for everyone to keep out.

"I believe I paid dues in the PMA until about July of 1940 and a short time after that some men came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.W. I joined the United because I figured the majority were joining united and I didn't want to lose my job. Nobody told me I would lose my job, but I figured I would do like the rest to protect my job.

"I have worked in different mines as a member of both the PMA and the UMW. I have never had any trouble with either union.

"To the best of my knowledge the strike at Mine B was called by the men because the company wouldn't agree to a contract and wouldn't give us our back pay.

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b7D

INTERVIEW WITH "This statement has been read to me by Agent [redacted] [redacted] and I wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.
(continued)

[redacted] (Signed)

"Witnesses

[redacted] (Signed)) Special Agents, FBI
) U. S. Dept of Justice"
[redacted] (Signed))

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b7D

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by [redacted] Special Agents [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Illinois, on September 2, 1943. He appeared willing to answer questions put to him and furnished the following signed statement:

[redacted] Illinois
September 2, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] and presently live on [redacted] Illinois.

"I first joined a mine union in [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois under the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW.

"I have worked at seven mines not including Mine "B". I worked under UMW at all the mines I worked at until I joined PMA at Mine "B" in 1932. I started working at Mine "B" in January, 1928 under the UMW.

"I attended an occassional union meeting when I worked both under the UMW and the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA. I never held a union office under UMW or PMA except [redacted] and excepting the fact th[redacted]

"The last day I worked at Mine "B" was on May 12, 1937. I did not return to work there at any time thereafter because I did not want to get involved in the trouble I thought was coming in 1939 and 1940.

"I was not an active organizer of PMA in Mine "B".

"Relations between Elshoff and the UMW prior to 1932 and relations between Elshoff and PMA from 1932 to about 1936 were similar. There were no violent disagreements during these periods that I recall and I think Elshoff treated the PMA fairly until about 1936.

"The first thing I observed that indicated that relations between PMA and Elshoff were becoming strained was an incident in which PMA board members presented a working agreement to Elshoff pending a final contract. There appeared to be some question as to the agreement. In my

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

opinion Elshoff from then on appeared to be side tracking the PMA officials.

"I saw nothing deeper than this which would cause more strain in the relations between PMA and Elshoff.

"I was always satisfied with the PMA officials.

"I believe the special assessment put on wages of PMA members during the first year of the organizations existence was meant and was used to finance the new PMA union.

"I never heard of any UMW picket line at Mine "B" from 1932 to 1937.

"I felt that DOMINIC PASQUALE and FRANK AUSTIN were trouble makers. I felt that Charles Bohannon could not be trusted and that he would aggitate for or against any union for money.

"By word or mouth I heard that the following men were paid by UMW for aggitating in Mine "B" prior to May 12, 1937 on behalf of UMW. It was the miners' opinion that UMW was paying these men: Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacawey, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937.

"My job at this time at Mine "B" was a digger. I did not know the coal cars were being shorted until later on in the day, May 12, 1937.

"I do not remember the facts concerning the wage controversy in the spring of 1937.

"I do not remember the PMA petition of May 26, 1937, but but I did sign some PMA petition that summer.

"I helped picket Mine "B" for about two weeks after it went on strike.

"The only fire I remember at Mine "B" happened during the winter before the strike in 1937. It was put out overnight. I never heard there had been a fire there while the mine was closed.

"I was never personally approached in an effort to get me to sign up with UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] /s/ [redacted]
(continued)

Witnessed: [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I.
Special Agent F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] also known as [redacted] who resides in the rear of [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] was born in [redacted] but became a naturalized citizen on [redacted]. It is not believed that he would make a good witness because of his inability to speak English and his lack of knowledge of what went on at Mine "3". [redacted] has no known criminal record. He supplied the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted] also known as [redacted] do voluntarily make the following signed statement to [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to America in [redacted] I became an American citizen at Springfield, Ill. on [redacted] and I am presently residing in the rear of [redacted] Springfield, Illinois.

"I have worked in the mines almost ever since I have been in the U.S. and first joined the United Mine Workers of America. I have never been an officer in any union. I started working at Mine B about 7 years ago coming there from the Jefferson Mine. While at the Jefferson Mine I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"I liked the Progressive Union and they seemed to get along fine at Mine B before the strike in 1937. I don't know what caused the strike, all I know was that [redacted] told us to go on strike. After the strike I picketed at Mine B for about two months. About 8 UMWA tried to open the mine one day while we were out thre, but they only stayed for a couple of hours.

"I recall voting in the N.L.R.B. election in December of 1937. It was a fair election and the Progressives won. After the election the Co. shut down the mine and we couldn't go back to work.

"I remember signing petitions for the Progressives. These petitions were signed by nearly all of the miners.

"When the mine opened under an 'open shop' agreement I still belonged to the Progressives. I joined UMWA because I was scared - the UMWA were beating up everyone in the wash house. I wanted to work at Mine B and so I had to join UMWA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I voted for UMWA in the second government election because I saw that most of the men were going that way. If I had a free choice I would rather belong to the Progressives.

"I don't know anything about any spies being expelled from the Progressives but do know that Dominic Pasquale, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, and a few others were causing some trouble at the mine.

"I have had the above two and one-quarter ($2\frac{1}{4}$) pages of statements made by me read to me by [redacted] The same are true and I do hereby sign my name.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at the Springfield Office by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] who has difficulty speaking and understanding the English language, stated that his memory is quite vague as to the events which took place at Mine B during the course of his employment at that place. It is being noted that [redacted] was one of those men who were arrested during the course of the trouble in 1936. [redacted] was arrested on a charge of having dynamite in his possession and was confined at Milan penitentiary from May 10, 1939 to September 12, 1940, at which time he was released on parole. As a result of this sentence, [redacted] is quite bitter, stating that in his opinion he was framed and that he had nothing whatsoever to do with the bombing which took place in the vicinity of Springfield in 1935 and 1936. In view of [redacted] criminal record, it is doubtful if he would make a good witness.

There is being set forth below the signed statement which [redacted] executed at the time of this interview. [redacted] also expressed the opinion that he would hesitate to testify in instant matter for fear of reprisal.

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in about [redacted] I have applied for my U. S. citizenship, but have not yet obtained my final papers. I presently live at [redacted] Springfield. I started to mine coal in about [redacted] and joined the U.M.W. at about that time. I have never held any office in any union.

"I first started to work at Mine B in about [redacted] and worked there off and on until the time of the strike in May of 1937. I joined the Progressive union in 1932 when I was working at Mine B. I never had anything to do with the forming of the Progressive union. I was not satisfied with the United because they were spending our money for big buildings and then we couldn't even go in the buildings. I think that Falcetti was pretty friendly with the UMW men, but I never saw him with any of their men.

"I remember that there was some question about wages that came up in the Spring of 1937. We were supposed to get a raise of 10¢, but Elshoff refused to pay it and we never did get our back pay. I know also that there was about twelve men who were supposed to be members of Progressive, but who were really working for United. Some of these men were

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

Bohannon, Pasquale, Andy and some others. I heard that these men used to have meetings before the strike, and I heard that they were trying to organize the men for United. About three or four days before the strike I was talking to Falcetti near the prop pile and Falcetti said, "You know how the mine going to go, [redacted] I didn't answer him and he walked away and never said anything more about it.

"I remember that Bohannon, Frank Austin, Joe Abanese, Pete Carter, a man by the name of Cotton, Pasquale and somebody else were kicked out of the Progressive union, because they were trying to organize for United. I think they were expelled from the union for 99 years. I don't think I was at the meeting when they were expelled, but I think it was about a week or two before the strike.

"I was working as a digger in box [redacted] at about the time of the strike and remember that one day in May or June of 1937 the mine went on strike. To the best of my memory I loaded two cars the day of the strike and those cars were loaded full. I had a bad place to work that day so didn't load any more. I didn't see or hear of anyone loading cars short. When we came out of the pit I heard that the men were going on strike because the company had refused to pay the 10¢ raise. I know that our men were sore at the Company because the Company was letting the United men work with us.

"I can't remember signing any petitions in the summer of 1937, but I might have signed a Progressive petition. I also remember now that a few days before the strike, I saw Dominick Pasquale with a police special gun sticking out of his pocket. Dominick & Joe Albanese went in the company office together and then I saw that Joe also had a gun. The sheriff was around there so [redacted] called him & told the sheriff that Dominick & Joe had guns. The sheriff went into the office and Dominick tried to hide the gun in a waste basket. The sheriff then took Dominick & Joe into town and I never heard any more about it.

"I went out to the mine in Sept. of 1937 when we heard that the company was going to open the mine with United men. I stayed out there about seven weeks on the picket line with the rest of our men. I had gone home [redacted] the night the injunction was served by the marshal.

"When they held the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937, [redacted] tried to stop me from voting, because he said I hadn't been working at the mine. The labor board man had my name down on his list of employees so I was allowed to vote. I just voted and walked out. I didn't see any fighting and no-nobody threatened me in any way.

"I have no knowledge of what went on at Mine B between May of 1939

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

and Sept. of 1940. In about Sept. of 1940 I went to see Falcetti and asked him for a job. Falcetti said he would give me a job as soon as he could. I found out that the mine was putting on new men so I went to see John Kane, the union lawyer. He said he would send a letter to the mine asking them to give me a job. The Company sent me a piece of paper saying "no job". This was signed by Elshoff & Falcetti. The lawyer sent this paper to Washington and I never heard any more about it.

"I started working for Panther Creek #5 mine in about October of 1941. I am a member of Progressive at the present time. Somebody told me that Falcetti wouldn't give us our jobs back because we had been on picket duty. Falcetti never gave me any reason for not hiring me.

"This statement has been read to me by [redacted] and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses
[redacted] Special Agents, F.B.I.
U. S. Dept_ of Justice"

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was [redacted] interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] September 6, 1943. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] is able to speak and understand English and would make a fair witness.

[redacted] provided the following statement:

[redacted] Ill.,
September 6, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] I am employed at Mine "A" as a coal digger and have been employed at Mine "A" since June 6, 1942.

"I first stated mining coal at [redacted] ll in [redacted] at which time I became a member of UMW.

"I was employed at Mine "B" in about [redacted] in which mine I worked until May 12, 1937.

"I remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I changed to PMA because my local UMW changed to PMA.

"Prior to 1932 the management of Mine "B" seemed to have been on good relations with UMW.

[redacted]
I never held any other office in any union.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B" and the management did not close-down Mine "B". During that period of time the management did not attempt to discredit PMA and did not seem to be hostile in settling grievances.

"I thought PMA was a good union operated for its members, no unusual special assessments were made against me. I never took any interest in union affairs.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases and I do not know if the trials were fair or not.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937, UMW did not set up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did I see any UMW literature being distributed at Mine "B".

"Prior to May 12, 1937 no one asked me to change from PMA to UMW.

"I never saw any officials of UMW with the management of Mine "B".

"In April 1937 I was told by PMA officals that PMA had a temporary contract with Mine "B"; that upon the expiration of the temporary contract the miners were to get retro-active pay to the date of the expiration of the original contract. I never obtained any information about the temporary contract until the morning of May 12, 1937 when I was told by some miners that Elshoff of Mine "B" made a statement that morning that he did not have a temporary contract with PMA. Someone told me to load the cars short and see what Elshoff would do about the contract. I did not load any cars short, but I heard some cars were loaded short. So far as I know there was no intent to strike that morning. About 12:00 noon May 12, 1937 I was told the mine was on a strike. No one told me why PMA was striking, but I thought it was because PMA did not have a contract.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting May 11, 1937 and do not know if I received notice of the meeting.

"I do not know of any members of PMA being expelled from PMA because of their activity in UMW.

"I think I may have signed a PMA petition in the Summer of 1937 but I do not remember. I know I did not sign a UMW petition in the Summer of 1937.

"I did not know a new UMW local was formed in the Summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 a member of PMA came to my home and told me PMA had a picket line at Mine "B". I voluntarily went to Mine "B" to act as a picket for about one week. No one told me I had to act as a picket. I was not present at Mine "B" when the injunction was served to prevent the picket line and I know nothing about the injunction. There was no violence when I was at Mine "B". No outsiders were brought in as pickets.

"I do not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" in Dec. 1937 and Jan. 1938.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I voted in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

"In Nov. 1939 I received notice that Mine "B" was to open. I returned Mine "B" to work twelve days after the date of the notice and Oscar Falcetti, informed me I reported too late for work and I was not given a job at Mine "B".

"Since I did not go to work at Mine "B" after it opened in 1939 I can furnish no information as to what occurred at the Mine.

"I received employment at Mine "A" June 6, 1942 as a member of UMW.

"It makes no difference to me whether I am a member of UMW or PMA.

"I have had this statement consisting of five pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnessed:-
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Illinois, on September 3, 1943. He appeared willing to answer the questions put to him and would be willing to testify to the facts set forth in the following signed statement which he executed:

[redacted], Illinois
September 3, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside on [redacted] Illinois, and I am employed at the [redacted] Illinois. I was born on [redacted] and I arrived in the United States about [redacted] or [redacted] I was naturalized at [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, about [redacted] at [redacted] Ill. I also worked in other local mines near there. I worked in the mines in Illinois from [redacted] to about 1934. About 1935 I started working at Mine B and continued there until the mine closed on May 12, 1937.

"After Mine B closed on May 12, 1937 I helped the PMA picket for about three months in 1937. I worked as a driver and digger at Mine B. In 1932 when PMA was organized I joined it voluntarily at [redacted] Ill. At this time, I was unemployed and I remained unemployed until about 1935 when I went to work at Mine B as a PMA member. From 1935 to April 1937 the relations between Elshoff and PMA were good. I never heard Elshoff or Falcetti say they favored PMA, which is the Progressive Mine Workers of America, or favor the UMW but I thought they liked UMW better. As far as I know, the PMA is a good union. I am still a member of PMA. The officials of this union got along fine with the rank and file. I did not take an active part in organizing PMA. I never held an office in a mine union.

"About April, 1937 the following men started aggitating for the men to join the UMW; Joe Albanese, Pete Carter, John Cotton, Dominic Pasquale, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Sirtout, Andrew Schrelevious, Cudge Bumgarner, George and Emory Jacaway Charles Bowlingreen, James Hale. These above listed men wanted the PMA miners to join UMW, but they did not ask me to join and I did not hear them talking to the other miners. I did hear that these men went to the miner's houses at night to get them to join UMW.

"I only attended union meetings about once a month and did not take an active part in Union affairs. I did not attend the PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1943 when some of the miners were expelled from the PMA for aggitating for UMW, but I heard this by word of mouth the next day at the mine.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"The PMA officials asked Falcetti to discharge the men who had been expelled from PMA and Falcetti refused to do so, and he let these men go down in the mine to work. Later on, when I was in the mine, some PMA official told me to load the cars short. I loaded the cars below average. We did this because Elshoff would not discharge the aggitators who had been thrown out of the union. The cars were not shorted because of any wage scale matter.

"In 1932 John L. Lewis wanted the miners to take a lower wage scale and the miners did not want it. We won the first vote and on the second vote John L. Lewis claimed the ballots were stolen. I joined the PMA, to get away from Lewis. As to the wage scale matters in 1937, the only thing I understood from the PMA officials was that we were supposed to get back pay dating from April, 1937, when the contract was agreed on, but Elshoff would never pay it.

"I only signed one petition in May, 1937. I believe this was the PMA petition on May, 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member and I believe I signed it at the PMA Hall in Springfield. I signed it voluntarily.

"In September, 1937 I noticed in the paper that Mine B. was going to open and I went out there. I heard Falcetti tell the miners that the UMW members were the only ones that could work. Only about twelve men, who I mentioned in this statement, and who were UMW sympathizers went down in the mine and the mine did not open as they did not have enough men. Later in the summer of 1937 I got a job on the PMA as a member in Mine A and I never did go back to Mine B until November, 1939. At that time, Mine B was operating on an open shop basis and I worked there one day in order to get my tools, and then I quit.

"The men whose names I have mentioned in this statement as UMW aggitators often met in Elshoff's office with him, and from this I believe Elshoff favored the UMW. I don't know why Elshoff did not like the PMA. No one ever threatened me or beat me about mine matters. I voluntarily joined the UMW in February, 1941 at Mine A and worked there until December 15, 1942.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the two and one pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:
[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.
[redacted] /S/
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] appears to be above the average miner in intelligence, expresses himself well, and is cooperative. It is felt that he would be a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters outlined in the following statement which he furnished:

"9/4/43
[redacted] Ill.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in about [redacted] I became a U. S. citizen in about [redacted] and presently live at [redacted] I started mining in about [redacted] and never held an office in any union.

"I joined the Progressive Union in about 1932 and do not know any of the details as to how it was formed. I started to work at Mine B in 1936 and when I first started to work everything was going along fine. Both the officers and men in the PMA seemed to be good people and the union was getting along fine with the company.

"I recall that in the spring of 1937 the union was trying to negotiate a new contract with the company. I don't remember any of the details, but I do know there was some question about wages. I know that about this same time some of the men started talking about joining the U.M.W. I don't recall even hearing that any men were expelled from the union at that time. I lived in [redacted] and so didn't attend many of the meetings. I just heard that some men from United were causing trouble at the mine. I think there was around 20 men who were working for United--I think Bohannon and Pasquale were two of the men. These men never said anything to me, but I know they used to hang around the office and talked a lot to the others.

"I was working as a digger in box [redacted] at the time of the strike. I recall that there was some trouble with these men before we started. As I recollect, we only worked about half a day that day the mine went on strike in May of 1937. I remember that the Progressive men didn't want to work with the United men, but the company said the United men should go to work anyway. The United men were saying that we shouldn't go to work unless we got a good contract signed.

"I remember that most of the men were sending up short loads so I started doing the same. I remember that we were called out of the mine by somebody before the regular quitting time. I think it was a progressive

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

board member that called us out of the mine. I came on top and then went home. Nobody told me the mine was on strike, so I went to work the next day as usual and I was then told that the mine was on strike.

"I remember that about two weeks after the strike I signed a petition for the Progressive union. I can't remember under what circumstances I signed the petition and I can't remember whether it was at my home or in Springfield. I believe I was on a picket line which had formed in the road a short distance from the mine in May of 1937. This picket line only lasted for a couple of days though.

"I started to work for Mine A in about October of 1937 and am still working at Mine A.

"I believe I voted in the NLRB election held at the Armory in Dec. of 1937, but I can't say for sure that I did.

"I have been a progressive for a long time and want to stay progressive, but it seems as though you couldn't be a progressive at Mine B. I have no information to back up my opinion, but I think the company favored the U.M.W. I do not know for sure what caused the strike in 1937. I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted]

"This entire statement of four pages has been read to me by [redacted] I wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI
U. S. Dept_ of Justice"

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] On September 4, 1943, Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] at his home at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. At this time [redacted] advised that he had no criminal record. It was noted during the course of the interview that this man's recollection of pertinent events was very hazy, that because of his poor understanding of the English Language he did not know a great deal about what happened at union meetings and what he was told there. He was entirely cooperative and is believed reliable. It is felt that due to his lack of understanding and recollection he would not be a good witness.

At the time of this interview [redacted] gave the following signed statement [redacted] assisted as an interpreter.

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943

"I [redacted] Springfield, Ill. give the following statement to [redacted] who are known to me to be Spec. Agent of the Fed. Bur. of Invest. No threats or promises have been made me to get me to give this statement. I was born in [redacted] I came to U. S. in [redacted] and became a U.S. citizen in [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. first in [redacted] and came to U.S. where my card was good. I never held a union office. I have been at Mine "B" about [redacted] yrs. as a coal digger. Before 1932 Elshoff and the U.M.W. got along alright. I changed over to P.M.A. because the majority went that way. Between 1932 and the time the mine closed there was no trouble between Elshoff and the P.M.A. Elshoff made no remarks concerning the P.M.A. at that time. The miners were always satisfied with the P.M.A. I went to the meetings while we had a Progressive union. I was satisfied with the way money matters were handled by the P.M.A. I don't know anything about the guilt or inocense of the P.M.A. miners sent to jail for bombing.

"Between 1932 and 1937 the U.M.W. did not bother the P.M.A. in any way so far as I know off.

"I don't know of any parties held by Elshoff for the U.M.W. in this period.

"I don't know of any spies in the P.M.A. who were working for U.M.W.

"Nobody said any thing to the men so far as I know about the contract which ran out in the Spring of 1937. We thought we would get back pay and when we didn't we didn't go back. I did not attend any meeting the night before the mine shut down. When I went to work the morning of

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
[redacted]
(continued)

May 12, 1937 we figured there might be some trouble but didn't think there would be any strike. The whole trouble as I remember it was due to no contract. Some of the men loaded short cars the day the mine closed, we were told to load them short, I don't know who told us.

"I don't rember signing any petition for either the U.M.W. or the P.M.... the summer after the mine closed.

"I did not know that the U.M.W. was forming a U.M.W. local in Springfield the summer of 1937.

"I heard something about Falsetti running the Jefferson but I knew nothing about it myself.

"In Sept. 1937 we heard that the mine was going to be opened with U.M.W. men so we went out to picket and keep anyone else from taking our job. The first day a few men went down one of them was Andy Schrelevious. After this no one went down at all and we stayed there for about 60 days. There was no trouble during the strike, there were no strangers out there, we behaved ourselves and no one bothered us. No one forced us to stay at the mine, we were just there to protect our job. I was there when the Marshall came and told us we had to leave this was about 9 00 pm when he came we all left peaceful.

"I was not there when they tried to open the mine a few days after the Marshall made us leave the mine.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election. This was an honest election as far as I know. Nobody told me who I had to vote for.

"I did not go to the mine when they tried to open it in Jan. 1938. I heard of it but I was working on W.P.A. and did not go over there.

"During the time between the 1st N.L.R.B. election and the time the mine opened for good I know of nothing unusual that happened.

"When the mine opened for good I got a registed letter telling me to come back in 10 days. I went back to my old place. I never saw anyone just got my check and went to work at once. When we went back there was supposed to be no union in the mine both unions were supposed to work in there together. It makes no difference to me which union I belonged to. I paid my dues to P.M.A. until I saw the majority was going to U.M.W. then I joined them. Nobody ever threatened me to make me join any union. I just went with the majority. I do not remember signing any cards for either U.M.W. or P.M.... in 1940. I saw a lot of new men when I went back to the mine. I did

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

not know which union they belonged to. I have heard of men being beaten to get them to join the U.M.W. but I never saw any of it.

"I voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election and voted U.M.W. as far as I know the election was an honest one nobody tried to make me vote either way.

"I don't know what the general condition of the mine was when it reopened. I was satisfied with conditions in my part. I heard nothing about a fire in Mine B in 1939.

"I don't know anything about the meeting at which [redacted] was kicked out.

"I have had [redacted] read this statement of 7 pages to me and to the best of my knowledge it is all the truth. I am therefore signing it of my own will."

(Signed) [redacted]

"Witnesses

[redacted] Bur. of Invest. (Milw.)
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn."

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943"

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 5, 1943.

"At [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] had difficulty in understanding the English language and can't speak it very well so [redacted] acted as an interpretor. [redacted] advised [redacted] has never been arrested and that he himself was picked up with others around 1930 or 1931 by the Springfield Police Department at a mine strike at Woodside and that they were charged with inciting a riot and were let out on $500.00 bond. However, he said he never appeared in court after that and never was prosecuted and wasn't fingerprinted or photographed.

Both appeared to be very cooperative and [redacted] said he would be glad to do anything for the Government that he can in connection with this investigation and it is believed that he would make a fair witness if his testimony were necessary. However, if the testimony of [redacted] were needed an interpretor would have to be used.

Agents obtained from them the following joint signed statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 5, 1943

"We [redacted] hereby give the following statement to [redacted] who are known to us to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. this joint statment is made through, [redacted] is unable to understand the English language to any great extent. I [redacted] worked at Mine "D" for about 2 yrs from 1935 up until the strike, I have not been back to work there since. [redacted] has been working there for the past [redacted] yrs. as a coal digger and is still so employed. I was born in [redacted] and came to U.S. in [redacted] I became a U.S.citizen about [redacted] at Springfield. [redacted] was born in [redacted] and is [redacted] yrs. old he came to the U.S. with me and became a citizen in [redacted] I first joined a miners union when I was about [redacted] yrs. old this was U.M.W. at Springfield. [redacted] joined a Union i[redacted] and joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] Ill. when he first came to the U.S. neither of us have ever held union offices.

[redacted] knew of no trouble between the U.M.W. and the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

management of Mine B prior to 1932. [redacted] went with the Progressives as soon as they were organized, there was no force used and he went of his own free will. So far as we know there was no trouble between the P.M.A. and the mine management up until the strike in 1937. So far as we are aware there was no real indication of trouble or preference on the part of the management for the U.M.W. [redacted] does feel there there was some slight indication of this but he didn't know too much about it. While the Progressives were in we had no trouble with the officials. We felt they were honest and we could always be heard when we wanted to. [redacted] did not attend many meetings while the Progressives were in as he could not understand but I attended most of them. As far as the finiances of the Union were concerned we were always satisfied the money was spent properly. We were given a report at the meetings as to the expenses. We do not feel that those P.M.A. men who were sent to prison for the bombings were the guilty ones this was the general feeling among the men at the time. Prior to the strike the U.M.W. never came to the mine or bothered the P.M.A. men in any way so far as we know. Prior to the strike we had never heard of there being any men in the P.M.A. who were trying to swing the men back to U.M.W.

"Neither of us have ever heard anything about Elshoff or Falsetti giving any parties for U.M.W. officials.

"As we remember in the spring of 1937 we worked from the first of April until the strike under an agreement that when an agreement was finally settled or any increase would be retroactive. We always felt that P.M.A. would be able to get as good a contract for us as anyone else. There was some slight feeling of unrest during earily May and April of 1937 over the fact that the mens pay raise was not coming through but there was no trouble over this. We had no idea at all of the managements attitude on the wage question at that time. We remember hearing of some action taken a short time before the strike, by the trial board against "Cotton" Ananiasas and Chas. Bohanon we dont recall the nature of this action.

"I recall going to a meeting the night before the strike [redacted] did not attend this meeting. As I remember the meeting dealt with what to do about "Cotton" and Chas. Bohanon and also our back wages. There was no strike talk at this meeting and when they called us up out of the mine the next day it was a suprise to me. The morning of the strike there was some dispute at the mine about the P.M.A. men working with the expelled men. The management had refused to fire certain men and the P.M.A. men did not want to work with them. As we recall some men had been trying to get the P.M.A. men to get out of there union and

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

join the U.M.W. These men we remember were Sammy (Joe Albanese) Andy Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Flotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sertout, Geo. & Emory Jacaway, Chas. Bohanon & James Hale. We also remember some talk about wages but the Chief cause was over not wanting to work with these men. We dont recall anything about cars being loaded short on the day of the strike, nobody came and told us to load them that way. I only loaded one car that day it was full and as far as I know is still in the mine. Shortly before quitting time some company man told us to come out of the mine. When we got on top they told us we were going on strike. It was only then we knew there was to be a strike. After the mine closed they picketed out at the mine for a short _____. Neither [redacted] ever signed any petition for U.M.W. but both of us signed several for P.M.A. These were always signed of our own free will and we were satified with P.M.A. We knew that there was a U.M.W. local formed in Springfield the summer of 1937. neither of us were aksed to join but we heard that others were and threatened if they didn't.

"There was nothing unusual that happened during the summer of 1937 as far as we recall.

"We heard at the Hall that the mine was to reopen in Sept of 1937 and we went out to go to work. There was a dispute at the mine that day as to whether the mine was to be opened as P.M.A. or U.M.W. We did not go down in the mine that day and dont remember anybody working. [redacted] were at the mine most of the time the picketing went on. This was very peaceful, we were just there to protect ourrjobs. A couple of U.M.W. men did come to the mine one day & stayed for about 15 or 20 min. around noon there was no trouble then. All of the men who took part in the strike were from our own local. Nobody forced us to stay at the mine and we came and went as we wished. P.M.A. furnished us with everything we needed. We were both at the mine when the marshall came out and read the injunction. The men left peacefully, the miners on a whole felt this meant defeat for P.M.A.

"We heard that they were going to reopen the mine under the U.M.W. right after the marshall caused us to leave. We didn't go back because of the pending N.L.R.B. election. We both voted for P.M.A. at the first N.L.R.B. election., this was an honest election and we voted the way we wanted. There were some leaflets passed to the group I was in by U.M.W. men urging us to vote U.M.W. I heard that the U.M.W. had contacted some men trying to get them to vote U.M.W. The group that [redacted] was in did not get any of these leaflets.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"We heard of the attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938 but we did not go to the mine because we heard it was to be U.M.W. and we also had the injunction against us.

"I left Springfield the summer of 1938. I heard prior to this that mine "B" had taken over the Jefferson mine some of the men from mine "B" were working there I am sure but dont know who. Neither [redacted] knew anything first hand about this.

"Both [redacted] got letters from the mine co. telling us to come back to work in 1939. I went back to the mine and talked to Mr. Falsetti who told me I would be better off where I was. [redacted] went back to Mine "B" to work when he got his letter. nobody asked him about the union to which he belonged. He got his old room back. Prior to the 2nd N.L.R.B. nobody asked [redacted] to join the U.M.W. Three men came [redacted] to get [redacted] sign over to the U.M.W. this was way after the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. These men said that if [redacted] did not sign over to U.M.W. he would not have any job. They did not threaten to beat him. [redacted] does not know who these men were. He signed over to keep his job. [redacted] saw a lot of strangers at the mine when he went back to work. He does not know who these men were but they were all U.M.W. Neith[redacted] signed any cards for U.M.W. or P.M.A. the summer of 1940.

[redacted] voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election voting for P.M.A. he does not know whether or not this was an honest election. He was not forced to vote either way himself though. When [redacted] went back to mine "B" it was in kind of bad condition One part of it has never reopened. He knows of no fire in Mine "B" while it was closed and neither do I. [redacted] does not recall any meeting at which [redacted] was kicked out over some argument about money matter. [redacted] feels that conditions were much better under P.M.A. than they are under U.M.W.

"I [redacted] have read this joint statement to [redacted] and so far as either of us are aware it is the truth in its entirety we are therefore both signing it.

Witnesses:

Signed:
[redacted]

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted]
Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)
Springfield, Ill
Sept. 5, 1943

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] On September 4, 1943, Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted], interviewed [redacted] at his home in [redacted] Illinois. [redacted] at this time advised that he has no criminal record. During the course of the interview it was observed that [redacted] had a much better than average recollection of events which occurred at Mine B during the period in question. [redacted] was entirely cooperative and he is believed to be honest and reliable. It is felt that he would make a much better than average witness. [redacted] turned over to agents a letter received by him from Charles Bohannon, President of the UMW local in Springfield, telling him [redacted] to report at the UMW building for initiation into the UMW. This letter has been properly identified by agents and is being retained in the exhibit file of this case.

[redacted] gave the following statement:

[redacted] Ill.,
Sept. 4, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the FBI, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I have been employed at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., for about [redacted] years and am still there as a coal digger. I was born [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] and became a citizen about [redacted] at Springfield, Ill. I was a miner in the old country and did not belong to any union over there. I first joined the United Mine Workers about [redacted] at Springfield, Ill. I never have been an officer of any union. Before 1932 the UMW union was more of a company union and they along with Carl Elshoff fine and gave him everything. It was just like a dictator then and UMW got anything they wanted. About 1932 or so I joined the Progressive Union with the rest of the men and that was when John Lewis wanted us to take a cut and he was supposed to have stolen the ballots. I did not take any active part in starting the PMA union. Between 1932 and the time the mine closed PMA got along fine with Mr. Elshoff and nothing was wrong at all then. I don't recall of any little strikes or walk outs during the same period before the mine closed. I never heard anything about Falcetti or Elshoff not getting along with PMA officials during that period of time before the mine closed. I never heard anything about anyone wanting PMA men to change back to UMW. The Progressives was a good union and it was not run by racketeers and everyone was satisfied with it except for a few men there who were for UMW. I only went to meetings once in awhile as it was too far to go to Springfield, Ill. to attend them. I never paid any attention

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

to those men who were convicted for those bombings and I have no opinion about them and I never heard anyone else talk about it. I never suspected any of the PMA officials of doing wrong with the money. The local was a man's union and not a slave union. Before Mine B closed UMW never sent any men out to picket the mine nor do I recall of getting any literature from UMW then. Before the mine B closed there were about 12 men or so in the PMA who were for UMW. I recall on one time while I was in Hogan's Saloon in Springfield, Ill., Andy SCHRELEVIOUS asked me there to join over to UMW and he took my address down and he said he would come over to see me but he never showed up. This was before Mine B closed. These 12 men were to my knowledge Sammy who is also known as Joe; Andy mentioned above; and I heard that Emory Jacaway carried the tales back to the company. These and several others were the ones I heard to be men who liked the UMW, they were, Pasquale, Sirtout, Jim Hole and several others. I just heard that. I never heard a thing about any parties given by Elshoff or UMW men.

"I recall when the contract expired in March, 1937 and I think that [redacted] or some other official of PMA told us that they had a temporary agreement and that if they got more pay it would go back. I never have believed anything until I see the money itself but I felt that PMA could make a contract but I heard that Elshoff was against making a contract. Before the strike miners never complained about this wage question on pay days and there was no other trouble over the wage question and I think that things went along pretty nice and steady. I heard that these 12 men would talk both for and against the PMA just before the mine closed. I did not go to the meeting night before the mine closed and I don't remember if they had one or not. When I went to work on the morning the mine closed I did not know at all of any trouble out there and I never had any idea there would be any trouble until [redacted] called us out of the mine that afternoon. That day I heard a little something about several men, including Frank Austin, being expelled from PMA but I don't recall of the company refusing to fire them. I heard that the reason why the strike was called was because we did not have any contract then. We PMA all respected the law and felt if those 12 men wanted to leave they could go back to UMW. On the day the mine closed I heard something about cars being loaded short but I did not load any short and no one told me to load them short. I was working in box [redacted] then and there was no talk of any strike that day nor about the men being expelled. Several weeks after the mine closed I signed a petition for PMA and I think it was to show the Labor Board or someone we had a majority of the men and no one forced me to sign it and I did sign it because I wanted to. I recall that [redacted] (phonetic) a committeeman, brot it to my home and I signed it. I never signed any petition for UMW but I heard about it but they never came t[redacted] was all PMA. I think that same fall another petition was gotten out by PMA and I

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

also signed that and I think I signed it in Springfield, Ill. and no one forced me to sign that either. I heard about UMW forming a new local but no one came to me and asked me to join it.

"During summer of 1937 I don't recall of anything unusual happening at Mine B. I once heard something tho of some men from Mine B going over to the Jefferson Mine and also there was some talk once about Elshoff being the owner or something of the Jefferson Mine. During fall of 1937 I went out to Mine B about a week after the picketing started. I never had heard they were going to reopen. The men there were all local PMA men and there were no strangers. I went out of my own free will and I went out because I heard that others were out there protecting their jobs. I heard that we never would have picketed the mine if those United Mine Workers had not started over there at Mine B. I came home about one night a week or so and then would go back out again and help them. Everything was quiet and peaceful out there and there were no fights. No UMW tried to go to work while I was out there. I was there when the Marshall came out and he said we would have to leave and he put some paper out but I never read it. All of us were willing to leave and we did and all were satisfied. [redacted] came out after the Marshall came and said it was right for us to leave. The Marshall came out between 9 and 10 p.m. and I was the last one to leave there about 1 a.m. When the Marshall came out I think that [redacted] and a committeeman was out there. I never heard a thing about the mine trying to reopen a few day later after the Marshall came out. I voted at athe Armory in Springfield, Ill., at the first NLRB election and it was by secret ballot and no one told me how to vote and first I met at__ hall and then from the ahll went over and voted. Before we went over and voted we had a meeting and the big president of the whole PMA gave us a talk and told us to vote how we pleased and he did not tell us to vote PMA or any special way. I voted PMA and it was a good and honest election and I heard that PMA won that election. I don't recall a thing about Mine B being reopened a short time after the election of UMW mine.

"Some time after this first NLRB election [redacted] phonetic) [redacted] visited me at my home and he told that he once talked to FALCETTI in a saloon and that Falcetti told him that when he has his money invested he wants to get the benefit of it. I also heard during the last week that Elshoff was in Washington and that when the PMA men walked along they had their heads hanging down but when the UMW men walked along they had their heads high up in the air. [redacted] if [redacted]

"I never got a registered letter from Mine B but heard about it thru

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INTERVIEW WITH some one else and I went out there about a week or so later. [redacted] (continued) [redacted] I saw Oscar Falcetti and he put me back to work in box [redacted] I guess, and [redacted] He did not say a thing about what union I belonged to. Nothing was said about the wages but I thot it would be the regular Illinois wage scale. The gossip around was that when the PMA went over to UMW we would have a contract. I did not see many new men at this time but after a couple of months they hired a lot of new UMW men from Mo., Indiana and other states. About one quarter are still there but rest are all gone. They hired only UMW men and would not hire a PMA man. [redacted] phonetic) of [redacted] Ill. and [redacted] (phonetic) also of [redacted] Ill., both were PMA men and they went over to Mine B and asked for jobs but they were told they had no openings but the next day the hired 4 or 5 UMW men.

"At the mine a track layer and a fellow named "Cotter" or something like that talked to me about joining over. I was working in box [redacted] who was in [redacted] send Bill, the track layer, in to see me and Bill told me I should joine UMW because the shot firer had signed and that the check weight-man had already signed. I told Bill that [redacted] the check weigh-man had not signed and Bill then went back in and saw [redacted] and asked him and Bill came back and told me that [redacted] said that I was right and that [redacted] had not joined. This happened before [redacted] got beat up. I told Bill then that when [redacted] would sign up I would sign too. Bill did not threaten me.

"About a week later this "Cotter" asked me to sign up and he said that he would protect me and I told him he wouldn't have to protect me as I can protect myself.

"PMA did not do anything in regard to getting men to join over as they felt they still had the majority. No one caused me to be fined nor did anyone bother me but stole tools from my buddy, ANDY from [redacted] Ill., were stolen from him but they never stole mine. Later on when I had signed over to UMW this same "Cotter" told me that no one would lose any more tools. In summer of 1940 I never signed any membership card for PMA or UMW. When I went back to work I kept on paying dues to PMA and no one forced me to pay those dues. I was forced to sign over to UMW. "Scotty" BAUMGARTNER (phonetic) told me to tell [redacted] that he ought to sign up with UMW before the bricks start to fly and I told BAUMGARTENER that I would sign up only with [redacted] and this was why BAUMGARTENER told me this and this took place about a month or so before [redacted] got beat up. I told [redacted] about this and he got scared and never went back to work again, for about a month and then [redacted] went back to Mine B office and said he was coming back to work

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] and that night [redacted] BEAT Him up.

(continued) "It was gossip around the Mine B that if we PMA men did not sign up by a certain day that it would cost us more money and I signed up on the last day. I signed up because I felt that if I did not get over to UMW that I might get beat up and I would lose my job.

"I have shown to Agents [redacted] and [redacted] a registered letter No. 18668 postmarked at Springfield, Ill., Jan. 29, 1941 which is addresses me to as [redacted] and it is from Chas. Bohannon, P.O. Box 1095, Springfield, Ill. This letter is dated Jan. 29, 1941 and I have given the envelope and letter to [redacted] and [redacted]

"The above letter told me that I should get sworn in but I did not go down to get sworn in because I still did not want to become connected with UMW. However, after I got the above letter I went down and got sworn in but then and even now I still am a PMA man in my own heart.

"I voted at the next NLRB election at the Armory in Springfield, Ill. but I don't think this was an honest election. When I got to the Armory this "Cotter" was in there and he was partly drunk and carried a big pistol and he grabbed me by the arm and walked up with me and said he wanted to see how I voted so he stood along side me and watched me how I voted so I had to vote for UMW altho I still wanted to vote for PMA. I did not vote the way I wanted too and I figure I was forced to vote UMW because of the above facts. I did not see the government man around. This "Cotter" is still at Mine B and he is Check No. 18.

"When I went back to Mine B it was in bad shape and had bad air. The south side never was reopened. I think it cost them about $15,000 or $20,000 to fix it up. I never heard a thing about a fire at Mine B when it was closed or in 1939.

"I heard that Glascow had some trouble and that Edmundson kicked him out and that Glascow was on the right side.

"I never heard anything at the time Mine B was closed as to how Elshoff was able to keep the mine going when it was closed.

"I can't read the English language very well and I have had Agent [redacted] read this 3 page typewritten statement to me and it is true and correct and I have sign it of my own free will.

[redacted]

WITNESSES:

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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b7D

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

[redacted]
Special Agent, FBI,
St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted]
Special Agent, FBI,
Milwaukee, Wis."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He did not appear to be willing to fully answer the questions put to him, and would not willingly testify on behalf of the Government, being hesitant because of his present employment. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

[redacted] I was born in [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] I was naturalized at Springfield, Ill. in [redacted], and presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union in [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois and I started working in the [redacted] Mine under the UMW. This mine was in North Springfield, but is not operating at this time. I worked at four other mines under the UMW before I started working at Mine B as a coal digger in [redacted]

"The only union office I ever held was on the Pit Committee at [redacted] Illinois [redacted] years ago. This was with the UMW.

"I am presently employed at Mine B as a coal digger.

"I took no active part in forming the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMW. I knew nothing about the circumstances under which PMW was formed. I liked the PMW leaders and I think the other miners felt the same way.

"I attended most of the PMW and UMW meetings while I worked under these unions.

"I liked the PMW better than the UMW because the PMW would not permit a man to hold office more than two consecutive years. In the UMW an officer can hold office for years.

"Before the strike started at Mine B in 1937 I never recalled a UMW picket line at that Mine. I saw no UMW literature during this period.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I knew the following miners who worked at Mine B at this time: Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"As far as I know these men did not aggitate for UMW before May, 1937 when the strike started.

"I am not familiar with the circumstances involved in the wage scale controversy.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 and it was at a later date that I learned about the miners who were thrown out of PMA on that night. I did not hear about it the next day. However, on the morning of May 12, 1937 I was told to load the coal cars short by a member of PMA whose name I do not recall and I did load my cars short.

"I helped picket mine B for about two weeks.

"During the strike period when Mine B was closed I was unemployed.

"I believed I signed a PMA petition shortly after the mine closed. I do not remember anything about details or purpose of this petition. I do not recall any other petitions.

"By word of mouth I learned about the attempts to open Mine B in September and December of 1937 and in January, 1938.

"I thought the N.L.R.B. election held in December, 1937 was fair. I was in favor of the PMA and was not approached by any person to influence my vote.

"The second N.L.R.B. election in February, 1941 was also on a secret ballot and I voted in this election.

"I returned to work at Mine B in November, 1939 when the mine opened again under the open shop agreement.

"Just before the second N.L.R.B. election I signed up with UMW. No one ever tried to influence me to sign up with the UMW. I joined the UMW because some miners told me that the majority were going over to UMW and that I'd better join UMW.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I know nothing about the activities of the men whose names are mentioned above in this statement.

"I know nothing against the PMA or the UMW.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.
Special Agent F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 3, 1943 at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. This individual is [redacted] years old, he can not read nor write and has no understanding concerning the matter under inquiry. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 3, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and I am not now employed. [redacted] I was born on [redacted] I first joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW about [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois, where I worked in the local mine about three years. I worked in coal mines continuously and started working in Mine B near Springfield about [redacted] and worked there continuously until that mine closed on May 12, 1937. Right after Mine B closed down in May, 1937, I went back to a place near the mine to help the Progressive Mine Workers of America picket. I will refer to this latter union hereinafter as the PMA. I never went back after that time to work at Mine B, even when it tried to re-open. I did not try to go back to work [redacted]

"I worked at Mine B from [redacted] to 1932 as a member of the UMW. I was a digger in this mine. I voluntarily joined PMA in September, 1932 when the rest of the miners at Mine B. joined that union. I did not like the UMW because John L. Lewis did not favor an increase in wages and when we voted, he claimed the ballot boxes were stolen.

"I thought the PMA was a good mine union and that it's leaders and the rank and file were satisfied with the PMA union and the way it was being run. I did not take an active part in the formation of PMA as I could not read or write and just went along with the rest.

"Elshoff appeared to get along alright with the UMW prior to 1932 but did not seem to be on such good terms with PMA from 1932 to 1937. I think he liked UMW better than the PMA, but I never heard why. I knew nothing about the details of the wage scale problem but I just wanted an increase in wages.

"I heard in the Spring of 1937 that UMW had some organizers in Mine B but they never contacted me. I heard that they contacted other miners

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

[redacted] read the newspapers to me commenting on it. I do not recall signing a petition of any kind in 1937. I did not attend the PMA meeting on the night of May 12, 1937 when the PMA miners were expelled. The only reason I know the mine was closed down on May 12, 1937 was because the men wanted more money and Elshoff would not pay them more. I never went back to work in the mine after that, and know nothing about the mine from then on. This statement has been read to me by [redacted] and it is true.

"His X Mark

"His X Mark

"Witnessed:

[redacted] /S/
Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted] /S/
Special Agent, F.B.I."

"I, [redacted] have read the two pages of this statement to [redacted] whose mark appears above and he acknowledges that the statement is true and correct.

[redacted] /S/

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks and understands English very well and when he remembers facts can express himself intelligently. He said he has no serious objections to testifying if necessary. [redacted] admitted that he has been arrested for drunkenness, but claimed to have no other criminal record. [redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 7, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I am living at [redacted], Springfield, Ill., and employed at [redacted] I was born [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] I was naturalized at Springfield [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers at [redacted] Ill. in [redacted] and was a member of that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I started work at Mine B about [redacted] and joined the P.M.A. when all the other men at Mine B did. I had no part in the organization of the P.M.A., which was organized because the men were not satisfied in the way Lewis was handling their interests. Lewis had something to do with the disappearance of ballots of an election held by the men. I was never an officer in any union.

"From 1932 until 1937 things went along smoothly at the mine. I don't remember any strikes or shut downs at the mine, and was satisfied with the way the P.M.W. was being run. The P.M.A. officers always gave the men a square deal as far as I know. The men always seemed to be completely satisfied in the way the P.M.W. was being run. Before the strike in 1937, I don't remember of hearing of any trouble between the P.M.A. and the mine management. The members seemed to feel that P.M.A. could do as much for the men as the U.M.W. could, as far as wages and conditions were concerned.

"I don't remember any instances of picketing by U.M.W. men, or any literature put out by the U.M.W. before the strike in 1937. No one ever asked me to join the U.M.W., before the strike, although I heard that Austin, Albanese, Hale, Bohannon, Plotch, Carter, Ananias and the Jacaways, were trying to get men to join the U.M.W. [redacted] and took coal from Albanese's room, and I heard that he was agitating for U.M.W., although he never said anything to me. Bohannon was also a mule driver at this time, but never said anything about U.M.W. to me before the strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. On the day of the strike, at the end of the day, I heard there was a strike, and didn't go back to the mine the next day. I think the strike was over some wage dispute, but I'm not sure. I did hear that Frank Austin, and a couple of others whose names I can't remember were kicked out of the P.M.A. because of U.M.W. activities, but I don't know anything more about it.

"I remember that I signed a P.M.A. petition just after the strike. As I remember, this petition was to find out how many men favored the P.M.A. It seems to me that I signed one at Mine B, but I don't remember who took the petition around, and I signed it because I preferred the P.M.A. to the U.M.W. No one made me sign it. I don't remember signing any U.M.W. petition this summer.

"In the summer or fall of 1937, Bohannon came to my home at [redacted] Springfield, and asked me to join the U.M.W., saying the mine was going to open up U.M.W. I told them that if they opened up U.M.W. they would open up without me, because I didn't like the U.M.W. He didn't threaten me or try to force me. There were some other fellows in the car, but I didn't recognize them. I started to work at my present job shortly after that.

"I remember getting a letter from Elshoff that the mine was going to open, and giving me a certain time to come back to work. I don't remember just when I got that letter, because I had my present job and wasn't intending to go back to the mine.

"In the fall of 1937 I was out at the picket line at Mine B, when I wasn't working. I wasn't forced to go out, and never saw any men there who weren't Mine B men. We were picketing, as I remember, to keep the U.M.W. men from going to work. I think the injunction was gotten to get the P.M.A. men away from the mine, so the U.M.W. men could get into the mine to work.

"In the election of December, 1937, I voted for P.M.A. because I liked it better than the U.M.W. I don't remember any strong-armed tactics at the election, and think it was a fair election. After this election I had nothing more to do with Mine B. I had made up my mind not to go back to the mines, and I will never mine coal for Lewis.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of about three and a half pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

(Signed) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on September 4, 1943. He willingly furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. and am presently a digger, employed at Mine A. I was born on [redacted] I arrived in the United States in the year [redacted] and I was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in [redacted]

"I first joined a mine union in [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois at the [redacted] Mine. This union was the United Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I worked there for about one year at which time a tipple fell in and I went to work at Mine A. I did not return to Mine B until about [redacted] From [redacted] I continued to work at Mine B until May 12, 1937 when the mine closed. After the mine closed on May 12, 1943, I did not go back to picket and did not go back to Mine B when that mine attempted to open on three different occasions. I knew the mine was attempting to open from a notice in the newspapers and by word of mouth from other miners. I did not go back to work at Mine B. until about December 1939. I worked at this mine until March or April 1940. I quit then and started working for the [redacted] I never did go back to work at Mine B. In December 1940 I started working at Mine A and have continued working there until the present time.

"In September, 1932 I was working at Mine B and when John L. Lewis wanted the miners to take a reduction in wages, a vote was taken. The first vote taken was aginst the reduction and on a second vote, the UMW officials claimed the ballots were stolen, and Lewis declared an emergency and proceeded to sign up with the Operators at a reduction in the wage scale. I voluntarily joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMW, with the rest of the miners in Mine B, in September, 1932. I never took an active part in organizing PMW. I never have held an office in any mine union. I feel that the PMW was a good union and the rank and file were satisfied with that union and its officials.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Prior to 1932, Elshoff had some difficulties with the employees at Mine B, and he discharged the following men; [redacted] and about three others. Elshoff claimed that these men were creating dissention. These men were all member of the UMW. At this time, Elshoff did not belong to the Operaters Association. The UMW arbitrated the case with Elshoff and he had his way. These men did not return to work. This was prior to any thought of organizing another union, namely, the PMA. The relations between Elshoff and the PMA from 1932 to April 1937 were good as far as I know.

"About a month before the mine closed down on May 12, 1937 there were a number of men in Mine B who began organizing for UMW. These men were Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, also known as John Cotton, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale, I heard that these men were contacting PMA members to get them to join the UMW. I'm referring now to the period before the mine went on strike in May, 1937. Both James Hale and Tony Plotch talked to me favoring the UMW and wanted me to join the UMW as it was a larger organization. I did not sign up with UMW because I felt that these men were being paid by UMW for their organizing work. Hale and Plotch hinted two or three times that it would be better if I joined the UMW.

"About a week before the mine closed, Pete Carter was seen by me passing out UMW cards out on top of Mine B, close to the office. The day before the mine closed, the PMA expelled Pete Carter and some others from that union for organizing for UMW. I did not attend this PMA meeting held on May 11, 1937 but heard about it the next day at the mine. On May 12, 1937 Elshoff refused to discharge these men that had been expelled from the PMA. On this day, I was doing company work due to a cave in. That afternoon the men were called out of the mine as Elshoff would not talk to [redacted] who was a PMA Board member. I did not know about loading coal cars short until I came out. However, this was not due to the wage scale question.

"After May 12, 1937 I stayed out of this mine until December 1939. I did not attempt to go to work before that. I am not familiar with the wage scale problems or the retroactive feature of the agreement between Elshoff and the PMA. I do not recall the PMA officials informing me about the details of this agreement.

"I voluntarily signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member. I did not sign any other petition.

"I believe that the NLRB election on December 15, 1937 was fair. I did not see any strong arm tactics on the part of members of the PMA or the UMW. I received notice of the election through the newspapers, and I went to the Arsenal and voted and no one tried to influence me.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I never heard of a big fire in Mine B prior to 1942.

"I was working in Mine A as a PMA member when Elshoff bought it. I understood Elshoff was going to close Mine A down or operate it through Mine B, if the miners did not join UMW. Mine A and Mine B are connecting mines. I joined the UMW only to keep my job. I would rather be a member of the PMA.

"I have carefully read this statement consisting of three and one half pages and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make this statement.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agent, F. B. I.
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at Springfield Field Office on September 9, 1943, by Special Agent [redacted] It is believed that [redacted] although he was cooperative, will make only a fair witness. He has no criminal record.

The following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois do make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] who I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to me; I have been told that I need not make any statement and that this statement can be used in court.

"I first joined a miner's union about [redacted] the United Mine Workers, while I was working at the Peabody Mine #6 near Sherman, Illinois. I joined this mine of my own free will without any force or coercion. Although I have belonged to unions ever since I have never held any office in a union. I was first employed at Mine "B" about [redacted] and I worked there until 1938 shortly after the first N.L.R.B. election. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers union in 1932 when the whole U.M.W. local went over and formed the P.M.A. I took no active part in the move. From 1932 to 1937 I am aware of no unfriendly relations between P.M.A. local #54 and Carl Elshoff. During this period I was entirely satisfied with local #54 and believed that it was a good union. Insofar as I know all of the other miners in the union felt the same way about it. There was good attendance at the meetings and I saw no force or intimidation and I never heard of any money being paid to the union officials to get a job. During this period there was no strife or friction between the P.M.A. and the U.M.W. to amount to anything. After the Mine "B" was reopened as an open shop I quit work on account of my health and I have never gone back. Consequently I was not at the Mine during the trouble between U.M.W. and P.M.A.

"I attended the meeting of Local #54 on May 11, 1937 when the five members were ousted on account of being spies for the U.M.W. As I remember it was a regularly called meeting and a big majority of the membership was there. Several of the miners testified that these men had come to their homes and had tried to persuade them to go over and join the U.M.W. The accused men denied this but the membership voted to throw them out of the union. I worked at the mine the next day, May 12, 1937 but I did not observe any of the negotiations or trouble. I worked all day and sent up full cars. I did not find out about the trouble until I came up.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I remember that I signed the petition of the P.M.W. of May 27, 1937 to Mine "B" in which we claimed a majority of the miners. I did not sign any other petition nor did I subsequently join United Mine Workers union. I did meet Tony Plotch and two other men whose names I do not now recall, one Sunday afternoon and they told me I had better join the U.M.W. if I ever expected to go back to work at Mine "B". This was during the time Mine "B" was being operated as an open shop. I told them that if I had to sign for U.M.W. that I would never work there.

"I have read the within statement consisting of one page and it is all true.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] /S/
Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted] /S/
Special Agent F.B.I.
Springfield, Illinois"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed on September 5, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. He willingly furnished the following signed statement and indicated that he would willingly testify to the facts as set forth therein:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 5, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. and I was born [redacted] I first joined a mine union at Mine A at Springfield, Ill. about [redacted] This union was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I worked at this mine for about six months and then went to Peabody Mine #57 and remained there until April 1, 1932 when the mine shut down due to the general strike. I was out of a mining job from this time until [redacted] I got a job at Mine B as a timberman, under the UMW and worked there continuously until the mine closed on May 12, 1937. I helped on the PMA picket line for several months in 1937. I was not out at this mine at any of the three times it tried to re-open. I heard it was going to open the first two times through the newspapers, but the third time I received a registered letter from Elshoff announcing that the mine was going to open.

"When Mine B opened as an open shop in November, 1939 I went back to work as a PMA member and I worked there until February 23, 1942. On that day, [redacted] said, "you are next. I'm going to drive your teeth down your throat." I was working as a cage man on the bottom at this time and was making extra pay. I think one of the UMW men wanted this job. I had already changed over to the UMW at this time. I never went back to the mine after that because the working conditions were not safe due to the activities of some of the UMW members who had been UMW organizers. Although the UMW had the bargaining rights at Mine B that union felt that they had many miners working under the UMW who were not sympathetic toward UMW, but who had joined merely to keep their jobs.

"From [redacted] to 1932 I was a member of UMW. I joined the PMA in September, 1932 at Springfield, Illinois. I was unemployed at this time. I joined this union voluntarily. I think the PMA was a good union and the rank and file miners got along well with their union officers. I remained a member of PMA, the Progressive Mine Workers of America, until about

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

January, 1941 when the talk at the mine was to the effect that a miner could not work there unless he was a member of UMW. This was before the second NLRB election which was held in February, 1941. I joined the UMW against my will to keep my job. I have remained a member of the UMW since that time.

"I never held an office in any mine union. I never took an active part in the formation of the PMA. I attended about half of the union meetings when I was a member of either union. The relations between Elshoff and the PMA from the time I started to work there in 1935 until April, 1937 were good. I do not know of anything Elshoff said to indicate that he favored the UMW, prior to May, 1937. I knew the following men who were working at Mine B prior to May 1937 who were UMW sympathizers or organizers: Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale, Frank Austin, John Ahanias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway, James Hale, Andrew Schrolevious, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, Charles Bohannon. I heard that these men mentioned above were contacting the miners as aggitators for the UMW, prior to the time Mine B closed on strike, but they did not contact me.

"I was not at the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 when some of these UMW organizers were expelled, but I heard about it the next day, May 12, 1937 at the time, by word of mouth. The PMA Pit Committee went to Falcetti and told him these men should not work as they had been expelled from the PMA. Falcetti was reported to have said that he had no authority to discharge them as they had a right to work there under the collective bargaining regulatiojs.

"I went into the mine on May 12, 1937 and later some coal cars came up short. I do not know why the cars were shorted. Later, the men were informed they should come out of the mine. I was not familiar with the wage scale controversy. However, on May 12, 1937 some of the UMW organizers told me that the PMA did not have a contract with Elshoff which was retroactive. [redacted] of the PMA showed us miners a copy of the contract containing the retroactive clause that had Elshoff's name on it.

"I voluntarily signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member. I also signed another PMA petition in 1937, but I am not sure what it was for. I voted in the NLRB election. No one forced me to vote, and I never heard it was fraudulent. No strong arm tactics were used by either union to my knowledge. I also voted in the NLRB election on February 21, 1941. This election was fair as far as I know. We could vote anyway we wanted to. However, as I memtioned before in this statement, the miners at Mine B had already been signed up by UMW the month before as they had been informed they could not hold their jobs at that mine unless they did. Therefore the result of the NLRB election was known before the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] vote. I remember after this election at
(continued) a meeting held by UMW that organizer
[redacted] (phonetic) got up in
the meeting and made a talk and said, "some of our membership do not believe in the UMW." He was referring to the vote taken in the NLRB election when some miners voted for PMA, and they were all supposed to have signed up with UMW before this election.

"I think Elshoff and Falcetti favored the UMW. Elshoff was paying his lease rental when the mine was closed, therefore taking a loss, but I don't know why he did not work the mine when he had plenty of PMA men ready to work. I prefer the PMA union due to the leadership of John L. Lewis.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the three and one half pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] stated that he had not been working for the past few years [redacted] Although [redacted] seemed to be of average intelligence, it was quite evident during the course of this interview that although he was attempting to recollect the event, he could not recollect the chronological order of events as they occurred at the time he was working for Mine B. In view of this fact it is not believed that [redacted] would make a good witness.

At the time of this interview [redacted] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 5, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement. I was born in [redacted]

"I started working at Mine B about [redacted] and I was working there in 1932 when Progressive Mine Workers was organized. I had nothing to do with forming P M A but joined when the rest of the miners did. As I remember, PMA got along all right with the management of Mine B, and the members of PMA were satisfied with the officers of the Union.

"I do not recall anything about any contract expiring on March 31, 1937, nor any argument about wages.

"I have a very poor memory and I don't recall anything about any P.M.A. members working for U.M.W. I remember there was a lot of things going on, but I do not recall what they were.

"On the day of the strike I was working in the Southwest part of Mine B. I don't remember anybody loading cars short that day, and I didn't know that there was any trouble until I came out of the mine at my regular quitting time. Then I learned that there was some trouble, but I don't think anyone knew just what was wrong. I don't remember anything about any men being expelled from P.M.A. I do not remember signing any petitions that

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

summer, but I could have signed one without remembering it. I never attended many union meetings. I do not recall about the attempted opening of the mine in September, 1937 but I think I was on a picket line a day or two. I do not remember voting in the NLRB election. I was notified to return to work in 1939 but I was too old, my tools were buried, and I did not return. I have not worked since.

"The above statement was read to me by Special Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]

[redacted]) Special Agents, FBI
"Manton M. Cummins) U. S. Dept. of Justice"

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his [redacted] residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He has telephone number [redacted] and is presently employed at the [redacted] Springfield. He informed he has never been arrested. [redacted] speaks and understands English well, and has above the average miner's intelligence. He would make a good witness, but has little information to offer.

The following signed statement has been executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943

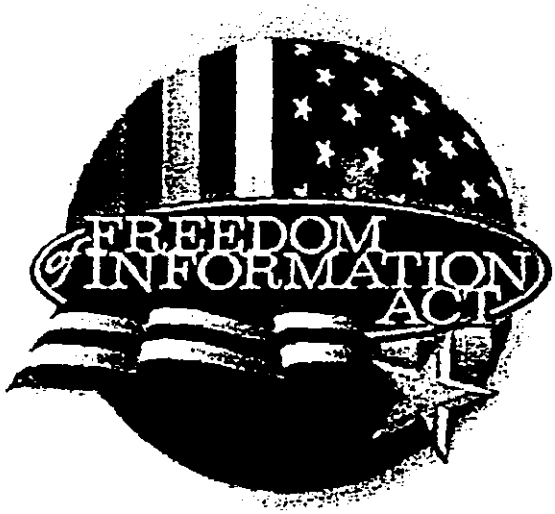
"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] I first started to mine coal in about [redacted] in [redacted] Ill. I then joined the United Mine Workers of America Union. I started working in the Mine "B" in Springfield, Ill., in about [redacted] From about the fall of 1932 until the spring of 1933, I worked at the Peabody #53 mine. During this time I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union and I quit the UMW. The reason I changed was because John L. Lewis's bunch stole ballots and declared an emergency and they said we had to go to work.

"I took no active part in the organization of the PMA and I have never held an office in any un[redacted] I did this to help fight John L. Lewis and his crowd.

"During the time from 1932 until May of 1937 I thought the PMA was an honest union. I thought the officials were honest and I did not think there were any unusual assessments. About 1933 we were assessed 10% but this was for other PMA men who weren't working and I didn't think this was too much. I had started working at Mine "B" again in the fall of 1933 and worked there until May of 1937.

"I remember the bombing trials along about 1935 and I don't think the men got a fair trial because from what I know and read



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN L. LEWIS

PART 6 OF 13

FILE NUMBER: 44-845

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT John L. Lewis

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 7

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thru

105 p. 300

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

of this case, I thought there was just as much that the Peabody men could have been just as guilty but they were never fired. But most of my information came from the newspapers.

"During the time from 1932 to Mar. 1937, I went to most of the PMA meetings.

"In the spring of 1937, I knew about five PMA fellows were stool pigeons, but I didn't know exactly who they were working for or what they were doing. They were Andy Schrelevius, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter and Frank Austin. There may have been more but I don't remember who. I do not remember anything about these men or any other men being expelled from the PMA. The reason we went out on strike in May 1937 was because of contract trouble and some wage trouble. I do not know anything about the company refusing to fire some men expelled from PMA.

"I do not remember attending a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the night before the strike. On May 12, 1937, I went to work as usual. I was [redacted] I did not hear anyone say anything about loading cars short that day, but I noticed most of the cars were loaded short. I didn't hear anything about a strike until sometime during the day we were pulled out. I did not know why we went out, but I came up to the top and went home. A couple of days later I heard the reason we were out was because of the contract or pay. I don't remember receiving any notice of any kind to come back to work until Nov. of 1939. In the summer of 1937 I got a job [redacted] so I didn't go back to Mine "B" except a couple of times to talk with the PMA men who were out there protecting their jobs. During the summer of 1937 I cannot remember if I signed any PMA petitions. I may have. But I am certain I did not sign any UMW petitions.

"I remember that a UMW local was organized during the summer of 1937, but I cannot remember anything about it. I was not asked to join it.

"During the time from 1932 to May of 1937, I never noticed that anyone from the company ever favored UMW or PMA one over the other. I never saw any UMW picket line at Mine "B" during this time, and I never saw any UMW attempts to organize at Mine "B" during this time.

"The reason why PMA men went to the Mine "B" in the fall of 1937 was to protect their jobs and keep the mine from being blown up, because we had heard some one was going to blow the mine up and blame

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

it on the PMA. I was not there when the Fed'l Injunction was obtained and the men had to leave the mine in the fall of 1937.

"Just before the mine re-opened in 1939, I heard from several sources, none of which I can now remember, that I was the first one the UMW was going to get, because I had been active in PMA. So I did not go back to Mine "B" went it opened because I wanted no trouble. No one ever openly or directly threatened me.

I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Election in Dec. 1937, where PMA beat UMW. I think it was a fair election and no one threatened or forced me in any way. That is the only NLRB election concerning Mine "B" in which I ever voted.

"Inasmuch as I never went back near Mine "B" after early fall of 1937 I do not know anything about anything that happened out at Mine "B" after the fall of 1937.

"This statement of five pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

Witness
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at the Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Springfield, Illinois on September 7, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] is able to speak and understands English. [redacted] would not make a good witness as he is very vague in answering questions.

[redacted] provided the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,
September 7, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] I am unemployed and I am being supported by [redacted]

"I first started mining coal at [redacted] at which time I became a member of UMW. I remained a member of UMW until 1932. My local UMW union changed from UMW to PMA in 1932 and I became a member of PMA because my local UMW changed.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"I was employed by Mine "B" in about 1928 and remained in the employment of Mine "B", except during the time of strikes until in July 1942. I was discharged because I did not report for work three days.

"Prior to 1932 the management of Mine "B", so far as I know, was on good relations with UMW.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B" and the mine was not closed down by the management. During that period of time the management seemed to have been on good relations with PMA and all grievances were settled in favor of PMA. At no time prior to May 12, 1937 did the management of Mine "B" attempt to discredit PMA.

"I thought PMA was a good union being operated for its membership, no unusual special assessments were made against me. I took no interest in union activity.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I think the PMA members convicted in the bombing cases did not get a fair trial as I believe UMW had witnesses testify falsely against the PMA members.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 UMW did not set up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did UMW distribute any literature at Mine "B". Prior to May 12, 1937 no one attempted to get me to change from PMA to UMW.

""I do not remember a wage scale controvery in the Spring of 1937.

"I attended a regular meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937. I do not remember much about the meeting, but I do remember a member, the name of whom I do not know, was expelled from PMA because he was associating with UMW members. I am unable to furnish any other details about the meeting. I do not know of any other members of PMA being expelled.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I reported for work, some of the miners stated the management of Mine "B" wanted the mine to be UMW rather than PMA. I thought there was going to be trouble at the mine that day, therefore, I did not go to work and return to my home. No one told me why Mine "B" went on strike May 12, 1937, but I thought the strike occurred because the management wanted Mine "B" to change from PMA to UMW.

"I signed a PMA petition in the Summer of 1937 naming PMA as my bargaining agent at Mine "B". I did not sign a UMW petition.

"I did not know of a new UMW local being formed in the Summer of 1937.

"In Sept. 1937 I was informed by someone that PMA had a picket line at Mine "B". I voluntarily went to Mine "B" to act as a picket. No violence occurred during the during the time I was a picket and only Mine "B" miners were pickets, no outsiders were brought in. In about Dec. 1937 an injunction was obtained to prevent picketing at Mine "B". It made no difference to me whether the injunction was served or not.

"I did not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the N L R B election Dec. 15, 1937 for P M A. So far as I know this election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

"I received notice that Mine "B" was to open in the last part of 1939. I immediately received employment. I did not notice the results of any large fires on returning to work, but I did see many cave ins. I returned to Mine "B" as a member of PMA.

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Almost every morning after my return to work and the time I became a member of UMW in the summer of 1940 I was asked by [redacted] to join UMW. In the summer of 1940 I was told by someone to report to the Mine "B" office before I changed my clothes. On reporting to the office Falcetti the supt. at mine "B" in the presence of the UMW committee told me that I had to join UMW if I wanted to keep working at Mine "B". I signed the membership card to join UMW that morning in order to keep my job although I did not want to join UMW. Those of the committee present at the time I joined UMW were Cudge Bungarner, Charles Bohannon and some others whom I do not know. I saw fights at Mine "B" between UMW and PMA members almost every morning from the time I returned to work in the last part of 1939 until the NLRB election in Feb. 1941. At no time was I threatened nor did anyone beat me.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election Feb. 1941 for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

"I did not wish to join UMW as I wanted to be a member of PMA. I only joined UMW because I was forced to join UMW in order to keep working at Mine "B".

"I have had this statement consisting of six pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:
[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] also known as [redacted] was interviewed at his residence [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] was born [redacted] and is not a U.S. citizen. He states he had never been arrested. [redacted] favors the UMW over the PMA, although he admits being contacted in Mine "B" by a UMW man and then joined UMW. He understands English fairly well and speaks English only fair. It is felt he would not make a good witness.

The following signed statement was obtained:

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943

"I [redacted] also known as [redacted] of [redacted] Springfield, Ill. make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U.S. in [redacted] I got my first papers in Springfield in [redacted] but I have not yet become a U.S. citizen.

"I first started working in Mine "B" in Springfield in [redacted] I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union in [redacted] and stayed with UMW until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union because I wanted to keep my job at mine "B". No one forced me in any way to join PMA in 1932. I did not take an active part in organizing PMA and I have never held an office in any union.

"During the time from 1932 to May of 1937 I did not notice any strikes or closedowns at Mine "B" except that there were probably a few times when the mine closed down because of slack work. But I cannot remember when this was. During this time I never noticed that any of the company officials tried to discredit the PMA or tried to make any of us join UMW. I heard they liked UMW but I never saw anything to indicate that.

"During this time I did not think that the PMA was an honest union. They made many assessments against us and I thought it was a racket. I don't know for certain who got this money, but if the officers of this local did not get the money I do not know who did get

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

the money. I did not take an active interest in the PMA union.

"I remember there were some bombing cases during this time, but I took no interest in them and cannot say whether the trials were fair.

"During this time between 1932 and May 1937, I never noticed any attempt by the UMW to organize Mine "B". I noticed no strikes and I never saw any UMW literature. I do not know anything about any members of PMA in May of 1937 and I never heard there were UMW spiesiin PMA.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937. On May 12, 1937, I went to work as usual, and when I went down into the mine some one said we were to load only half cars. I don't remember who said this. But I did not load any of my cars short that day and I worked all day. When I came up at the end of the day I heard that [redacted] had called us out, but I didn't know why. A couple of minutes later some one told me that we went out because the company would not open under PMA.

"I did not go to work the next day, and never received any notice to come back to work until Nov. 1939. Sometime in Sept. of 1937 I heard from some miners that a picket line had been set up that day at Mine "B", so I went out there the next day to look around. That was the only time I went out to Mine "B" during the picketing.

"After the strike started I think I signed one petition for PMA. UMW asked me to sign a petition in the summer of 1937 but I did not sign it. I did not know when the UMW local had been formed.

"I did not attend many PMA meetings in 1937. I do not know why the picket line was taken off in the fall of 1937.

"I voted in the National Labor Relations Board election in Dec. 1937, when PMA won over UMW. I was not forced or threatened in any way and I think it was a fair election.

"In Nov. 1939 I got a registered letter that the Mine "B" was going to open, I went back to work there in Nov. 1939. I heard there were some cave-ins, but I never saw them. I never saw that there had been any fires and no one told me there had been.

"About two or three months after the mine opened [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

[redacted] asked me to join the UMW but no one ever forced or threatened me at any time to join UMW. I told him I would think it over and about two or three weeks later I joined UMW. I never saw anyone get beat up out at the mine and I never saw anyone else try to organize for UMW at Mine "B".

"I joined UMW because I was disgusted with all the death benefits I was having to pay PMA and not know where the money went.

"I voted in an NLRB election in about Feb. of 1941 when UMW beat PMA. No one forced or threatened me in any way at that election and I think it was a fair election.

"I prefer UMW over the PMA.

"This statement of five pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Witness (Signed) [redacted]

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I. "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 4, 1943. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] speaks English and would make a fair witness.

[redacted] provided the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] emmigrated to the U.S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in [redacted]

"I started mining coal in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted] at which time I became a member of UMW. In about [redacted] I started mining coal at Mine "B" and remained there until Jan. 1943, except during the strikes. I stopped working at Mine "B" at my own free will. I am now employed by [redacted] and I have been employed by [redacted]

"In about 1932 I heard UMW stole some votes cast in an election and for that reason I joined PMA which was being formed at that time. I took no part in the formation of PMA.

"Prior to 1932 the management of Mine "B" seemed to have been on good relations with UMW.

"I have not held an office or taken an active part in any union.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 the management of Mine "B" seemed to have been on good terms with P.M.A. there was no hostile attitude taken by the management in settling grievances. So far as I remember there were no strikes or close-downs at Mine "B" between 1932 and May 1937.

"I thought PMA was a good union and one operated for the benefit of its membership, no unusual special assessments were made against me.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I took no interest in the bombing cases.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 I did not see a UMW picket line at Mine "B", nor did I see any UMW literature being distributed at Mine "B". No one attempted to get me to change from PMA to UMW.

"I did not know of a wage scale controversy in the spring of 1937.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937 and I do not know if I had notice of the meeting.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I went to work as always and loaded my coal cars full. In the afternoon that day someone told me there was a strike as PMA and Mine "B" could not come to an agreement about something. I was not told why the strike occurred. I did not know of anyone being expelled from PMA prior to May 12, 1937 or after that date.

"I do not remember signing any PMA petitions in the summer of 1937, but I know I did not sign any UMW petitions.

"I did not know of a new UMW local being formed in the summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 I heard that that PMA had pickets at Mine "B" and I voluntarily went to Mine "B" to picket. I acted as a picket for about two weeks at the end which time I went to work at the Panther Creek Coal Mine. I do not know what went on at Mine "B" from about Oct. 1937 until about Nov. 1939 when I received notice that Mine "B" was to re-open. I did not vote in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937.

"I went back to work at Mine "B" in the last part of 1939 as a member of PMA. I did not see the results of any large fires although there were many cave-ins. No one requested me to change from PMA to UMW prior to the election in Feb. 1941. I did not see any fights at Mine "B" prior to Feb. 1941 although I heard someone was beaten on account of union trouble.

"I voted in the NLRB election Feb. 1941 for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair.

"I joined UMW a short time after the election in Feb. 1941 because majority of the miners were UMW. It does not make any difference

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] to me whether I am a member of PAA or ULW.

(continued)

(Signed) [redacted]

Witnessed: - [redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I.

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.

RE. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by [redacted] and [redacted] at his home, 9-4-43. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] would not make a good witness [redacted] inability to speak or understand English very well. [redacted] provided the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,
September 4, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] emmigrated to the U.S. in [redacted] I became a naturalized citizen of the U. S. in [redacted] I have been employed at Mine "B" since about [redacted] and I am at the present employed at Mine "B".

"I became a member of UMW in about [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. at which time I started to work in the Peabody Mines.

"In about 1932 I became a member of PMA because my local UMW changed to PMA. I took no active part in the formation of PMA.

"Prior to 1932 the management of Mine "B" seemed to have been on good relations with UMW.

"I have never been an officer of any union.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes or closedowns at Mine "B". The management seemed to have been on good terms with PMA and the management was not hostile in settling grievances.

"I thought PMA was a good union being operated for its membership. No unusual assessments were made against my pay. I took no active part in union activity.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 I did not see any UMW pickets at Mine "B", nor did I see any UMW literature being distributed. Prior to May 12, 1937 no one attempted to get me to change from PMA to UMW.

"I do not remember a wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I do not remember a PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937.

"I remember the strike at Mine "B" started on May 12, 1937, but I do not remember any details. I do not know if I worked that day or not, nor do I know the reason for the strike.

"I do not remember anyone being expelled from PMA before or after May 12, 1937.

"I do not remember signing any petitions in the Summer of 1937.

"I do not remember the formation of a new UMW local in the Summer of 1937.

"In Sept. 1937 I heard PMA was having a set down strike at Mine "B". I went to Mine "B" several days as a picket as I was a member of PMA. No one told me I had to act as a picket. In the last part of 1937 an injunction was obtained to prevent picketing at Mine "B". It made no difference to me whether PMA was allowed to picket at Mine "B" or not.

"I did not know of Mine B" opening in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. The election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

"Sometime in the last part of 1939 I received a letter to return to work at Mine "B". I returned to work at Mine "B" in the last part of 1939 as a member of PMA and paid my dues in PMA until I joined UMW sometime in the first part of 1941. No one asked me to join UMW nor did anyone threaten me if I did not join.

"In Feb. 1941 I voted for UMW in the N.L.R.B. election as majority of the miners at Mine "B" were voting for UMW. I think the election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

"UMW won the N.L.R.B. election, therefore, I joined UMW a short time later. No one asked me to join.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I heard some of the miners were beaten because they would not join UMW, but I never saw any fights.

"It makes no difference to me whether I am a member of UMW or PMA.

"I have had this statement containing four pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:-

[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] September 3, 1943. [redacted] has a fair understanding of English although he is uneducated. [redacted] would make a fair Government witness as he is very forceful in his loyalty to PMA. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record.

[redacted] furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 3, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted]

"I started working in a coal mine when I was about [redacted] years old. In about [redacted] I joined the Federation of Miners in Pa. I joined UMW in about [redacted] in Ill. I remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I became a member of PMA. I changed from UMW to PMA because I heard UMW stole the votes cast in 1932 concerning the wage scale.

[redacted] I have held no office in any union since [redacted]

"I was employed at Mine "B" in about [redacted] as a miner and remained in the employment of Mine "B" until May 12, 1937. I am at the present retired.

"Prior to 1932 the management seemed to have been on good relations with UMW.

"I took no active part in the formation of PMA.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted]

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b7D

(continued)

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes or close downs at Mine "B". The management seemed to be on good relations with PMA prior to May 12, 1937 and the management was not hostile in settling grievances.

"I thought PMA was a good union and one which the members operated. No unusual special assessments were made against me. I took no active part in union affairs when I was a member of PMA.

"I did not think the PMA members in the bombing cases got a fair trial. I think UMW produced false evidence in the cases.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 I do not remember UMW setting up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did I see UMW distribute any literature at Mine B.

"About two weeks before May 12, 1937 CHARLES BOHANNON asked me what I would do if UMW took control of Mine "B". I informed him I would quit. BOHANNON said no more. No one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW prior to May 12, 1937.

"Prior to May 12, 1937 I did not see the management of Mine "B" with UMW officals. I heard from unknown sources at Mine "B" that CHARLES BOHANNON, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, JOE ALBANESE, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, GEORGE JACAMAY and EMORY JACAMAY were attempting to organize UMW at mine "B". In the Spring of 1937 I saw the above mentioned men almost every morning in the Mine "B" office talking to someone in that office. I do not know who they talked to in the mine office.

"So far as I know there was no wage scal controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 and I do not remember if I received notice or not.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 someone told me that CHARLES BOHANNON, DOMINIC PASQUALE, FRANK AUSTIN and some others, the names of whom I do not know, were expelled from PMA because they were trying to organize UMW at Mine "B". Someone told me to load the coal cars short on the morning of May 12th and I loaded some cars short that day. I do not know the reason for loading cars short. On the morning of May 12, 1937 there was no growing sentiment to strike. About 2:00 PM May 12, 1937, I was told by a bottom boss that the mine was on strike. I was told by [redacted] a pit committeeman that the strike was called because the management of Mine "B" would not discharge the men expelled from PMA.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

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"I signed a PMA petition at a PMA picket line at Mine "B" in the summer of 1937 naming PMA as my bargaining agent. I signed the petition voluntarily.

"I signed no UMW petition in the summer of 1937.

"I heard a new UMW local was formed in the summer of 1937, but I was not asked to join.

"In Sept. 1937 I heard someway that Mine "B" was to open, therefore, I reported for work. On that morning UMW members were allowed to enter the mine and for that reason PMA refused to work. No one told me I could not work. I acted as a voluntary picket at Mine "B" until an injunction was served by the U. S. Marshal, in Dec. 1937. The PMA members did not think they should have been enjoined from picketing at Mine "B". No outside pickets were brought in to picket.

"I did not know of Mine "B" opening in December 1937 and Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. I think the election was fair.

"I received notice in about Nov. 1939 that Mine "B" was to open as an open mine, but I would not go to work unless PMA got a contract.

"I lost all interest in Mine "B" after 1939 [redacted]

"I have had this five page statement read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent-F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] known as [redacted] was [redacted] interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, on September 3, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] years of age and [redacted] He had great difficulty in speaking and appeared [redacted] The interview was terminated after a short while as it was felt [redacted] made it inadvisable to tax him further. [redacted] It is felt he would make a very poor witness. [redacted] advised he favored PMA, that he no longer likes UMW and that he personally dislikes John L. Lewis because Lewis deals with the operators and forgets the miners.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 23, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] came to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a U. S. citizen in [redacted]

"I started working in mine "B", Springfield, in [redacted] and was a member of the United Mine Workers Union. In May of 1937 Mine "B" closed, and I never got any notice to come back to work-- and never was notified to come back in 1939.

"I was never forced or threatened in any way by anyone from UMW or PMA.

[redacted]

"Just before the Mine "B" closed in May, 1937, there were about twenty or twenty five men in PMA who were really working for UMW. I do not remember whether these men were expelled from PMA but the reason I heard the mine closed was because the company did not want to do business with PMA but wanted to work with UMW. I heard these 'spies' were paid $35.00 a week by UMW while they were members of PMA and working in Mine "B". All this was common talk but I cannot state where I got this information.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"This statement of two pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"WITNESS

[redacted] - Special Agent - F.B.I. /S/
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I." /S/

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, September 8, 1943:

[redacted] Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he never has been arrested in his life. He also said he quit Mine "B" about two years ago.

[redacted] is more intelligent than the ordinary miner and he thoroughly understood all questions and answered them readily. It is felt that he would make a good witness if his testimony were necessary. Agents obtained the following signed statement from him:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made to me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] I first joined U.M.W. about [redacted] years ago at Springfield, Ill., & I never have been an officer. I went to work for Mine B about [redacted] or so & also worked there before once. Before 1932 ELSHOFF & U.M.W. seemed to get along alright but there seemed to be difficulties between committees. I was a blacksmith there. I took no part in going over to P.M.A. as all did & one one forced me to go over. Between 1932 & 1937 they were about same as under U.M.W. but there was no difficulties that I know of. I never heard ELSHOFF or FALCETTI say anything against PMA. I never attended many meetings at all & I just paid my dues & didn't pay any attention to union affairs. I never knew if P.M.A. officials were taking money or doing wrong things but as far as I know they were O.K. & looked after the mens rights. Assessments were about the same as in any union - had them for sick members etc. I never felt they used the money for other purposes than union affairs. Before Mine B closed there were some U.M.W. organizers working in Mine B & I was asked by them to go back to U.M.W. & I told them I would go the way the rest of them did. I never got any literature from them. There were 4 or 5 that I saw around & I believe that some of them were SAMMY; CHARLES BOHANNON & ANDY SCHRELEVIOUS. I never heard of U.M.W. or ELSHOFF giving parties. In spring of 1937 the men were saying we were working without a contract but just a few talked about it & they never were mad about it & they just kept on working. The Pit Committee would handle such matters & I didn't hear any of the above men complain or talk about it. I never heard the company say anything about the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

wages. I heard there was going to be a meeting the night before it closed but I didn't go as I quit then at 2 P.M. On the day the mine closed I heard nothing about the mine going to close. I did not hear anything about some men being expelled the night before. I know nothing of any cars being loaded short. I was just leaving when I saw [redacted] at the mine & other miners at the mine but I kept on going home & I saw them go into the engine room but that evening I heard the men were called out & I did not know of it when I left. I later heard that the trouble was because the P.M.A. didn't want to work with some U.M.W. men. After Mine B closed I believe I signed a petition for P.M.A. & some one came to my house and he didn't force me to sign it. [redacted] brot it to my house. I don't recall of signing any petition for U.M.W. & I can't recall of signing anymore petitions for P.M.A. I heard that U.M.W. formed a new local & I read of it in papers & no one came to me about it. During summer of 1937 I can't recall anything unusal happening & I went to a couple of P.M.A. meetings. I heard that some Mine B men went to Jefferson Mines. I heard ELSHOFF took it over as a Receiver. HAROLD McDONALD, now dead, was over & I think EMORY JACAWAY was over there too. I also heard FALCETTI was over there, too.

"In fall of 1937 I went out on picket line several nights. It didn't make sense to me in going out. The men were quiet & I saw no trouble. The men claimed they might run into some U.M.W. guys. No one made me go out to picket. Nothing bad happened there. I never saw any outsiders doing picket work. I was not there when the U. S. Marshall came out. I heard of the Mine going to be reopened but I didn't go out & I heard of it thru someone. I voted at first N.L.R.B. election at Armory in Springfield, Ill. It was by secret ballot. Everything was O.K. as far as I know. I didn't see any U.M.W. men giving out literature but I saw some standing around. No one told me how to vote. I went to vote right from home. I voted for P.M.A. Later I did not go out when they attempted to reopen it. I heard it was to be opened under U.M.W. so I did not go out. I don't know why ELSHOFF would not sign a contract with P.M.A. but I heard he wouldn't. In fall of 1939 I got a letter to come back to work & I went out & at time I was on P.W.A. I saw FALCETTI & he told me to come to work the next morning. The didn't say a thing about wages or union. After the mine opened there were new men there at the mine. but that was not unusual. I don't know if they were P.M.A. or U.M.W. I went back as P.M.A. & kept on paying dues to them for some time. I never heard ELSHOFF say he wanted U.M.W. back. There were some U.M.W. organizers around & I heard of fights & trouble but never saw any. In summer of 1940 I never signed any cards for P.M.A. or U.M.W. [redacted] came to my house once & said they were going back to U.M.W. & that they alrady elected officers & were going to have a meeting in the U.M.W. Bldg. & that I should come up & I told him I would be there & I did & saw only 8 or 10 in there & I left at once. I think the same bunch was there & EMORY JACAWAY. I joined up with U.M.W. after they won the second N.L.R.B. election. I never saw any preference for U.M.W. over P.M.A. For a while this bunch was talking

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

to all of us about joining up with U.M.W. I voted at second N.L.R.B. election I think -- no, I don't think I did & I don't recall why I didn't go down. I felt that U.M.W. was going to win so didn't go down.

"I don't know what the condition of Mine B was when it opened as I worked on top & it took just a few days to get coal out again. I don't know of a fire at Mine B when it was closed. I was not at a meeting when GLASCOE talked. I had to join up with U.M.W. otherwise I wouldn't have a job.

"I have read over this seven (7) page statement & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge & I can't recall anything else of interest and I have signed this of my own free will."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSES:

[redacted] Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.

Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] September 4, 1943. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] would not make a good witness as it is difficult for him to speak and understand English.

[redacted] provided the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill. make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] emmigrated to the U.S. about [redacted] I am a registered [redacted] I am employed by the [redacted] and was employed by that company in Oct. 1937.

"I was employed by Mine "B" in about [redacted] and remained in the employment of Mine "B" until May 12, 1937 at which time Mine "B" closed.

"I became a member of U.M.W. in about [redacted] when I started mining coal in Ill. I remained a member of UMW until 1932, when I became a member of UMW until 1932, when I became a member of PMA. I became a member of PMA because the local UMW of which I was a member changed from UMW to PMA. I was not active in the formation of PMA.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"Prior to 1932 the management of Mine "B" seemed to have been on good relations with UMW.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B", nor did Mine "B" close down, During that period of time the management of Mine "B" was on good relations with PMA and did not try to discredit PMA to me. Although about six months prior to May 12, 1937 I heard Oscar Falcetti telling some of the miners that Mine "B" was to be UMW within two years from that time. I do not

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] know the reason for Falcetti's remark. From 1932 to May 12, 1937 the management of Mine "B" was not hostile in its attitude settling grievances.

"I think PMA is an honest union, being operated for its members, no unusual special assessments have been made against me. I have never taken an interest in union activities . I am at present a member of PMA and I think it is a good union.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases and I do not know whether the PMA members convicted, got a fair trial or not.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937, so far as I know, UMW did not set up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did UMW distribute any literature at Mine "B". About six months piror to May 12, 1937 Charles Bohannon and Tony Plotch told me that UMW was better than PMA and wanted to know if I wanted to join UMW. I did not answer Bohannon or Plotch and they said no more to me. I do not know if they talked to anyone else. No one other than Bohannon and Plotch made efforts to convert me from PMA to U.M.W.

"I never saw an official of UMW with the management of Mine "B" prior to May 12, 1937.

"I did not know of a wage scale controversy in the spring of 1937.

"On the night of May 11, 1937 I attended a regular meeting of PMA. Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, George Jacaway and Charles Bohannon were to have been expelled that night. I did not stay until the meeting ended and do not remember the details. The members at the meeting were talking about striking the following day as they did not think those expelled would be discharged from Mine "B". I do not know if the above mentioned men defended themselves, but they were charged with attempting to organize Mine "B" for UMW.

"I did not go to work May 12, 1937 as I thought there would be a strike if those expelled from PMA were not discharged, therefore I can furnish no information as to what went on that day. I heard later a strike was called.

"I do not remember signing any petition in the summer of 1937. I know I did not sign an UMW petition.

"I heard a new UMW local was formed in the summer of 1937,

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] but I was not asked to join.

(continued) "Sometime in Sept. 1937 I heard PMA had a picket line at Mine "B". I went to mine "B" two or three times to talk with the pickets, but I did not stay. No one threatened me if I did not act as a picket. I received no notice Mine "B" was to have opened in Sept. 1937.

"I received a job at [redacted] Sherman, Ill. in Oct. 1937 and lost all interest in Mine "B". I can furnish no information as to what occurred at Mine "B" after Oct. 1937. I did vote in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. As far as I know the election was fair.

"I met [redacted] on the street just before Mine "B" reopened in the last part of 1939 at which time he told me Mine "B" was to open as a UMW mine and I should go back to work at Mine "B". I informed him I had a job and did not want to work at Mine "B".

"I have had this statement consisting of five pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

His (X) Mark
[redacted]

Witnessed: -

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] also known as [redacted] was interviewed at his place of employment, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on September 7, [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted] at [redacted] was born in [redacted] resides at [redacted] He stated he has never been arrested. [redacted] speaks and understands English well, but would give no information of value. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943,

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted]

"I first started working in mines when I went to work in Mine "B" in Springfield, Ill. in about 1934. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union at that time because that was the union at Mine "B" at thattime. I worked at Mine "B" from 1934 to 1937 [redacted]

"I do not remember anything about any union activities at Mine "B". I do not remember any trouble between the United Mine Workers of America, PMA, or the company. I know Mine "B" closed down in about May of 1937, but I still do not know why. I do not know anything about what caused the strike, or if it was a strike or a close down.

"I do not know anything about any labor trouble, any union union trouble, or about anyone being expelled from PMA in the spring of 1937.

"After the Mine "B" closed down, I got a job at the Jefferson Mine in Springfield. But I had to join UMW to get the job. No one forced or threatened me in any way.

"I do not remember getting any kind of notice to come back to work at Mine "B"in 1939, but I saw it was going to open by reading the paper, so I went to Mine "B" in Nov. of 1939 and went to work. I was still a number of UMW and as long as I worked in the mines which was

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

until about Nov. 26, 1941. I remained a member of UMW.

"I do not know anything about any union activity or organizing at Mine "B" as long as I was out there. I was working as [redacted] and was a company man, and I never heard of or saw any trouble among the men.

"I remember the National Labor Relations Board held an election but I cannot remember when. I did not vote in this or any other election. I do not remember ever signing at any time any union petitions, either for UMW or PMA.

"When I went back to work in Mine "B" in 1939, I never went back in the mine and I never saw whether or not there had been any fires or caveins while the mine had been closed.

"I have no feelings either for or against either the PMA or UMW. I have belonged to both, and I have no hard feelings toward either. I believe both are honest and I do not know anything wrong about either of them.

"I never noticed that any of the company officials favored either UMW or PMA one over the other.

"I do not know of any fights or trouble of any kind between UMW and PMA in connection with Mine "B". I took no interest in any union activities. I have never held an office in any union and I have never helped to organize any union.

"I have read this statement of three pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Witness (Signed) [redacted]

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent , F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed at his home on September 6, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was cooperative in the interview and expressed his willingness to testify if necessary. He understands English fairly well, but has difficulty in expressing himself. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 6, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made me.

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and am not working at the present time. I was born [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] I was naturalized in [redacted]

"I joined the UMW in [redacted] Missouri, and was a member of that union until 1932, when I was working at Peabody No. 59 when I joined the PMA. When I began working at Mine B, and joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, I was satisfied with the PMA, because the leaders seemed square, and the union seemed pretty good. They didn't have many assessments, merely the regular dues.

"Just before the strike in 1937, I heard that there were some men agitating for the UMW. No one asked me to join, and I don't know whether the agitators worked at the mine. I don't remember going to a PMA meeting on the night before the strike. I heard from some men who went to the meeting that there was to be a strike because Elshoff wouldn't have anything to do with the P.M.A., and only wanted to bargain with the U.M.W. I never heard of any statements made by the management which would show that they preferred the U.M.W. to the P.M.A. I don't remember hearing that any men were kicked out of the P.M.A. Because I had heard that there was to be a strike, I didn't go to work on that day. I don't think the wage dispute had anything to do with the strike. When the P.M.A. got only a temporary agreement with Mine B, the miners felt that the P.M.A. officers could get as good a wage scale as U.M.W., and were satisfied with their efforts. I don't know anything more about the strike, or the reasons for it.

"I don't remember signing a petition for any union, or being asked to sign one. I don't ever remember being asked to join a UMW local. I got a letter about a U.M.W. membership, but don't remember the date of it. In

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

December of 1937 I voted for P.M.A. because I liked conditions under that union, better than under the U.M.W. I wasn't forced to vote a certain way, but could vote as I pleased, and think the election was fair.

"I remember, that in the fall of 1937, I went out to the mine to the picket line. No one made me go out there, but, as a member of P.M.A., I went out to protect my tools and property, and to keep the U.M.W. men from going down into the mine. I think Elshoff got the injunction so the U.M.W. men could get into the mine, rather than to protect his property. I saw only Mine B men on the picket line.

"In the fall of 1939, I went back to Mine B when it opened, to get my tools and clean up the work I had left in 1937. I only stayed about [redacted] and couldn't work in the mines any longer. I was not contacted by anyone to join the U.M.W. in the [redacted] I was at the mine. After I left the mine, I heard men, among them [redacted] say that they had to join the U.M.W. or they would lose their jobs.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of approximately two and one half pages, read to me, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

(s) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill. "

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 5, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This man has a fair understanding of the English language and can express himself sufficiently to be understood. He said that he was put in jail one night for some trouble in his neighborhood, but denied any other arrest record. He stated that he is willing to testify if necessary.

The following signed statement was obtained::

"Springfield, Ill.
September 5, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I am employed at Panther Creek Mine #5.

"I was born on [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted] in Springfield, Ill.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I began to work in Mine B in [redacted] I have never held any office in any union.

"In 1932 I went with the men when all of them joined the P.M.A. From 1932 until 1937 the men and officers of P.M.A. treated me O.K. The officers did all they could to help the miners. I liked the P.M.A. better than the U.M.W. for this reason. When I went back to work in 1939 I was still a member of P.M.A. I quit working at Mine B in 1940 because I did not want to join the U.M.W.

"After the mine reopened in 1939 [redacted] told me that if I did not join the U.M.W. I would get beat up. After this I quit because I did not want to join U.M.W., and because I did not want to get beat up.

"One day when I was in Mine B I recall that I asked [redacted] who was a driver, for some more rails in my room. [redacted] said that if I joined up with U.M.W. I would get more rails, and everything would be better in the mine, but that as long as P.M.A. had the contract

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

with Mine B conditions would be no better and the miners would not get anything.

"I remember that Schrelevious came to my house a couple of times after the mine reopened, and tried to get me to join U.M.W. He said that I better join the U.M.W., and that if I did not join U.M.W. I would not have a job at Mine B. I told him that I would stay in P.M.A., and then Schrelevious said that soon there would not be any P.M.A.

"I think that Sam (Joe Albanese) came to my house a couple of times. I can't remember his name very well. He tried to get me to join U.M.W., and said that if I did not join U.M.W., I would get a beating.

"As long as I was working at Mine B, I did not hear much about the miners being beaten up. I heard that the rough stuff started after I quit working at Mine B.

"When the strike started in 1937, I think that the reason for it was that there were some U.M.W. men working in Mine B, and the P.M.A. union threw those men out of their union. When the company at Mine B refused to fire these men,, the miners who were in P.M.A. struck.

"In September 1937 the management would not let P.M.A. go into the mine, and wanted the U.M.W. men to go into the mine. When the company tried to reopen the mine in the fall of 1937, the first day the U.M.W. men went into the mine. On the second day the P.M.A. would not let the U.M.W. men go into the mine. I think that Elshoff got the federal injunction to keep the P.M.A. men off his premises so that the U.M.W. men could go into Mine B and work.

"In the election in 1937 I voted at the State Armory for the P.M.A. because I liked that union, and I wanted to keep it at Mine B. I did not like U.M.W. I don't remember signing any petitions in 1937.

"After the mine reopened in 1939 the U.M.W. men got better rooms and better working conditions than the P.M.A. men. A man known as [redacted] was an air checker, but he never did any work. He merely walked around trying to organize the men for U.M.W. [redacted] told me that if I did not join the U.M.W. there would be a lot of trouble, but he never told me that I would get beat up. However, he inferred that I would be beat up if I did not join the U.M.W. He talked to me about three or four times.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Other men also talked to me about joining the U.M.W., but I can't remember their names. In the fall of 1940 I quit working at Mine B because I did not want to join the U.M.W. and I knew I would get beat up if I did not join the U.M.W.

"I remember that before the strike started Schrelevious used to say that there was going to be trouble at Mine B. I don't remember him saying anything about the U.M.W. He was just trying to make trouble among the miners. I don't know of any other trouble makers.

"I never heard Falcetti or Elshoff say anthing about their liking U.M.W. better than P.M.A. I did hear that 12 U.M.W. men had been on social parties with Falcetti and Elshoff, but I never saw any of these parties.

"This statement consisting of this and two other typewritten pages has been read to me, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Witnesses: (Signed) [redacted]

[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] understands English fairly well, and can express himself intelligently, but with difficulty. He claimed to have no criminal record. If necessary, he is willing to testify in court.

[redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I am employed at Mine A.

"I was born on [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted] at Springfield, Ill.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] In 1936 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America when I was working at Mine B. In 1942 I rejoined the U.M.W. when they took over the contract at Mine A.

"I began to work at Mine B in 1936. I had nothing to do with the organization of P.M.A. After I became a member of P.M.A. I was satisfied with that union. However, one union is just about the same as any other untion to me. I was entirely satisfied with P.M.A.

"No one contacted me before the strike in 1937 about joining U.M.W.

"Before the strike I heard that some U.M.W. men were trying to get men to join the U.M.W. I know of two men who did this, but I can't remember their names.

"I know nothing about the wage scale dispute. I attended a few P.M.A. union meetings, but I don't remember whether I went to the meeting on the night before the strike started or not. I do remember that at a few meetings there was some discussion about kicking some men out of the union because of their U.M.W. activities.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
[redacted]
(continued)

"I can't remember how the strike started, or why it started. The miners started to load their cars with short weights. I remember that we were called out of the mine just before quitting time. I don't know why the miners were loading their cars with short weights, but it might have been over some trouble with the U.M.W. organizers.

"I remember that I signed a P.M.A. petition in 1937, but I can't remember what it was for. I don't remember signing any other petition. I know that I did not sign a petition for U.M.W.

"Nobody came to my house after the strike began to get me to join the U.M.W.

"In September 1937 I think that I received a notice from the management of the mine that the mine would reopen. As I recall the P.M.A. had a meeting the day before the day the mine was to reopen, and it was decided at this meeting that the P.M.A. men would picket the mine if any U.M.W. men were allowed to go down into the mine. Falcetti, the super, tried to push the P.M.A. men away from the cage to let the U.M.W. men get into the cage to go into the mine. The P.M.A. men picketed the mine so that the U.M.W. men could not go into the mine to take away the jobs of the P.M.A. men. The P.M.A. men only wanted to protect their jobs.

"I was in the picket line in 1937 for a long time. I can't remember just how long it was. There were only Mine B men on the picket line. No one forced me to go on the picket line. The P.M.A. had a meeting, and voted to picket the mine if the management tried to put U.M.W. men into the mine.

"While the picketing was going, I obtained a job at Mine A. I have been working at Mine A ever since. I don't know what went on at Mine B after I left. I heard a lot of rumors, but I only want to tell what I know personally.

"I joined the U.M.W. when that union obtained a majority of the miners at Mine A. I was not forced to join U.M.W. I was tired of the strike that had happened at Mine B, and I did not want the same thing to happen at Mine A. I don't care which union I belong to; one is just as good as another.

"This statement consisting of two typewritten pages has been read to me and I state it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I. Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. Springfield, Ill.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, Ill., was interviewed at his home on September 3, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] able to express himself clearly without hesitation. He speaks English very well, and is able to understand any type of questioning. He advised that he is willing to testify in court. [redacted] claimed to have no criminal record.

The following is the signed statement of [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 3, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I was born on [redacted] At present I working for the [redacted]

"I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, about [redacted] I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I rejoined the U.M.W. sometime early in 1941. I don't recall whether it was before or after the February election in 1941. [redacted]

"I began to work at Mine B about [redacted] When the P.M.A. was organized in 1932, I had no part in its formation. I merely went along with the majority when I joined P.M.A. I saw that the majority of the miners wanted the P.M.A. union so I went along with them. I always like to go along with the majority. It seems to me that there was some wrangling at Mine B, but I don't recall what it was about because I always tried to tend to me own business. I don't recall any big trouble at Mine B prior to the strike in 1937.

"After I joined P.M.A. I was always satisfied with that union. The officers were a good bunch of men, and treated the miners squarely. I did not go to many of the union meetings because I was not interested in union affairs. I always considered the P.M.A. a good clean union.

"I don't remember any agitating on the part of any men to turn the miners over to U.M.W. before the strike started in 1937.

"As I recall the men in the spring of 1937 knew that they were working without a permanent contract. All the men, so far as I know, thought

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

that the P.M.A. officials could get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. I don't remember much that happened in this matter because I did not want to have anything to do with it.

"I don't recall going to the P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike started, and I don't remember seeing any notice of the meeting. On the day the strike started in 1937, someone told me that the men were quitting. I heard that some of the miners were sending out cars loaded with short weights, but I don't know if there was any organized plan for the miners to load their cars short. I don't know what the trouble was, and I don't know the reasons for the strike. I later heard that some miners had been agitating for U.M.W., and that the agitators had loaded their cars with short weights. I don't know anything more about the strike.

"I don't remember signing a petition for P.M.A. in 1937, but I know that I did not sign a petition for U.M.W.

"After the strike began Cotton Ananias came to my home and asked me to join the U.M.W. I remember that he said something about Mine B reopening if the U.M.W. had the miners. I saw Ananias several times, but he only came to my home on one occasion. I saw him a couple of times in town. I think that Cotton Ananias told me that the Mine B officials would reopen the mine when U.M.W. had a majority of the miners, but would not open Mine B as long as P.M.A. had a majority of the miners. However, I am not certain that Ananias did say this. I do know that he did not threaten me. Nor did anyone else threaten me.

"I heard that Mine B was going to reopen in September 1939. I went to the P.M.A. union hall and found out that the mine was going to reopen. I also heard that the U.M.W. was going to come in and take some jobs away from P.M.A. men. As I recall there were about 8 or 10 U.M.W. men that were going into the mine. The P.M.A. decided to picket the mine to keep out the U.M.W. men. I don't know when the P.M.A. decided to picket the mine. I went out to the picket line because I wanted to. I stayed with the rest of the men. I saw only Mine B men there.

"It is my opinion that Elshoff got the Federal injunction to keep the P.M.A. men away from the mine so that the mine could get U.M.W. men into the mine.

"I voted in the election in December 1937 at the State Armory, and voted for the P.M.A. I was satisfied with that union, and wanted to keep it. I don't know anything about the details of the election.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I don't remember getting a notice of reopening of the mine in 1939. I don't recall how I learned that the mine was to reopen.

"After I went back to work at Mine B after the reopening in November 1939, Cudge Baumgardner spoke to me about joining U.M.W. He said that the U.M.W. would win the next election, and I inferred from what he said that I would lose my job if I did not sign up. Cotton Ananias also spoke to me several times about joining U.M.W. Bohannon, who was my driver, did not insist too strongly that I join the U.M.W. I remember that [redacted] told me that I had better come to the U.M.W. meeting because the mine was going U.M.W., and there would be no job for me if I did not sign up with U.M.W. Frank Austin also talked to me about joining U.M.W. Tony Plotch told me that Mine B was going U.M.W., but I don't remember that Plotch ever asked me to join the U.M.W. Jimmie Hale spoke to me several times about joining U.M.W. a couple of time. [redacted] also talked to me several times about joining U.M.W. He did not have much to say. None of these men ever threatened me or abused me.

"I recall that [redacted] was an air checker at Mine B. There was no such position at the mine before the strike started in 1937. [redacted] spent most of his time talking to the miners.

"I heard a lot of rumors about U.M.W. activities going on in Mine B, but I can't remember exactly what these rumors were. One morning in the wash house at Mine B, I saw [redacted] beaten up by two or three fellows. These three fellows at the same time beat up [redacted]. The fellows who did the beating were [redacted] a man known as [redacted] and the son of [redacted]. I did not see anyone else beat any of the miners. It is my opinion that these men were beat up because they would not join the U.M.W. As I recall [redacted] and [redacted] both told me this. But, even if they did not tell me, I am sure in my own mind that that is the reason why these men were beaten up. I also recall that a fellow named [redacted] was beaten up. The sheriff was at the mine when these beatings were going on, but he did not do anything.

"In my opinion the management seemed to do everything they could do for the U.M.W. men, and everything they could do to harm the P.M.A. men. The U.M.W. men were very friendly with the management, and seemed to be running the show themselves, not Elshoff.

"About a week after [redacted] was beaten up, I signed up with U.M.W. I heard that there were only 16 men left in the P.M.A. when I left them to sign up with U.M.W. I heard that everyone was signing up with U.M.W., and I had an idea that if I did not join the U.M.W. soon, someone would try to give me a beating.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I saw [redacted] down in Mine B after he had been beaten up. Everyone thought that Bohannon did it, but Bohannon could not have done it because I was with Bohannon when [redacted] was brought out. Bohannon could not have beaten [redacted] in the short time that he was away from me that day. [redacted] was very active in P.M.A., and I think Baumgardner beat him.

"I was dissatisfied with the mine and the union fights. I became fed up with the mine as a whole and decided to quit.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and four other typewritten pages, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents - FBI
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 5, 1943.

At his residence [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he has never been in any trouble nor has he ever been arrested. He appeared to be fairly cooperative and it is believed that he would not make a very good witness unless his testimony was necessary. He appeared to understand questions and gave answers to them, but cannot read the English language very well. He indicated he did not know much about the trouble and this may be true, because he was working nights and never attended union meetings. The following signed statement was obtained from him.

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 5, 1943

"I, [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Spec. Agts. of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made to to procure this statement and I give it of my own free will. I started at mine 'B' in Feb. 1937 as a timberman I have worked there ever since working from 9:00 PM to 4:30 AM. I was born in [redacted] I came to the U.S. in [redacted] and became a citizen in [redacted] at Springfield. I first joined a mine union in [redacted] this was a U.M.W. union. I have never been a union officer. I dropped U.M.W. and became P.M.A. when I went to work at Mine 'B'. I joined P.M.A. because at that time I had to to work at mine 'B'. During the few months I was at mine 'B' the P.M.A. and Elshoff got along alright so far as I know. I was working nights and knew nothing of what happened in the day time. So far as I know the P.M.A. men got on alright with their officials. I did not attend meetings as I worked nights. I just did my job and paid my dues. Before the mine closed the P.M.A. seemed to be taking more dues than they should I dont know what this was for but they would take from $1.50 to $3.00 when they were only supposed to take $1.50. The only special assessments were death benefits. I never saw the U.M.W. picket mine 'B' prior to the strike. I no nothing of any efforts of any kind to switch the men from P.M.A. to U.M.W.

"I never heard anything about any parties being given by Elshoff to U.M.W.

"When the union contract ran out in 1937 I saw in the papers that there was to be a temporary agreement until final settlement could be reached. We felt settlement could be reached. We felt that any contract gotten by either U.M.W. or P.M.A. would be the same. There were no disputes at the mine on paydays just prior to the strike nor were

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

there any slowdowns or stoppages. I never heard anything about the management saying anything about the wage question. I dont know or bother about such things_ I just attend to my own business.

"I did not go to work the night of May 12, 1937. I went to the mine but someone from the union called out to the mine and told us not to go down that they were on strike. [redacted] the engineer told me we were on strike he did not tell me why. I still dont why the strike started. I dont remember signing any petition for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. the summer of 1937. I heard that summer that U.M.W. had formed a local in Springfield but no one asked me to join. I remember nothing of interest happening during the summer of 1937. When the Co. attempted to open the mine in Sept. 1937, I read it was to open. Several of us went out but did not go on the mine property. The sit-down started either that same day or the next one. I used to go out once in a while during the sit down strike I stayed out there 5 or 6 days in all. I went out of my own free will when I did go. The P.M.A. men were there to protect the mine. There were no outsiders there and everything was peaceful. I was not there when the marshall came.

"I heard through the papers that they were going to open the mine on Dec. 13, 1937. I did not go out.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election, this was by secret ballot and I still do not care to tell which way I voted. I know P.M.A. won and feel this was the way most of the men felt.

"I was not at the mine when they tried to open it in 1938 in Jan.

"As far as I know the reason the mine was closed so long was because Elshoff wouldn't open it with a Progressive union and the men said that if he wouldn't open it as Progressive they wouldnt open it at all.

"I heard that Falsetti was operating the Jefferson mine while Mine "B" was closed_ this was just talk so far as I knew.

"When the mine opened in 1939, I got a letter telling me to come back within a certain no. of days. I went & saw Falsetti and he told me to come to work that night. Nothing was said at this time as to the wage scale. After the mine opened I continued to pay my dues to P.M.A. I did not join U.M.W. till after the 2nd election when I turned over in order to keep my job.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"From the time the mine opened till after the 2nd N.L.R.B. election nobody ever came to me at home or at the mine to join the U.M.W. After U.M.W. won the election I heard you had to join U.M.W. to keep your job so I joined up. I never heard any statement by the management as to which union they would prefer. I knew nothing of any acts of favortism. I dont know whether there were a lot of new men in the mine as I never saw the men.

"I voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election, this was an honest election as far as I know. No one told me how to vote and I never saw anybody with leaflets or anything. This was by secret ballot and I still dont care to state how I voted. I paid P.M.A. dues to the month before the lection.

"The mine was in bad shape when it opened, lots of cave-ins and lots of slate. I dont know how much it cost to put it back in shape but it was 3 weeks before it could open.

"I know nothing of any fire at the mine in 1939.

"I know nothing of any meeting where Jack Blascow was kicked out.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read to me the foregoing statement consisting of 7 pages and to the best of my knowledge it is all true. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

Signed: [redacted]

Witnessed:
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I. (Milw.)

Springfield, Ill
Sept. 5, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 7, 1943.

At the residence of [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, which is the address of [redacted] he was interviewed and advised that he has never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that [redacted] appeared to be more intelligent than the ordinary miner and he readily understood the questions asked him. He was very cooperative and he will make a good witness if he is called upon to testify. He furnished Agents with the following signed statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943

"I [redacted] hereby give the following statement to [redacted], who are known to me to be Spec. Agts. of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement.

"I was born [redacted] I came to the U. S. in [redacted] I am now waiting for my final papers. I first started at mine "B" in [redacted] I am a coal-digger. I first joined a mine union about [redacted] in [redacted] this was U.M.W. I have never held a union office.

"From the time I went to mine "B" till 1932 I know nothing of the relation between Elshoff and the U.M.W. I joined the P.M.A. in 1932 because everyone else at mine "B" joined.

"There was no trouble between Elshoff and the P.M.A. from 1932 to 1937. I no nothing about Elshoff or Falsetti making any statement opposed to P.M.A. or favoring U.M.W. during this time. I believe they got along alright.

"From 1932 to 1937 the P.M.A. men got along alright with their union officials. In this period the men were given their say in union affairs when they wanted. I attended union meetings at this period when I felt like it. I never felt the union officers were spending union money wrong. They made regular reports to the union members on the money. We had no unusual assessments during this time, there was a 10% assessment to help other miners.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"Before the strike in 1937, I never saw the U.M.W. picket mine B and never got any literature or pamphlets from them. There were five men in P.M.A. who wanted to get the P.M.A. men to join U.M.W. Some of those I remember are "Sammie" Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, & Chas. Bohanon. Most of them never bothered me before the mine closed. But I heard that they were around contacting others. I knew nothing about any "Parties" being given by Elshoff for U.M.W. officials or U.M.W. for him.

"When the union contract ran out in 1937, we were told by P.M.A. officials that there was a temporary agreement under which we were to get back pay for any increase we might get. We all felt at this time that the P.M.A. would get the same contract as U.M.W. The men seemed satisfied with the way the contract was being handled and there was no fussing about pay on pay day. I don't know any thing about what the so-called U.M.W. spies had to say at this time. The management said nothing about the wage question. I did not go to any meeting the day before the strike and did not know anything about it. The morning of the strike I heard that the Company would not fire five men who where for the U.M.W., there was nothing said about wages that morning. The miners felt these men should have been fired. I knew nothing about any cars being loaded short on the day of the strike. I knew nothing about any strike until quitting time. I was in box [redacted] When we came on top I heard a strike was called because the Co. would not fire the 5 U.M.W. agitators. For a couple of weeks after this we had a picket line at Mine "B" this was on the road away from the mine and was entirely peaceful and voluntary. We were just there to protect our jobs.

"I remember signing a petition on the road while out on the road picketing. I signed this of my own free will. This was to show that the most of the men were P.M.A., they wanted to see how many were P.M.A. & how many U.M.W.

"I don't remember anyone saying any thing to me about signing any U.M.W. petition.

"I don't remember signing any other petition for P.M.A. I would have been willing to however.

"I saw in the summer of 1937, by the papers, that U.M.W. was forming a local in Springfield. I remember nothing else happening during this summer.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I went to the mine the first day that the mine opened in 1937, I read it was to open in the paper. I went to the mine to work. When I got there the U.M.W. officials were in the mine office and told me if I would join I could go to work. I refused to do this. I saw some of the men previously mentioned go down into the mine. I remember "Sammie" went down with clean clothing on. I went home and heard that night the P.M.A. was going to picket so I went to help. We went to protect our job. We were there of own will, to protect our job and gaurd the property. There was no trouble during this, all of the men there were from our own local. We were allowed to go and come as we pleased. A few U.M.W. men came out but they said nothing they were just there to look. I was at the mine the evening the marshall came out, he read something to us & told us we had to leave. We were heartbroken over this feeling we had lost our job.

"I did not go out when they tried to open the mine a few days later. I did hear about it.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election. I went right from home to the Armory. I voted for P.M.A. because that was the way I wanted to vote. This was an honest and good election, by secret ballot. I did not see any U.M.W. men or anyone else giving out literature at that time.

"I heard on the radio that Mine B was open in Jan. 1938 and that some men had gone to work, but I did not go out.

"I know nothing about how Elshoff was able to keep the mine closed so long. I heard that Tony Plotch was working at the Jefferson mine, his uncle "Tony" told me. I knew nothing of Falsetti going to work there.

"I got a registered letter telling me when the mine was to open in 1939. I went out on Nov. 10, 1939 at that time I saw Falsetti who asked me my check number and put me back to work at once in my own room . Nothing was said about wages or unions at the time. I figured we would get the Ill. union wages.

"We knew Elshoff would not deal with the P.M.A. but had no idea why.

"I paid P.M.A. dues after we went back and up unil 2nd N.L.R.B. election when I joined U.M.W. Tony Plotch, John "Cotton" Ananais, and a third men came and saw [redacted] and myself at [redacted] home, to get us to sign up for U.M.W. I believe this was in August 1940. I told them I would not join until the P.M.A. local did, they did not threaten me but they told me I would have no job if I did not join. A short time later

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Sammie" Joe Albanese came to get us to join the U.M.W. two other men were with him him stayed in the car. He wanted to know when we were going to join up with U.M.W. but he made no threats. [redacted] told "Sammie" that if her husband joined up with the scabs she was going to divorce him. Still later [redacted] talked to me in the mine asking me to join U.M.W. I again refused to join and he told me I better join before the time was up or I would have no job. The P.M.A. never did any thing to keep their men or get new ones. I saw plenty of new faces at the mine a couple or so months after the mine opened. Many of these men left after the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. The mine management did nothing at this time to show that they favored the U.M.W. over the P.M.A. I got lots of docks after I went back but I can't say whose fault it was. I don't remember signing any cards for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. in the summer of 1940.

"I never saw anyone get heat up at the mine. I saw lots of them go away with black eyes, but I never saw the fights though I heard about plenty.

"When we went back to work the mine was in bad condition. I do not know any thing about any fire in 1939 or while the mine was closed.

"I voted at the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. I voted for P.M.A. I had already joined the U.M.W., because I felt I had to. I think the election was honest, it was by secret ballot just like the first one. I was not forced to vote.

"I joined about a month before the election. I was iniated into it with the last group.

"I don't remember any meeting where Jack Glascow was kicked out.

"I have had Spec. Agt. [redacted] read this 10 page statement to me as I have difficulty reading & to the best of my knowledge and belief the information therein is all true and correct. I am therefor signing it of my own free will."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)"

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943"

RE:
JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] stated that in view of the fact he has a great deal of difficulty in speaking the English language, he had never paid much attention to Union activities at the mine. [redacted] stated also that his memory is vague as to the chronological order of events that took place in 1937.

It is believed that [redacted] would only make a fair witness.

There is being set forth below the signed statement executed by [redacted] at the time of this interview:

"9/3/43
[redacted], Ill.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted]. I became a U. S. citizen in [redacted] and presently reside on [redacted]

"I started work as a Miner in [redacted] and joined the U M W at that time. I have never held any office in any union. I go to about half the union meetings. I started working at Mine D in March of [redacted] when I started work at Mine D I was already a member of the P M W union.

"I remember that our contract with the Mine expired on March 31, 1937 and our union was trying to get a new contract with better wages. [redacted] told us to go ahead and work and when the contract was signed he would see to it that we would get back pay. We worked about a month and still we didn't get any back pay and we didn't know what the terms of the new contract were to be.

"At about this same time I heard that some of the Progressive men were trying to organize for the U.M.W. These men were telling us that Progressive wouldn't be able to get us a good contract. I remember [redacted] was one of the men who was talking about the contract. I never heard that any of these men were ever expelled from the union. I did not attend any meeting when the men were kicked out of the union.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I remember that I went to work as usual on the day of the strike. I was a digger in box [redacted] and our union man, [redacted] told us not to load the cars full until the company kicked the men out who were supposed to be members of united. I loaded cars short just like the rest were doing and I think it was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon when we were told to leave the pit. I came on top and washed up and then came home. I didn't talk to anybody, and didn't realize the mine was on strike when I came home. I can't remember whether I went back to work the next day or not.

"I don't remember ever signing a petition for Progressive in the spring or summer of 1937. I went out to the mine in Sept. of 1937 because I heard the mine was going to open again. When we heard that the Company was going to let the U. M. W. men work with us we decided we wouldn't work and that all of us would sit down at the mine. I stayed on the picket line for about 7 weeks. Our union officers told us we had to stay on picket duty if we wanted to hold our job. I came home during the time I was on picket duty to look over my house in [redacted] and clean up. The men didn't want me to come home, but I came home anyway. Nobody ever threatened me or hit me for leaving the picket line. I wasn't on picket duty when the picket line was stopped by the injunction in Dec. of 1937.

"I voted in the N L R B election of Dec. 1937 and as far as I was concerned everything went along fine. There wasn't any fighting and the men voted the way they wanted to.

"In November of 1939 I got a letter from the Company telling me to come back to work. I went to the mine on Saturda and was told to come back to work on Monday. I went back to work the next Monday and started in at my old section.

"I kept up my dues in P M A for some time after I started back at the mine. I kept telling Pohannon and others who wanted me to join United , that I wouldn't join until the majority joined. Nobody ever threatened me to join any union. I joined the United because there wasn't any difference in either union as far as I could see. They both make you pay dues and I'll go whichever way the rest go. Nobody has ever bothered me at the mine and as far as I'm concerned I can't say much as to what the union has done. I am still employed at Mine B.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"This entire statement of 4 pages has been read to me by [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses

[redacted]

[redacted]) Special Agents, FBI
[redacted]) U. S. Dept. of Justice"

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed on September 5, 1943 at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks English with difficulty but is able to understand it fairly well. Throughout the interview [redacted] stated that he has always considered the U.M.W. to be a better union than the P.M.A. He claimed to have no criminal record. Following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 5, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and work at Mine B. I was born [redacted], and came to the United States in [redacted]. I was naturalized in Springfield in [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] Auburn, Ill, and remained a member until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. In 1941 I rejoined the U.M.W. I began work at Mine B around 1928. I have never been an officer in any union. In 1932, I became a member of the PMA, when the miners split up with U.M.W. I took no part in reorganizing the P.M.A., and don't know the reason it started. I always have liked the U.M.W. better than the P.M.A., because I feel we had better conditions under that union. I went to some of the P.M.A. meetings, mostly because we were fined 50¢ if we didn't go.

"I dont remember any P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike. On the day of the strike, some of the men were loading their cars short, however, I loaded mine full.

"Around quitting time [redacted] told me the mine was shutting down. I don't know why the strike was called, and don't even remember hearing any reasons for the strike. I don't remember signing any petitions in 1937.

"In September of 1937 a picket line was thrown around the mine. I didn't want to go out to picket the mine, because I was sick, but the P.M.A. officials made me go. I was on the picket line for two days. We were picketing to keep the U.M.W. men from working in the mine. All the men in the picket line were from Mine B. When the company got the injunction to get the men off the premises, [redacted] told the men to get off the property.

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RE: INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"In the election of December 1937, I voted for P.M.A. at the Arsenal. I was a member of the P.M.A. at that time, and was working at Panther Creek Number 5. I favored the U.M.W. but voted for P.M.A. because they had the majority.

"From 1938 to 1940, I was working at Panther Creek Number 5, and don't remember getting any notices that Mine B was going to open up. I don't remember getting any notices before the mine opened in 1939. I don't remember that anyone came to me during that time to get me to join the U.M.W.

"I got a notice that Mine B would reopen, and that I could have my old job back. I didn't go back to work until December 1940, because there was no room for me before that time. In the election of February, 1941, I voted for the U.M.W. because I thought it was a better union, and liked it better. No one made me vote that way. I joined the U.M.W. just after the election. I never heard the management of Mine B say anything that would show they liked U.M.W. better than P.M.A., or vice versa. I have always thought that the U.M.W. was a better union than the P.M.A., and would rather be a member of U.M.W.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of approximately two and a half pages, read to me, and state that it is the truth to the best of knowledge.

[redacted]

"Witnesses:

[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.,
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He does not understand English well, and the interview was conducted with difficulty. He appears friendly and cooperative, but due to his poor understanding of English, together with [redacted] it is not felt that he would make a satisfactory witness. The statement which was secured from him is set forth as follows:

[redacted] Ill.
9-6-43

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U.S. in [redacted]. I presently reside at [redacted] and have been a U.S. citizen a long time. I am presently employed at Mine A. I started mining in [redacted] and joined the U.M.W. in that year. I have never held any office in any union.

"I was working at Panther Creek #1 in 1932 when I joined the Progressives. I started working at Mine B in about 1935 and was working there at the time of the strike in 1937. In the Spring of 1937 I recall that the union contract with the company had expired & the union was trying to get a new contract. I also recall that at about this same time some men were trying to organize for United. I know that everyone seemed to be satisfied with Progressive except for about 14 men who were trying to organize for United. As far as I know everyone was satisfied at the mine except those men. Some of the men who were trying to organize were Tony Plotch, Bohannon, Albanese, Pasquale, Andy and others. I remember that these men were trying to tell the other men to join up with United. I always told these men that I would sign up with United when the rest did. I said if everybody joined I would. I believe Tony Plotch asked me to join United before the strike.

"I went to work as usual in box [redacted] on the day of the strike and I remember that there was some argument as to whether the Progressive men were going to let those United men work. There were some men in the company office and they said they didn't want the men to work. We all started on our jobs & lot of the men loaded short cars, but I loaded my cars as usual.

"As I remember it we worked until about 2 O'clock in the afternoon when we were told to come out of the mine. At about that time I saw some of the cars that were loaded short. When I came on top I was told

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

that there was a strike on. I think [redacted] told our men that a strike had been called.

"I don't remember signing any petitions in the summer of 1937 - either Progressive or United. As I remember it, the company tried to open the mine in Sept. of 1937. I went out there and stayed on the picket line off and on until the Marshal came with an injunction in Dec. of 1937. I came home once in a while to clean up and nobody ever told me I couldn't go home. The men all said we had to go on the picket line or we would be called scabs and maybe we would lose our job.

"I voted in the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937 at the Armory in Springfield. I heard a few of the men arguing, but I didn't see any fighting or trouble.

"I went back to work at the mine in November of 1939 when the mine reopened. I worked at the mine for about 5 or 6 months [redacted] I think I went back to my same place in box [redacted] when I went back to work in Mine B in 1939. I was out of work for about 5 or 6 months [redacted] I went back to Mine B and asked them for a job. Everybody said the company had a contract with United and a man had to be a member of United before they would hire you. This might have been in the early part of 1941. When they told me they wouldn't have a job for me right away, I went and got a job with Mine A and still work for Mine A.

"This entire statement of four pages has read to me by [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory.

Signed [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI, U.S. Dept. of Justice. "

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois on 9-3-43. At his residence on [redacted] Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he has never been arrested in his life. It was noted that he had great difficulty in understanding the questions and he speaks English very poorly and is of extremely low mentality. It is believed that he would make a very poor witness unless his testimony were absolutely necessary. Agents obtained the following signed statement from him:

"Sept. 3, 1943
[redacted] Ill.

"I, [redacted] hereby give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be spec. agts. of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement. I was born [redacted] I came to the U.S. about [redacted] and became a citizen of the U.S. [redacted] ago at Springfield, Ill. I have not been working for the last [redacted] I first joined a union over [redacted] years ago. I have never been a union officer. When I first went to Mine "B" there was a U.M.W. union there I dont remember how long ago that was. I worked there up until Christmas time about [redacted]

"When I first went to work at Mine "B" the U.M.W. union they had there was alright so far as I know. I dont know anything about the relation between this union and Mr. ELSHOFF or FALSETTI.

"I joined the P.M.A. union when they came in because it was the union there and you had to belong to keep your job. I took no part in forming this union.

"During most of the time we had a Progressive Union at Mine "B" everything was alright as I remember. I heard something about Mr. ELSHOFF wanting to change from P.M.A. back to U.M.W. but I knew nothing of this myself. So far as I know Mr. FALSETTI or Mr. ELSHOFF never said anything to discredit the P.M.A. leaders. While we had the Progressive Union everything was alright. I did not know anything about any trouble between the P.M.A. members and their leaders. The P.M.A. was a good union and fed lots of poor miners. I know nothing about the finances of the Progressives, I went down to meetings lots of times but didnt attend regular because it was too far from here. When there was any question as to what the union should do it was voted on our leaders did not tell us what to do.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"Before the strike in 1937 the U.M.W. never bothered us at Mine "B" in any way that I know. Nobody ever tried to get me to join U.M.W. then.

"I never heard of Mr. ELSHOFF giving any parties for U.M.W. men or officials.

"I never heard anything about the temporary wage agreement between [redacted] and Mr. ELSHOFF. I always thought the P.M.A. was a better union and could do as much for the men as any other. I dont remember any fuss over pay at the mine prior to the strike as I recall everything was alright.

"I dont remember whether or not there was a meeting of the Progressives the night before the mine closed if there was such a meeting I did not go to it.

"I dont remember anything about the men being expelled from the Progressives just before the strike. I dont know the reason this strike was called.

"I heard that some of the cars were loaded short on the day of the strike I didn't see any of this however and did not do it myself. I think it was JOHN SCHNIEDER who told the men to load the cars short. I heard no talk in the territory where I was about going on strike. When we came up on top I think [redacted] told us we were not going back into the mine any more, I dont remember the reason for this or whether he gave us any reason or not.

"I dont remember signing any petitions after the strike started for either the Progressives or the United Mine Workers. I dont remember any body trying to get me to sign anything after the strike started.

"I dont remember any thing about the U.M.W. forming a local the summer of 1937.

"There may have been U.M.W. spies in the P.M.A. but I dont know any of them or who they were. I dont recall anything about what these men might have done at the time of the strike or from then until the mine reopened.

"I dont remember any thing about the attempt to open the mine in Sept. 1937. I do remember the picketing there and I took part in it. I was there most of the time except to come home and change clothes once in a while. The men who took part in the picketing were just the local P.M.A. men. I dont recall any union meeting where the P.M.A. decided what to do when the mine tried to open under U.M.W. I just heard that the

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] P.M.A. was picketing out at the mine so my buddy and [redacted] Ph.) went over to help.
(continued)

"Nobody threatened me if I didn't go to help with the picketing. I went of my own will. The first day there were about 10 U.M.W. men over by the Co. office the sheriff sent these men home, because if he hadn't maybe there would have been some fights. After this the U.M.W. men did not come back. The picketing was peaceful and nobody was hurt or bothered. We were just at the mine to protect our jobs.

"I remember when we left some-body came over and read something and we all came away, that was all there was too it no fights no fuss nor anything. Some of the men were glad to leave but some were mad. We all knew that the man who read the paper was just tending to his business so we came on home.

"I dont remember anything about the attempt to open the mine on Dec. 13, 1937. I think I heard about it but I did not go back and dont remember the details now.

"I dont remember anything about the N.L.R.B. election of Dec. 15, 1937. I dont remember ever going to the Armory in Springfield to vote for which union I wanted.

"I dont remember anything about the attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938 under the U.M.W. I can not recall anything outstanding happening between Jan 1938 and Nov. 1939.

"I dont rember how I found out the mine was going to open in Nov. 1939, I dont recall getting any letter I guess I read it in the paper. I dont think I went back to the mine at once I think my buddy went back and he told me when my room was ready. When I went back to work nobody bothered me or tried to get me to join the U.M.W. I did not see anybody get beat up over at the mine but I heard that some fellows did. I dont know of anything the management did to show they favored the U.M.W. Maybe they did but I dont know.

"After we went back to work I saw more U.M.W. men come in until they were about half and half. I got scared maybe there would be trouble so I joined up too. I saw the other men going over so I went over myself.

"I dont remember signing any card for U.M.W. or P.M.A. during the summer of 1940.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"I have had Spec. Agt. [redacted] read the forgoing statement of 8 longhand pages to me as I can not read the English language. As I remember it is all true and correct. I am therefore signing the same.

[redacted]

"Witness:

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I. (Milw., Wis.)

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 3, 1943."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 6, 1943.

At his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he has never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that [redacted] is a very intelligent individual and he seemed to recall the dates of different occurrences very quickly. He appeared to know what was going on during the period under investigation. It is felt that he would make a very good witness if his testimony is desired in Court.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943.

"I, [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] who are known to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] I came to the U.S. in [redacted] and became a citizen at [redacted]. I first joined a mine union in Ill. when I first came to the U.S. I have been working at Mine A as a coal digger since Feb. 1938. I have never held any union office. I started work at Mine "B" in 1936. I was then a member of the P.M.A. I am now a member of U.M.W., as when Elshoff took over Mine "A" he was going to bring in a different crew and in order to keep our job we all went over.

"During the year I was at Mine "B" under the Progressives everything was getting along fine. Things went along well right up to the time of the strike. I never heard Elshoff or Falsetti saw that they disliked the P.M.A. and wanted to get U.M.W. back.

"The P.M.A. men seemed to get along alright right up until the strike. The business of the local was fair and square and the miners could say what they wanted. I attended most of the P.M.A. union meetings. The officials issued reports regular as to where the money was going. There were some special assessments but these were always legitiment union expenses. I never felt the money was being mishandled. I remember when some of the P.M.A. men were sent to prison for bombings and as far

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

as I know those men were all steady workers. I knew nothing about any of the bombings or other violence.

"From 1936 to 1937 I never saw the U.M.W. men set up any picket line at Mine "B". I never any U.M.W. literature or leaflets distributed at Mine "B", but there were such pamphlets distributed all over the business district one Sunday morning. I knew that there were some U.M.W. men at the mine trying to get the men to leave P.M.A. Some that I recognize are "Sammy" (Joe Albanese), Andy Schrelevious, Domonic Pasquale, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, "Cotton" Ananias, and Charles Bohanon (Bowling Green). None of these men came to my home before the mine closed. I had heard that they went to other mens homes however. I heard they were getting $35.00 per week as organizers this is all I know about it however.

"I heard that Elshoff was giving some parties. I never went to any however. I had an invitation to attend one party this was supposed to be given by the Republican Party but we heard before the party that U.M.W. organizers were going to be there and anybody who went would have to join U.M.W. This was held at the home of LOUIE CASPER, now dead, the address was on the 1700 Bl. of Peoria Rd. Andy Schrelevious invited me to this party.

"When the contract ran out in the spring of 1937, we heard that there was going to be a 10¢ raise which would be retroactive. This was told us by the P.M.A. officials. The U.M.W. organizers who were in P.M.A. had been suspended at different meetings over a period of time. There was no feeling that the P.M.A. would not get as good a contract as U.M.W. During April and early May there was no dissatisfaction among the miners over the wage matter.

"On the night of May 11, 1937, a Special Meeting was held. I saw a notice on the bulletin board at the mine. I believe there was pretty good attendance at the meeting. These men had been considered by the trial board and found guilty, they then called for a rising vote and the men voted 90 to 4 to confirm the decision of the trial board. We were told the board had already found they were guilty and that we should vote whether to support that or not. Joe Albanese sat next to me and neither he or anyone else had anything to say in defense of the alleged spies. Albanese himself voted to support the decision of the trial board suspending himself. I believe the next day the company was asked to discharge these men and they said they didn't care who worked there and let them go down. This meeting was held only to consider the suspension of these men. The next morning when we went to work I did not know we were going to strike. So far as I know the men in general did not know of the suspension of the alleged spies. Cars were loaded short that day, the word being

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

passed along that the cars should be loaded short as a protest against the Co. not firing these men. This was the only day this was ever done. The men were called out that afternoon, we were just told to quite. When I got on top the engineer said we were going on strike as the Co. refused to fire these men. The next day the men started to picket the mine and continued till about the last of May when the officials said the mine was closed. The picketing was entirely peaceful, they only picketed in the morning and no one went to work. I signed a P.M.A. on the road by the mine while we were on picket, no one forced me to sign and I don't think anyone was forced. It was to show the Company how many men the P.M.A. had. I heard of a petition gotten up by the U.M.W. but nobody asked me to sign such petition. I signed a petition in the fall of 1937 for the P.M.A. to send to the N.L.R.B. I signed this of my own free will and no one else was forced to sign as far as I know.

"I heard of the forming of a U.M.W. local in Springfield in the summer of 1937. I don't recall anything else of interest prior to the sit-down strike. When the mine opened in Sept. 1937, I read of it in the papers. It was stated the mine would be opened under U.M.W. All the P.M.A. mostly showed up for this. The P.M.A. officials were at the mine and went to see Elshoff, they later told us they had talked to Falsetti and he had said the U.M.W. had a charter there and P.M.A. men could not go down. FALSETTI to 12 U.M.W. men over to the shaft & let them down. There was no violence. That afternoon we held a meeting and decided to not let anyone go down in the mine this was held at 6th & Washington.

"I was out at the mine most of the time of the sit-down strike. The other men and I were there of our free will. The men who picketed were all local 54 men. Everything was very peaceful and no U.M.W. men came to the mine during this time. I was at the mine the evening the Marshall came out about 8 o'clock. Most of the men could not understand why this was done when P.M.A. was majority union and were ready to go to work.

"When the Co. tried to open the mine in Dec. 1937, I knew it was to open but don't know how. We just went to the mine and drove by.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election, this was by secrect ballot. We met at the Hall and [redacted] talked to us for a short time. He explained about how the voting would work. I voted "Progressive" and believe this was an honest election. When we went to the Armory to vote there were some men there with pamphlets for U.M.W. but I did not get any. These men were on the streets near the Armory.

"I heard something about an attempt to reopen the mine in Jan. 1938 but I did not go near there then. I heard that the reason the mine was not opened as a P.M.A. mine was because Elshoff had an agreement with

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

U.M.W. not to have anything to do with P.M.A. I heard something about Elshoff taking over the Jefferson Mine but know no more about this.

"When the mine opened in 1939 I got a registered telling me to come back within a certain time. I was already working at Mine A so I saw Falsetti I was just going down and get my tools and the loose coal up. I did this working about 2 days. Nobody said anything to me about Union during those 2 days. Where I was working in Box [redacted] the mine was in just the same shape as when I left it. I never heard of any fire at Mine "B" in 1939. I did not vote in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. I remember one meeting when [redacted] was drunk and they threw him out for creating a disturbance nothing was said about money at that meeting.

"I have read this 10 page hand-written statement and to the best of my belief it is all true. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

(s) [redacted]

[redacted] Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw).
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, St. Paul, Minn.

Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943.

"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 6, 1943. It was noted that [redacted] understood the questions asked him and that he responded very well with his answers and it appeared that he knew what was going on at Mine B during the period in question while he was there. It is felt that [redacted] would make a good witness if his testimony is needed. The following signed statement was executed by [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943

"I [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement.

"I have been a coal-digger at Panther Creek Mine #2 since Mine "B" closed in 1937. I worked at mine "B" for about [redacted] years prior to the strike. I was born in [redacted] I came to U. S. in [redacted] & became a U. S. citizen a short time after [redacted] in Springfield. I was a Union member [redacted] I first joined a U.M.W. Union in Springfield in [redacted] I have never held a union office.

"From the time I started at mine "B" until 1932, I knew nothing of the relation between the U.M.W. and the mine management. I felt the miners did right in 1932 to leave the U.M.W. and form the Progressives. I took no active part in this, however. From 1932 to 1937 Elshoff got along just fine with the P.M.A. I heard that there were 2 or 3 men around who wanted to swing the men from P.MA. to U.M.W. Falsetti told a group of us a short time before the strike that if we wanted to be Progressives we should go over to Peabody Mine and go to work. This was when the U.M.W. was trying to first get back into the mine. The P.M.A. miners alway got along well with our officials. There was no feeling that the union was run as a racket. The miners themselves ran the union and not a picked group. From 1932 to 1937 I attended most of the Union meetings. There was no feeling that the money of the P.M.A. was being mishandled, reports were made on this at each meeting.

"I dont know whether the P.M.A. men who were sent up for property bombing were guilty or not but talk at the time was that they had been framed

"From 1932 to 1937 there was no trouble at mine "B" between U.M.W. & P.M.A. that I know of. I never saw any U.M.W. literature at the mine.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"A few days before the mine closed I heard of about 10 P.M.A. men who were for the U.M.W. I dont recall any of these men being expelled at any meetings I attended.

"I heard that Sammy (Joe Albanese), Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, Geo. & Emory Jacaway, Chas. Bohanon and James Hale were the ones trying to get the miners to go back to U.M.W. None of these men ever bothered me. I dont know who did it but someone was paying these men as they had a lot of money & some even bought new cars at this period.

"I knew nothing about any parties given by Elshoff for U.M.W. officials or U.M.W. officials for Elshoff.

"When the contract expired in 1937, it was understood from the P.M.A. officials that Elshoff had agreed that if we would go ahead and work we would get back pay when a contract was signed. The Progressive officials told us all about this and the men were satisfied. The feeling was that the P.M.A. men could get just as good a contract as U.M.W. In April of 1937 and early May there was no commotion on paydays, everybody seemed satisfied. I heard nothing regarding how the management felt in regards to the wage question.

"On the night before the mine "B" closed I dont recall for sure whether the meeting held was regular or special. I attended this meeting and know there was discussion concerning the expelled miners and the fact that the Co. would not fire them.

"On the morning of the last day we worked, I was not sure whether there would be a strike or not. I believe that the men were mad about the Co. not firing the expelled miners and not over the wage question. I remember we were called out of the mine that afternoon, I came out & went home. I saw a few cars loaded short, I did none of this and dont know why it was. It is my understanding that the strike was called because of the expelled miners and not because of money. I dont think there was any picketing that spring. I dont recalling signing any petitions the summer the mine closed for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. About July of 1937 I left here and went to Florida, for about 8 weeks.

"I heard of the forming of the U.M.W. local in Springfield in the summer of 1937 and that men went from house to house getting people to sign up for the U.M.W. They did not approach me. I am still a P.M.A. member.

"I was back in Springfield, when they started the Mine "B" in Sept. 1937. I was working at Panther Creek when this started. I took no part

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] in the strike or picketing.

(continued) "I was allowed to vote in the 1st N.L.R.B. election though I was working at Panther Creek. I went down and voted all by myself. Nobody bothered me or tried to make me vote one way or another. I saw some U.M.W. men around but they did not bother me. This election was by secret ballot and I believe it was honest.

"I heard of some Mine "B" men going to work at the Jefferson Mine I understood Falsetti was the boss and that the mine was never run by Elshoff, this was in 1938.

"I heard that Elshoff was paid either by John Lewis or the U.M.W. to keep Mine "B" closed. I heard this back when the strike was on.

"When the mine reopened in 1939 I received a registered letter to come back. I saw Falsetti and he told me that there was no place for me at that time and there was a list waiting for places to be opened up to go to work. I told him I was working at Panther Creek and I would go back there and come back later, he agreed to this and the next summer when Panther Creek shut down I went and asked for the job and he said he had no job for me, this was about April or May of 1940. I heard at that same time that Mine "B" was hiring U.M.W. men. Nothing was said about wages or as to which union I was a member of. I have not been back to Mine "B" since.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read this seven page statement to me and to the best of my knowledge it is all true and correct. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

Signed: [redacted]

[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI (Milw.)
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. St. Paul, Minn.

Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Illinois, was [redacted] interviewed at his residence by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 3, 1943. [redacted] was born [redacted] and presently is employed at Mine "B". He is a member of UMW, [redacted] understands and speaks English well and he claimed no knowledge which would be of aid to successful prosecuting. He would not be a good government witness. [redacted] stated he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 3, 1943

"I, [redacted] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] I started working in the Mine "B" in Springfield, Ill., in 1924, and I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union in 1924. In 1932, most of our UMW local went over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union, and so in 1932 I joined the PMA to keep my job.

"During the time from 1932 until about May, 1937, I was satisfied with the PMA union. I thought it was an honest union and I did not think any of the officials were crooked. I noticed no unusual assessments during this time excepting when I first joined our PMA local had a ten percent assessment for helping other miners out of work, and I thought that was rather high.

"I was not active in the organization of the PMA local, and I have never held an office in any union.

"During the period from 1932 to May of 1937, I do not recall that there were any strikes, except that at one time, it may have been in about 1934, our first contract expired with the company, that is the PMA contract, and I believe we were out on strike just a very short while until the contract was signed. But during this time I do not remember that there were any close downs because of labor trouble and I do not recall that any of the company men or officials in any way tried to discredit PMA or influence me to join UMW. The company did not seem to show any partiality to either the UMW or the PMA.

"I remember that there were some bombing cases back at that time, but I took little interest in them and I did not and I do not know anything about them.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"During this time from 1932 to 1937, I did not notice that UMW ever set up a picket line at mine "B" and I do not remember ever seeing any literature for UMW at mine "B". No one at any time during this period ever tried to get me to join UMW. But I did notice that there was some kind of movement out there on the part of UMW and I could tell there was some contention on the part of the men out at Mine "B", but I can not tell just what it was. During this time I did not notice that there were any UMW spies in PMA, and I did not notice the UMW activities of some PMA men who were expelled from PMA for working for UMW, excepting that these men who were expelled were the same men who I noticed were in those little groups of men who were in that movement I mentioned and who were having some sort of contention. By contention, I mean that there was some sort of dissatisfaction, and that everything was not satisfactory.

"The men who seemed dissatisfied were: Charlie Bohannon, Jimmie Hale, Frank Austin, and a few more. I would see them talking together all the time, but none of them ever tried to talk me into joining UMW. I never notice any of these men with any of the company men or officials, and I never saw them together socially.

"I think the reason there was a strike at the Mine "B" on May 12, 1937, was because the PMA union had expelled some of the men I have mentioned above and the company refused to fire them. I do not remember anything about a wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937 except when the PMA contract expired about that time. But I never thought that was the reason for the strike.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the night before the strike. On May 12, 1937, I went to work as usual and went down into the mine. There was no indication to me of any strike pending. I did not notice any cars being loaded short during the day and no one told me to load my cars short. I worked the entire day and no one told me to stop. I came to the top of the mine after work and altho I heard some of the men say we were going to strike and I noticed some cars had been loaded short, still I did not know we were on strike until the next day.

"On May 13, 1937, I went to work, but everyone said no work and we were on strike, so I came right back home, and in the afternoon I started working on a farm.

"During the time after the strike, I do not remember signing any petitions, either for PMA or for UMW. But I may have signed one for PMA and have forgotten. I am certain I did not sign one for UMW.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I believe I heard in the summer of 1937 that a new UMW local was organized, but I do not known anything about that. I do not remember attending any meetings of any kind during the summer of 1937, and I was busy working on the farm and didn't have much time for meetings.

"I do not remember being called by the company to come to work any time after May 12, 1937, until Nov. of 1939. I never did go back to work during that time. I do remember a picket line was set up at Mine "B" by the PMA in about Sept. of 1937, but I do not believe I was at the mine the first day the picket line was set up. I do not believe I was told by any PMA men in Sept., 1937 that Mine "B" was going to open. But after the picket line was set up for about two months, I believe I went out to mine "B" to picket just on one Sunday. I was busy at the farm. I was not there when the picket line broke up and I do not know why the picket line broke up.

"I remember the National Labor Relations Board held an election in about Dec. of 1937 at which time the PMA beat the UMW. I voted in this election and I think it was a fair election and no one forced or threatened me in any way.

"I do not know of any attempts on the part of the company to open Mine "B" before Nov. of 1939.

"In Nov. of 1939, I might have got a letter from the company to come back to work, or maybe Bumgarnor told me, and I reported for work. But the part of Mine "B" where I had been working in 1937 was shut down from cave ins, and so the company put my name on the waiting list and I did not go back to work until Jan. of 1940. When I went back to work I was still a member of PMA.

"From the time I went back to work in Jan. of 1940 until I joined the UMW in the fall of 1940, no one at any time tried to talk me into joining the UMW and no one at any time threatened me or tried to force me to join UMW. I joined UMW, I believe about the first of August, 1940, because it looked like if I wanted to keep my job I would have to join UMW and it looked like most of the men were joining UMW. I do not know of any attempts on the part of UMW to organize mine B during this time. But at the same time I noticed there was a lot of talking going on around the mine and I saw a lot of strangers working in the mine, and so a thought there was some organizing going on, so when I say I do not know of any attempts on the part of UMW to organize Mine "B", I mean that I did not see any specific attempts by them like forcing a man to sign or fighting or the like.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I remember voting in a NLRB election in about Feb. of 1941. I thought it was a fair election and no one forced or threatened me in any way.

"This statement of three pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witness:

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. /s/
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. /s/

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on September 7, 1943. He willingly answered the questions propounded to him. His knowledge of pertinent facts in the case are limited. He would make a favorable witness. He executed the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 7, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and I am presently employed by [redacted] I was born on [redacted]

"The first union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, in [redacted] at Spaulding, Illinois and worked at the Spaulding Mines. From [redacted] I worked in mine in the Spaulding and Springfield _ Illinois area as a member of the UMW.

"I worked at Mine B during the following periods; [redacted] from [redacted] until it closed on May 12, 1937, and from November 1939 to February 6, 1941.

"I voluntarily joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, in September, 1932 when Mine B went over to PMA. I remained a member of the PMA the whole time I worked at Mine B. I helped the PMA to picket for a few weeks in 1937 but I never went back to get a job there the three times it tried to open.

"Elshoff got along alright with the UMW prior to 1932 and also with the PMA from 1932 to May 1937. I felt that he favored the UMW, but I have no facts to base it on.

"I attended most of the union meetings when I was a miner. I never held an office. I attended the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 which I learned of by word of mouth at the mine. Several UMW

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

organizers were expelled for their organizing, but I do not recall their names. I do not know what evidence was presented at this meeting, against these UMW organizers.

"On May 12, 1937, Elshoff would not discharge these UMW organizers that had been expelled from Local 54, PMA, so the PMA miners loaded some of the coal cars short to get Elshoff to discharge these men.

"I was not familiar with the wage scale controversy in 1937. I voluntarily signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member.

"I felt the NLRB election held on December 15, 1937 was fair in every respect. Sometime in 1940 the following UMW organizers approached me and asked me to join the UMW; Cotton Ananias, Andrew Schrelevious and Charles Bohannon. They did not threaten me, but told me I'd have to join the UMW if I wanted to work there, because the mine was going UMW.

"From November, 1939 to February, 1941 the UMW organizers in Mine B signed the men up with UMW. I heard they contacted the men in the mine and at their homes. Therefore I do not believe the second NLRB election was fair in expressing the true feelings of the men as they had already signed with UMW to hold their jobs.

"I felt that Elshoff favored UMW and that he was on friendly terms with the UMW organizers, but I have no specific fact to establish that point.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the two pages of this statement and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was [redacted] jointly interviewed at his residence on September 6, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is mentally alert, he makes a good appearance, and he seems sincere. He was an eye witness to beatings inflicted by UMW organizers on PMW members at the mine and quit working at Mine "B" from fear of being beaten. He is presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #2, Springfield, Illinois, which is under a PMA contract, and he executed the following written statement:

[redacted] Illinois
September 6, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside on [redacted] Illinois. I was born on [redacted] Illinois. I am presently employed at the Panther Creek Mine #2, Springfield, Illinois [redacted] The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at [redacted] Illinois in [redacted] At this time, I went to work at Riverton Mine #2. I worked in local mines near Spaulding, Illinois from [redacted] as a member of UMW. In [redacted] I started working at Mine B and worked there continuously until May 12, 1937, the day that mine closed down. I again worked at this mine when it re-opened in November, 1939 on open shop basis. I worked there until the first part of February, 1941 and never did work at that mine after that date. As I mentioned before, I joined the UMW in [redacted] and remained a member of that union until September, 1932. I voluntarily joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, in 1932 when the miners at Mine B joined that union. I did not take an active part in the formation of the PMA.

"I felt that the rank and file of the PMA and the officials of that union got along fine, and there was no trouble in the PMA. I believe that union was free fraud on the part of it's leaders. I never held an office in a mine union with the exception of [redacted]

"As far as I know, the relations between Elshoff and UMW prior to 1932 were satisfactory and he seemed to get along alright with the PMA from 1932 to the latter part of 1936. However, from the latter part of 1936 to May 12, 1937, Elshoff seemed to be dissatisfied. I never heard the Company officials make any statements but felt the relations were strained.

"The following men held PMA cards and worked at Mine B in the Spring

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

of 1937. These men were UMW organizers and were trying to get the miners to join the UMW; Joe Albanese, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, James Hale, Charles Bohannon, Cudge Bumgarner, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Flotch.

The UMW passed out UMW literature at the mine prior to the strike on May 12, 1937. This was found in automobiles and also the road leading to the mine. These UMW organizers were talking up the UMW. Neither Elshoff or Falcetti did anything to discourage this. I observed that from 1932 to May 1937, the PMA and the Company Operators did not appear to be on especially friendly terms. As to the wage scale agreement in 1937, I was of the impression, gained from the PMA officials, that we, as PMA miners were working on a retroactive contract dating back to April 1, 1937. However, this point was disputed by Elshoff and we never got our money. I only went to about one fourth of the mine meetings. I knew that some of the UMW aggitators were expelled from the PMA for disloyalty and organizing for UMW. I recall I attended the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the day before the mine closed. I got a notice of this special meeting by a notice on the bulletin board at the mine. On the night the following men were expelled from the PMA as best as I can recall; Joe Albanese, Cotton Ananias, Andrew Schrelevious, Pete Carter, and Dominic Pasquale, and Charles Bohannon.

"None of these expelled men were present. I do not recall what evidence was presented. On May 12, 1937, the other miners learned of the expulsion by word of mouth. Elshoff would not prevent these expelled men from working and the PMA members did not want to work under these circumstances.

"I did not know that coal cars were being loaded short on May 12, 1937 and later when I found out about it I did not determine the reason for it. The PMA miners did not want to go back to work as long as these expelled miners worked there.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of that union. I do not recall signing any other petition that summer.

"After the mine closed in May, 1937, I worked in the PMA picket line for a week or so. I do not recall going to the mine to get a job at any time the Operators attempted to reopen the mine before November, 1939.

"The NLRB election of December 15, 1937 held at Springfield, Illinois, was one of the most honest elections I have ever taken part in. As far as I know, no fraud attended this election, and as far as I know it was entirely voluntary. No strong arm tactics were used by either union.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I went back to Mine B in November 1939 when it opened on an open shop basis. I went back as a PMA member. At this time, the UMW brought in a lot of strangers to work in Mine B. I do not know where they were from. Members of the UMW were given preference in getting a job over a PMA man. I knew this was true, because PMA men went out to the mine and could not get work there and later UMW members came out to the mine and were given work there immediately. I recall that a miner named [redacted] of [redacted] Illinois, a PMA man went out to the mine when it re-opened in November, 1939, and Falcetti told him that he could not work at mine B until such time as he left the PMA and joined the UMW.

"The UMW organizers talked to the PMA members, the ones they thought they could persuade, both at the mine and in their homes. They told them that the mine would work better under the UMW and also threatened them to make them sign up with the UMW.

"In the early part of January, 1941 I was in the wash house at Mine B when the following UMW organizers came in: [redacted] (phonetic), [redacted] and a man named [redacted]

"These organizers beat up [redacted] PMA at that time, [redacted] and [redacted] These victims were dressing at this time, and were all in the wash house. The organizers mentioned above took these men one at a time and beat them up. I saw the whole thing. There were more UMW men in the wash house at that time and no one attempted to help these men.

"On this same morning, [redacted] miner named [redacted] a PMA member, was also beaten up by the UMW organizers in a hall way at the entrance to the wash house. I did not see this beating. This beating was due to the fact that this man would not sign up with the UMW. When I saw that the PMA men were getting this kind of treatment I left and went to the office. As far as I knew, I might have been next on the list of victims. I quit work that day. I went back to get my tools, but I was afraid of being beaten so I left the tools in the mine and never went back after them.

"Elshoff knew what was going on and did not do a thing about it. I knew Elshoff favored the UMW. I think Elshoff was being paid off by UMW, but I have no evidence to establish it. I heard a rumor at the mine that Mrs. Judge Sungarner, the wife of one of the UMW organizers, had said that she did not know where all the money was coming from that [redacted] was bringing home.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I do not believe the NLRB election held on February 21, 1941 at Springfield was fair. Many men had already been signed up by UMW due to beatings and intimidations and through fear of losing their jobs. Therefore, the election was not a free expression of their desires.

"The only time I was personally approached to join the UMW was in the early part of January, 1941. I was in the mine and [redacted] a UMW organizer, came up to me and asked me if I wanted to wear a UMW button. I said that I did not. No threats were used on this occasion.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the five and one half pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to give this statement.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted]

Special Agent , F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was [redacted] jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 3, 1943 [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. He was cooperative and readily answered all questions. He executed the following written statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 3, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] and presently live at [redacted] Illinois. I am now employed as [redacted]

"About [redacted] Illinois I first joined a mine union. This was the United Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I worked at five mines under the UMW before I started at Mine 'B' about [redacted] then I started working at mine 'B' under the UMW.

"I last worked at Mine 'B' about June 1, 1942. I worked at Mine 'B' from 1926 until May, 1937 when the mine went on strike. About a year after Mine 'B' went on strike I got a job with [redacted] and I had a job until about October, 1941. I returned to work at Mine 'B' in January, 1942 and left there about June 1, 1942.

"I signed up with UMW when I returned to Mine 'B' in January, 1942.

"I never held an office in any mine union.

"I was always a digger at Mine 'B'. I attended several union meetings while I was employed at Mine 'B' both before the mine closed down and after I returned to work there in 1942. I attended both the UMW and Progressive Mine Workers of America meetings the latter of which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMW.

"I took no active part in organizing the PMW in September, 1942.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I think relations between Elshoff and PMA from 1932 to 1937 were good, except that Elshoff would not do business with [redacted] of the PMA during that period.

"I thought Elshoff would do business with anyone but [redacted] and I think Elshoff tried to discredit [redacted] It appeared that Elshoff did not accept [redacted] as a representative of the Miners at Mine 'B' during this period.

"The PMA members appeared to be satisifed with their leaders in that union. I felt that I was being treated fairly by [redacted] and the PMA leaders.

"I never saw or heard of a UMW picket line at Mine 'B' from 1932 to 1937. As far as UMW circulation of literature is concerned I only remember that on the day of the first N.L.R.B. election in December, 1937 UMW men handed out literature to PMA members as they walked down the street to the arsenal where they were going to vote. I do remember that this literature was to try to get the PMA men to vote for the UMW.

"I did not recognize any of these UMW men who passed out the literature, but I think they were from another UMW local organization.

"I knew the following men who were working at Mine 'B' in 1937: Cudge Bumgarner, Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"I did not know of the activities of these men before the strike started in May, 1937, except I heard they approached PMA members to get them to join UMW. It is my recollection that this was not done at the mine, but at the miners' homes after working hours. However, on several occasions at the mine I saw some of these men call PMA members off to one side and talk to them. There were generally two or three UMW sympathizers together when they talked to the men. I was never approached by the UMW men on this matter.

"I knew Oscar Falcetti well, but he never indicated he would rather see UMW in the mine rather than the PMA.

"George Taylor was an engineer at Mine 'B' at that time and he told me once, before the strike started, that he went to several parties at Elshoff's office at the mine after working hours. Elshoff gave the parties."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I did not know about the wage scale controversy or what action was taken by PMA leaders with Elshoff or of any activities of the men named above in this statement in regard to this controversy.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting on May 11, 1943. I did not hear about the meeting until after that night. I knew the PMA expelled some miners from the PMA. All of the miners knew of this by word of mouth.

"I remember that coal cars were shorted on May 12, 1937. I did not short my cars, because I did not get the word in my part of the mine to do this. I worked in Box [redacted]

"I helped picket Mine 'B' for about ten days. I signed no petitions of any kind.

"I did not go to the mine on any of the days it tried to open. I wanted to keep away from any possible trouble.

"Taking into consideration the leadership of both unions I would have rather, both then and now, be a member of the PMA.

"I have read this statement consisting of three and one half pages and have initialed each of the foregoing pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted] Special Agent F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] had little information of his own knowledge concerning activities at Mine B. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 7, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted], and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I was born [redacted] The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America in [redacted] at the [redacted] Mine, [redacted] Illinois. I shall refer to this union hereinafter as the UMW.

"From [redacted] t[redacted] I worked in different mines in the Springfield area under the UMW. I started working at Mine B in September, [redacted] and worked there continuously until it closed on May 12, 1937. I was on the PMA picket line a few days in 1937 and did not go back to work when it attempted to re-open prior to November, 1939. I went back to work at Mine B in November 1939 as a member of the PMA, which I will refer to as the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and I worked there until February 6, 1941 when I quit. I have remained a member of the PMA from 1932 to the present time.

"The only office I ever held in a mine union was [redacted] I was also [redacted]

"I took no active part in the formation of PMA. I attended most of the union meetings when I was a member of UMW and the same applies when I was a member of PMA.

"I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932 as I was tired of the UMW leadership and I was not in favor of the reduction in the wage scale.

"Prior to 1932, Elshoff seemed to get along well with the UMW. I do not think Elshoff was pleased with the PMA from the start in 1932, and as time went on he appeared to favor the UMW more strongly. I did not deal with Elshoff personally and have no specific facts to support this opinion.

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b7c b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

The PMA rank and file were satisfied with the PMA officials. This was a good union and to my knowledge, no fraud existed on the part of the officials of PMA.

"In May, 1937 several men in the mine were aggitating for UMW at Mine B. There were four or five of these men but I don't recall their names. None of them ever contacted me. I felt that these men should be expelled from the union and feel that the rank and file miners felt the same way. I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937. I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show that I was a member of PMA. I do not recall signing any other petition in 1937.

"On May 12, 1937 I worked the whole day in Box [redacted] I never knew that short cars were loaded until after work that evening. I do not recall why they were shorted.

"I was not familiar with the wage scale controversy in 1937 between Elshoff and the PMA and had no understanding of it.

"I voted in the NLRB election of December 15, 1937. I think this was a fair election and presented a true picture of the feelings of the miners in Mine B at that time.

"After I went back to work when this mine re-opened in November, 1939, I was not contacted by any UMW organizers, but in 1940, Cotton Ananias approached me in the mine and asked me to join the UMW. I declined. He did not use any threats. Also in 1940, two UMW members came to my home and asked me to join the UMW. One of these men was [redacted] I declined. No threats were made to me.

"I understand a member of the UMW, an organizer, spent a good deal of time at Elshoff's office and that he was friendly with him. This was unusual for men, not on union committees to do and I felt Elshoff preferred the UMW. I am unable to state from my own knowledge actual incidents showing the relations between Elshoff and the UMW or the UMW organizers.

"I have carefully read this statement consisting of two and one half pages and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted]

Special Agent F.B.I."

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b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence in [redacted] Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated that inasmuch as he was a new man at the mine his information relative to instant case was rather limited. [redacted] does not speak good English and has difficulty comprehending questions put to him relative to the facts of instant case. It is not believed that he would make a good witness to testify in instant case.

There is being set forth below the signed statement which [redacted] executed at the time of this interview:

"Sept 4, 1943
[redacted] Ill

"I [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born in [redacted] I came to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a U. S. citizen in [redacted] I live at [redacted] Ill. I started coal mining in [redacted] and joined the UMW in [redacted] I never held any office in any union. I was in Illinois when the PMA was formed in 1932 and I joined the PMA at that time. I never had any complaints to make about PMA and I felt it was a good union. I didn't have anything to do with the forming of the PMA. I started work at Mine B in 1936 and everyone seemed to be satisfied with PMA. I am still working at Mine B.

"I had never been asked to join the U.M.W. up to the time of the strike. I remember that there was some argument about the new contract which was to be signed by the company in the spring of 1937. Our board said a contract was to be signed, making it retroactive, but the company said they didn't owe us any back pay. A lot of the men were arguing about the new contract, but I don't know any of the details of the contract.

"I was a new man at the mine and didn't know all of the men, and since I lived in [redacted] I didn't go to many of the meetings. I heard that 12 men were kicked out of the PMA union, because they thought they were working for united. I don't know the names of any of those men though.

"I recall that on the day of the strike I was working in box [redacted] as a digger. I went to work that day as usual and I remember that our union men didn't want the 12 men to work, but the company said they were supposed to go to work. We all went to work and I heard that some of the 12 men also went to work. When I heard that the rest of the men were sending up short loads, I also sent up some short loads. We were called out of the mine about one half an hour before quitting time. We were sending up short loads

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

in protest against the men working that we didn't want to work. When I got on top I heard that the mine was on strike and we came on home. Nobody had ever threatened me or tried to get me to join United before the strike.

"Some time after the strike I signed some kind of a petition for Progressive. I don't know whether I signed it at my house or when I was at the Union hall. I remember that they tried to open the mine in Sept. of 1937, but I didn't go out to the mine until a few days later when I started on the picket line.

"I stayed on the picket line off and on until about the First of December 1937. I was home the day the Marshal came with the injunction. While I was on the picket line I came home quite often to rest and clean up. Nobody ever told me that I couldn't come home.

"I voted in the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937. We met at the union hall and then walked to the Armory in small groups. Everything was quiet and there were no fights that I know of. I didn't go near the mine again until the mine opened in Nov. of 1939.

"I went to work in my old spot as soon as the mine was opened. I was still a member of progressive and stayed a member until about June of 1940. I joined the U.M.W. the same month. I remember that sometime before I joined the U.M.W., [redacted] came to my house with another man and he said he wanted me to join United. He didn't threaten me and acted nice while he was at the house. When I saw the rest of the men were all joining United I decided to sign up with United. I signed up because I wanted to be sure I'd hold my job & I wanted to be with the majority. I was never threatened or beaten up by anyone.

"I have read over this entire statement of four pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses

[redacted] Special Agents, F.B.I.
U.S. Dept. of Justice"

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Mr. [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. He appeared willing to answer the questions propounded to him and furnished the following signed statement. He stated that he would willingly testify to the facts set forth in this statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 5, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

[redacted]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union at the [redacted] Mine, Springfield, Illinois about [redacted]

"I worked [redacted] all of which are in the vicinity of Springfield, Illinois. At all of the above mentioned mines I worked as a member of the UMW. I started working at Mine B in [redacted] and at that time also worked under a UMW contract.

"The only union office I have ever held was at Mine B when I was elected by the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, [redacted] when that mine was working under a PMA contract.

"I retained this position until about [redacted].

"I think relations between Elshoff and UMW prior to 1932 were good. I did not take an active part in the organization of Local #54 of the PMA in September, 1932.

"In September, 1932 I joined the PMA and left the UMW at Mine B because UMW tried to force us to accept a lower wage scale. I knew of no dissatisfaction in the rank and file of UMW at Mine B. prior to 1932. I voluntarily joined the PMA for the above mentioned reason.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] "The relations between Elshoff and Local #54 of FMA between 1932 and 1937 were good as far as I remember.

(continued)

"The FMA rank and file were satisfied with their leaders and even after losing a years work after the strike started in May, 1937 I believe the rank and file miners were still satisfied with FMA.

"I know the following men who were all working at Mine B prior to the closing down of that mine in May, 1937: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, Bill Sirtout, George Jacaway, Henry Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale.

"I know of no other miners who could be put in the same class with the above men who were UMW organizers or sympathizers. I heard from some miners in 1936 or 1937 that James Hale was passing out UMW cards at the mine.

[redacted] I recall that FRANK AUSTIN and possibly PETE CARTER were expelled from FMA for agitating for UMW. [redacted] I remember that evidence was presented indicating that CARTER and AUSTIN were guilty of these activities.

"[redacted] other UMW sympathizers or aggitators were expelled from FMA. I do not remember the FMA meeting held on May 11, 1937, however, I may have been at this meeting.

"I do not remember seeing any coal cars shorted at the time of the strike. I later heard the cars were being shorted but I did not hear the reason for this action. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Ellshoff
(continued) and he told me he would not accept this check-off sheet, indicating he would not recognize the PMA. This happened sometime between May 22nd and June 30, 1937.

"I was not acquainted with the wage scale controversy.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937. The petition was placed on a table out near the mine and anyone who wanted to sign walked up to the table and signed voluntarily.

"I signed another PMA petition, as I recall, just before the mine attempted to re-open in September, 1937. I signed this petition at the PMA headquarters at 6th and Washington streets, Springfield, Ill. It was just like the petition of May 26, 1937 and for the same purpose, that is to show the mine operators that PMA had a majority. I recall that this petition was also taken to some of the miner's homes, who were working at other jobs at this time and who did not have an opportunity to go to the PMA office in Springfield. I do not remember hearing anyone say they wanted to go back to work at this time under the conditions as they existed at that time.

"I do not remember exactly, but it is my opinion that a district board member of PMA sponsored this petition. Regarding this petition a number of miners came to me and asked me about this petiition and I told them that it was meant to determine if the miners still wanted to work under the PMA and also to determine if PMA still had a majority. I remember that from 300 to 400 miners signed this petition.

"I helped picket mine B for about three weeks after the strike started."

"I believe notice of the planned opening of the mine on September 27, 1937 was published in the newspapers. I went out to the mine that morning. On this morning, September 27, 1937, I was standing next to [redacted] and OSCAR FALCETTI walked up to the group where I was standing and I heard him say he wanted fifty men to go to work and [redacted] said he could get two hundred and fifty men if FALCETTI wanted them. FALCETTI said he was not recognizing the PMA, but that he was only recognizing the UMW. CHARLES BOHANNON, who was standing in this group, said he was representing UMW and that he could furnish the men to work. Only about a dozen men did go to work. At this time the PMA miners left and went home.

"I do not remember the details of the second and thirt attempts to open Mine B.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] "The mine re-opened on November 6, 1939 and I worked [redacted] thereafter.

(continued)

[redacted] I was not approached to join UMW and I heard of no threats or violence. All of the miners had not returned to work by this time.

"I prefer the PMA. I would not want to work under the UMW leadership."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted], Special Agent F.B.I.
[redacted], Special Agent F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] on September 4, 1943 at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. He willingly answered the questions propounded to him, and indicated that he would be willing to testify to the facts as set forth in the following signed statement furnished by him:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I was born on [redacted] I am presently employed as a [redacted] Springfield.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, a [redacted] Illinois in [redacted] At this time, I was working in the Peabody Mine #6, near Springfield, Illinois.

"I have held the following offices in mine unions: [redacted] as a member of PMA I worked there until the mine closed on May 12, 1937. After that date, I never went back or attempted to go back to work there although I heard the mine was trying to re-open. I felt there would be trouble there, so I did not return to work there, even to get my tools.

"Prior to September, 1932, I was working at Peabody Mine #57, at Springfield, Illinois. This mine shut down when the UMW ballot boxes were stolen. I am referring to the ballots submitted in connection with the Wage Scale reduction vote. I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932 when the miners at Peabody Mine #57 voted in favor of PMA at that local. I felt that the PMA was a good union and that PMA officials of PMA well represented the miners in that union.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"In 1933 I started working in Mine B as a digger. I believe in relations between Elshoff and PMA at that mine were satisfactory until about April, 1937. Elshoff never made any remarks to my knowledge indicating which union, if any he favored. About April, 1937, the following men working at Mine B were reported to be contacting the men at their homes and at the mine trying to get them to join the UMW. They did not contact me; Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, Frank Austin, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"It was common knowledge in the mine that these men were UMW sympathizers or organizers and were active as such in Mine B which was a closed shop, PMA mine. Elshoff and Falcetti never made any attempt to stop these activities to my knowledge. I never saw these men distribute literature or UMW application cards. These men were very friendly with Elshoff and Falcetti and I saw them in Elshoff's office at the mine quite often before I went down in the mine. This was before the mine closed down in May 1937. At about this time, these men appeared to be more friendly with Elshoff than the other miners. It is not the normal thing to see working miners in Elshoff's office like this.

"I attended about one-half of the union meetings of both the UMW and the PMA, when I was a miner at Mine B. I do not recall that I attended the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 when some of the UMW sympathizers were expelled but I heard about it the next day at the mine by word of mouth. I heard Elshoff would not discharge these men, and they were still arguing about it on top when I went down into the mine. I heard some coal cars were being shorted, but I don't know why. I did not short mine as I had little coal at that time.

"I was not familiar with the details of the wage scale agreement. The PMA Report indicated that the miners were to get some back pay, but I did not know the details or how much the pay was to be. I felt that the UMW sympathizers should have been expelled and believe the other PMA members felt the same way. After the mine closed in May, 1937, I helped picket the mine for several weeks, but I never attempted to go back to work when the mine attempted to open.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show that I was a member of PMA. I do not recall signing any other petition. As far as I know, there was no fraud in the NLRB election on December 15, 1937. I do not remember how I got notice of the election, but I went to the Arsenal and voted with the others and no one tried to influence me in any way. Prior to the time I left Mine B, no one tried to influence me to join UMW. I did not overhear any union organizers talking to other people on this subject and I did not observe any fights over this matter. I had no additional information referring to UMW organizers or concerning the wage scale problem.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have carefully read and fully understand the three and one-half pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make this statement."

/s/ [redacted]"

"Witnesses:
[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed on September 2, 1943 at the [redacted] Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] advised he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] has a good knowledge of English, but would not make a good Government witness as he is very much in favor of U.M.W.

[redacted] provided the following statement:

[redacted] Ill.,
September 2, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in attaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I reside at [redacted] Ill. and I am employed at the [redacted] I was employed at Mine "B" in [redacted] and stopped working at Mine "B" in March 1943. I stopped working at Mine "B" because the air in the mine was bad.

"I started working in coal mines in [redacted] which time I became a member of U.M.W. In 1932 I changed from UMW to PMA because UMW lowered the wage scale.

"Between [redacted] and 1932 the management of Mine "B" were on good relations with UMW.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 the management of Mine "B" did not attempt to discredit PMA and the management did not seem to have a hostile attitude in settling grievances.

"I had a good opinion of PMA until the first part of 1937. In 1937 PMA did not seem to me to be a democratic union as the officials of PMA controled the union and members did not have a voice in the operation of the union. I considered some of the special assessments to be too much although I do not know anything about the financial arrangements of the union.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 UMW did not set up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did UMW distribute any literature at Mine "B". No one attempted to change me from PMA to UMW. I heard that PMA expelled Joe

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale. I knew all of the above named men but they did not tell me they were expelled from P.M.A. I heard some of the officials of PMA make the statement that the above named men were expelled because they were attempting to organize UMW at Mine "B" although I do not know whether the statement made by PMA officials was true or not.

"I did not see any UMW officials with the management of Mine "B" prior to May 12, 1937.

"In the Spring of 1937 the PMA contract with Mine "B" expired and a temporary agreement was made with Mine "B" so that any increase in the wage scale would have been retroactive to the date the contract expired. The members of PMA thought they would get an increase in the wage scale. I know of no trouble at Mine "B" during pay day in April. In the spring of 1937 the management of Mine "B" seemed to want a contract with PMA to increase the wage scale, but for some unknown reason PMA officials would not sign a contract. The officials of PMA made statements that the wage scale would be increased with retroactive pay.

"About May 12, 1937 I heard PMA was to have a meeting with the management of Mine "B" about the wage scale. Instructions were given that day by [redacted] to load coal cars short and the management would increase the wage scale. There was no sentiment on May 12, 1937 to strike at Mine "B" About 2:00 P.M., May 12, 1937, Dan McGill called a strike at Mine "B". That afternoon [redacted] made a speech at Mine "B" at which time they stated they would strike until the wage scale was increased.

"In the summer of 1937 on two occasions representatives brought petitions to my home to be signed, naming PMA as my bargaining agent at Mine "B". I voluntarily signed these petitions.

"I did not sign a UMW petition in the summer of 1937.

"I heard that a new UMW local in the summer of 1937_____.

"In Sept. 1937 I was notified by a representative of PMA that Mine "B was to open. On the day Mine "B" was to have opened I went to Mine "B" to work, but PMA refused to work as members of UMW were allowed to go into the mine. I acted as a picket from time to time until an injunction was obtained to prevent picketing. I was pleased an injunction was obtained as I did not want to pikcet. The only reason I picketed was because I thought I would have been expelled from PMA if I did not picket. No one told me I had to picket nor did anyone threaten me if I did not. I think PMA members from Mines other than Mine "B" were brought to Mine "B" to picket.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I do not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair.

"In Nov. 1939 I received notice to report for work at Mine "B". I immediately returned to work as an entry driver. I did not see the results of any large fires or cave-ins. In the summer of 1940 I changed from PMA to UMW as I did not think PMA could do as much for me as UMW. No one asked me to join UMW and I was not threatened if I did not join UMW.

"I voted in the NLRB election in Feb. 1941 for UMW. I consider this election a fair election.

"I was a friend of [redacted] At no time did [redacted] say anything to me about joining UMW.

"I have read this statement consisting of six pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence in [redacted] Illinois, on September 2, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] Illinois and is presently unemployed. He stopped working at Mine "B" July 15, 1943. [redacted] Because of these two factors he would make a poor witness. He is unable to recall many of the happenings during the pertinent period. He advised that he has never been arrested. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] and presently reside in [redacted]

"Before 1932 I was working in Mine "B" in Springfield and was a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union. In about 1932 almost our whole local went over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and I joined PMA at this time. I joined to keep my job, but no force of any kind was used to make me change. From this time until sometime in May 1937, I worked in Mine "B" and was a PMA, and during these five years I thought the PMA was an honest union and the officials seemed honest to me. I cannot remember whether during this time the UMW tried to organize in Mine "B" or whether company favored either UMW or PMA.

"During the forming of the PMA I took no part and I have never held an office of any kind in any union.

"During this time between 1932 and 1937 I don't remember anything about any spies. I do not remember anything about any men from PMA being expelled; I don't believe I attended a PMA meeting the night before we went out on strike. All I remember is on one day, which may be May 12, 1937, at least it was in May 1937, I was called out of the mine by one of the PMA men who said we were out and we left the mine about two o'clock in the afternoon. I never knew why we went out and I came right home. I do not remember hearing any of the PMA men, or anyone else, tell us why we were out.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I do not remember knowing anything about wage scale trouble at that time. I went to very few PMA meetings and because I am hard of hearing, I listened to very little that went on.

"From that time on I do not remember ever being asked to come back to work at Mine 'B' until I got a letter in Nov. of 1939. I remember going back in Sept. 1937, when PMA had a picket line at Mine 'B' for almost two months, and I was in the line about half of the time, only, [redacted]

"I do not remember ever signing any petitions at all for either the PMA or the UMW.

"I remember voting in an election in about Dec. of 1937 when the PMA won, and no one threatened or forced me in any way - and I believe it was a fair election. I also remember voting in an election about a year or so after the Mine 'B' opened in 1939 at which time UMW won. No one forced or threatened me in any way in that election, and I think it was a fair election.

"In about [redacted] I wanted my youngest boy, [redacted] to work in Mine 'B' and Oscar Falcetti said he would give him one but [redacted] had to belong to a union before he could get the job and the PMA would not let him in, so he joined UMW and got in the mine. Just about that time I noticed most of the men were changing to UMW so I changed to UMW too because I was afraid I would be out of a job if I didn't. But no one forced or threatened me in any way to join UMW and I never saw anyone try to organize for UMW at Mine 'B'. I don't remember hearing of or seeing anyone get beat up during that time.

"When I went back to work in 1939 I do not remember having seen the results of any big fires and I do not know whether or not there had been any. I was told there had been some cave ins and I lost my tools in one of them, but I never did see any of them.

"This statement, of four pages has been read to me by Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnessed:-
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL 67c 62D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 7, 1943.

At his residence [redacted], Agents interviewed [redacted] He advised he has never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that [redacted] is rather hard of hearing and had difficulty in understanding some of the questions and he had to be assisted [redacted] in answering. It is felt that he would make a very poor witness if called [redacted]

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943

"I, [redacted] make this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] & came to U. S. in [redacted] & became a citizen about [redacted] years ago. I first joined U.M.W. second year I came to U.S. & it was in [redacted] & I never have been a union officer. I first started at Mine B about [redacted] years ago and worked tell Mine B closed in Spring of 1937 & I never worked since. I don't know what kind of a union it was at Mine B before P.M.A. came in as one was same as other. When P.M.A. came in at Mine B I was for them but did not help organize. As far as I know things went alright between Bishoff & P.M.A. before mine closed but later on Bishoff would not fire 4 men who were P.M.A. men but were for U.M.W. P.M.A. wanted to have these men fired but he wouldn't & that was the reason why there was a strike. There was no trouble about wages then and men were satisfied then about contract and we were told we would get back pay. We P.M.A. men liked the P.M.A. union & never suspected officials of doing anything wrong & there were not any special or large assessments. I did not attend many meetings. Both P.M.A. officials and men ran the union together. I don't know if those P.M.A. men were guilty or framed in regard to that bombing local U.M.W. men did not picket Mine B before it closed & I don't recall of getting or seeing any paper. But before they voted at one time I got thru the mail from U.M.W. some literature & others did too. No one ever asked me to join U.M.W. First there was 4 men for U.M.W. & then they went to six. I believe some were Andy Schrolevious, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Dominic Pasquale, Chas. Bohannon, he was the leader of them, Geo. & Emory Jacaway. They never bothered me at all. I

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL 67C 67D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] never heard of any parties for Elshoff or
(continued) U.M.W. I never heard P.M.A. officials say a thing about the wages but heard of it around the mine & the men never complained of the wages. I went to a meeting the night before the mine closed and they decided that they did not want to work with those men who were for U.M.W. I believe a notice was put up out at Mine B about that meeting. At the meeting I did not see any of the men. I worked the day of the strike & I did not know there was going to be a strike until later on. There was no talk among the men about a strike or about wages but there was talk about not working with those men who were for U.M.W. When mine B closed no one told me to load any cars short & don't know if they were loaded short. I never went back to Mine B after it closed & I did not go to the sit down strike at all. When the Mine B re-opened I received a letter from Elshoff but I did not go back to work as [redacted] I voted at the N.L.R.B. election at the Armory in Springfield, Ill. and it was by secret ballot & it was a good & straight election. We had a meeting before we went down & voted & [redacted] did not tell us how to vote & [redacted] said if we wanted to vote for U.M.W. we should. I voted for P.M.A. then. Near the Armory some man gave me some paper but I throw it away. No one ever came to me and asked about joining over to U.M.W. Edmundson sent a letter before the election to me saying I should vote for U.M.W. but there were no threats in it.

[redacted] read this four (4) page statement to me and it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge. and I have signed this of my own free will."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] does not speak English well and understands only simple questions. [redacted] acted as an interpreter at some points in the interview. [redacted] has only a fair memory. He expressed his willingness to testify in court. He claimed to have no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live on [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I am employed at Mine B.

"I was born [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] In 1936 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America when I started to work at Mine B. I have never held an office in any union.

"On the day the big strike started in 1937 I went out to the mine and somebody said there was no work so I came home. I went to the union meetings once in a while, but I don't remember going to a meeting the night before the strike. The miners struck at this time to protect themselves and to keep their jobs.

"After the mine reopened in 1939 an Italian fellow and a Polish fellow came to my house. They wanted me to join the U.M.W. and they told me that if I did not join the U.M.W. I could not work at Mine B.

"As I recall I joined the U.M.W. again just before the election of 1941. One day when I was working in the mine, a fellow known as [redacted] came to my room. This was about two or three days after I joined the U.M.W. [redacted] grabbed me by the throat, cursed me and said that he knew that I would not vote for U.M.W. even though I had signed up with U.M.W. When I signed up with U.M.W. [redacted] and a fellow known as [redacted] told me that I better sign up, or I would be on a vacation the next day. No one else talked to me about U.M.W.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I was satisfied with the P.M.A. when I was working in Mine B, and I did not want to join U.M.W. after the mine reopened. When I first joined the U.M.W. it was a good union, but now the U.M.W. does not look out for the members, nor does it protect them. The P.M.A. always looked out for their members. The P.M.A. always did the best it could for the miners.

"I never saw anyone beat up at Mine B, and I never saw any acts of favoritism by the management for the U.M.W.

"When [redacted] grabbed me by the throat, I told him that I would tell Falcetti, the super. He told me that I better not.

"Previous to my joining the U.M.W. after 1939, my room was always dirty and the company did not clean it up as it should have done. After I did join the U.M.W. the company always cleaned up my room.

"In the election in 1937 I voted for the P.M.A. union because I thought it was the best union. In 1941 I voted for the P.M.A. union because I still thought it was the best union, even though I was at that time a member of the U.M.W.

"This statement consisting of this and one other typewritten page has been read to me by [redacted] and I state that it true to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

[redacted]

"Special Agents, F.B.I.
"Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at her home at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
September 7, 1943.

"I, [redacted], give the following information to Special Agents [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I.

[redacted] he can't carry on a conversation and doesn't understand questions. His doctor is [redacted] of Springfield, Ill. and I don't believe it is advisable to talk to him now."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I. (Milw.)
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943"

Agents noted that [redacted] was sitting in a chair and he had a cane and a wheelchair near him. He was asked several questions by Agents, with the permission of [redacted] and he did not appear to thoroughly understand them and no further attempt was made to interrogate him.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] It is noted that his residence is at Springfield, Illinois. Being of [redacted] birth he does not express himself well in English. He is friendly and cooperative and it is felt, might be used to testify to those matters set forth in the following statement if deemed necessary.

The following statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Illinois
September 6, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement. I was born [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and became a U.S. citizen about [redacted] I now reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois.

"I started working in the mines in [redacted] and at that time joined the United Mine Workers. I have never held any office in a union. I joined Progressive in 1932 when the rest of the miners joined, but I had nothing to do with the formation of P.M.A. I started working at Mine B in 1935 and at that time the union was getting along all right with the company. The men were well pleased with P.M.A., all grievances were settled right away.

"In the spring of 1937 a new contract was to be signed but the company didn't want Progressive anymore. There was also about fourteen men at the mine who were working for U.M.W. I don't remember their names very well, but I knew their faces. They never bothered me much, but I knew what they were doing, they were trying to get P.M.A. men to join United. However, the men were all satisfied with P.M.A. I know that some of these men were expelled from P.M.A. but I didn't know they were kicked out until after the strike.

[redacted]

"I remember after the strike I signed a petition for Progressive. I also voted in the NLRB election, someone came and got me in a car and took me to the Armory, [redacted] The

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

The election was quiet and there was no trouble. [redacted] I wasn't on any picket line.

"When the mine opened up I got a letter telling me to come to work. I think this letter was from the Federal Government. After I had been working a while three men came to my house and told me I had to join United. These men were [redacted] told me I had better sign or it would be too bad for me, I would lose my job. As I remember this was around May or June of 1940. I signed up with them at that time because it was hard to get a job and I didn't want to lose the one I had at Mine B. I didn't want to join United then, I would rather have stayed with Progressive, but I was afraid not to join U.M.W.

"I quit Mine B about a month ago and am now working at #5, Panther Creek. I now belong to P.M.A.

"I do not know what caused the strike in 1937, other than trouble in the unions, and I have no information as to what caused it.

"This statement was read to me by Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my memory.

Witnessed: [redacted]

(Signed) [redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.,
U.S. Dept. of Justice

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 2, 1943. [redacted] stated that he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] would not make a good witness as he does not speak or understand English very well.

[redacted] furnished the following statement:

[redacted], Ill.
September 2, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats, or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] immigrated to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen of the U. S. in [redacted] I was employed at Mine "B" in about 1936 and stopped working at Mine "B" in Feb. 1941. I am now employed at [redacted] Ill. and have been employed at this mine since Feb. 1941.

"I became a coal miner in [redacted] at which time I became a member of UMW. I was then employed in a coal mine in Riverton, Ill. I remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I became a member of PMA, because UMW reduced the wage scale. I took no active part in the formation of PMA.

"I have never been an officer of any union.

"While I was employed at Mine "B" before the strike in May 1937, the management at Mine "B" seemed to have been on good relations with PMA. At no time did the management of Mine "B" attempt to persuade me to change from PMA to UMW.

"I thought PMA was an honest union and one which would do most good for me. PMA did not force me to pay any unusual special assessments. I took no interest in union activities.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" prior to May 12, 1937, I did not see a UMW picket line at Mine "B" nor did I see any UMW literature being distributed at Mine "B". Prior to the strike on May 12, 1937 no one attempted to get me to change from UMW to PMA.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I did not know of a wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend or know of a meeting on May 11, 1937.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 someone told me that five miners who were members of PMA were expelled because of their activities for U.M.W.; that Elshoff would not discharge the men. No mention was made of an intent to strike that day. I heard that the men expelled were Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Tony Plotch, Charles Bohannon and Frank Austin. I worked all day May 12, 1937 and upon leaving the mine I was told that the mine was on strike as Elshoff would not discharge the five men expelled from PMA. I did not load any coal cars short that day nor did I see any coal cars loaded short that day.

"I do not rember if I signed a PMA petition in the Summer of 1937 or not. I know I did not sign a UMW petition.

"I did not know of the formation of a new UMW union in the Summer of 1937.

"In Sept. 1937 someone told me Mine "B" was to open, therefore, I went to work on the day the mine was to have opened. Only UMW members went into the mine so PMA members set up a picket line. I acted as a picket a few days, but did not stay at the mine as a picket but a few days as I had work to do at home. No one threatened me if I did not act as a picket. I do not know why PMA stopped picketing Mine "B".

"I did not know of an attempt to re-open Mine "B" in Dec. 1937 and Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. I thought this election was fair and I voted at my own free will.

"In the last part of 1939 I received a letter from Mine "B" setting forth Mine "B" was to open. I went to work a few days later. Several months after I returned to work [redacted] and [redacted] came to my room at Mine "B" and asked me to join UMW. They did not threaten me. A short time later they returned to my room and asked me to join UMW. I informed them I did not want to join UMW and they told me they did not need me as there were plenty of UMW members at Mine B. During 1940 I saw several fights. In Feb. 1941 someone cut my clothes up when I was not present. In Feb. 1941 I saw [redacted] holding the door of a small building while someone was beating a man named [redacted] inside the building. On the same morning

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

I saw some UMW members beating [redacted] a man named [redacted] I quit work that day as I was afriad I would be beaten. Sometime in the last part of 1940 [redacted] came into the wash house at Mine "B" and tried to pick a fight with [redacted] at which time [redacted] stated that all the persons in the wash house had to sign up with UMW by Dec. 16th or they would loose their job.

"I always went in and out Mine B in 1940 and 1941 with three or four PMA members to keep from being beat by UMW.

"When I returned to Mine "B" in the last part of 1939 I did not notice the results of a fire or any large cave-ins.

"After I returned to Mine "B" in 1939 the management did not seem to be in favor of either PMA or UMW, but the mine did not take the PMA dues from my pay.

"On Feb. 21, 1941 I voted at the NLRB election. [redacted] a UMW man and the Mine "B" bookeeper told me I could not vote as I quit Mine "B", but the government man at the poles allowed me to vote even though [redacted] and the bookeeper objected. So far as I know this election was fair.

"I am now a member of PMA working at the [redacted] I did not want to become a member of UMA as I did not want to be forced to change from PMA to UMW.

"I have had this statement consisting of six pages read to me and it is true and true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 8, 1943.

Agents at about 7:00 p.m. went to the residence of [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, and identified themselves and explained to him the purpose of their mission. He advised that he did not know anything about the matter. He was then asked if he would wish to answer some questions and he was told that if he did not know the answers he should so advise. [redacted] said voluntarily that he would answer the questions. He also said he never had been arrested.

[redacted] answered a portion of the questions as will be reflected in the statement, and when questioned whether or not he had gone out to Mine "B" at any time while the men of the PMA were there on a sit down strike, he said he did not know anything about the strike, and that he should not have talked at all in the first place. He was then asked if he had been contacted by anyone in regard to this investigation, and he denied being contacted. He was then told that he need not answer any further questions and that Agents would depart.

Before leaving he was requested to read over the statement which he had furnished up to that time. He did so, and when he came to the part of the statement where he said that he should not have talked he laughed and said he did not think Agents would write that part down. He was told that Agents wrote down just what he had said and he was asked if what was written down was not all true just as he had said it. He told agents it was written down just like he had said and that it was true. After finishing reading the statement he again told Agents it was just what he had said and that it was all true. He was asked if he would tell Agents who had contacted him and told him not to talk about this investigation. This he refused to do; however, at this time he did not deny that he had been contacted.

The following unsigned statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted],
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943.

"I, [redacted] give this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted] who have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the F.B.I. to me. No force or threats have been used to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] I am at Mine B as a Company man & have been there since Sept. 1936. I first joined U.M.W. when I

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was 15 at Illinois & I never have been an officer. I had been at Jefferson Mine before going to Mine B & had been with P.M.A. there. Up till Mine B closed I never heard of any trouble between PMA & ELSHOFF. No one tried to make me turn over to U.M.W. before Mine B closed & I never heard of anyone wanting to get rid of P.M.A. there at Mine B before it closed in 1937. As far as I know P.M.A. men got along with P.M.A. officials. I went very seldom to P.M.A. meetings. I don't know if P.M.A. men or officials ran the union then. In regard to P.M.A. men sent to jail all I know is what I saw in the papers & I don't know if they were guilty or not. I don't know a thing about money affairs of P.M.A. & I don't think they took out any more than any other union did. I don't know if P.M.A. officials made reports of the money & I don't know if they stole any or not. Before Mine B closed I never saw U.M.W. picket Mine B & I never saw U.M.W. give out literature & no one asked me to join over to U.M.W. I never heard of any parties between ELSHOFF & U.M.W. It makes no difference to me which union I belonged to just as long as I got the union scale & that is all I am interested in. I don't recall of P.M.A. working without a contract at Mine B before it closed in 1937 & I never heard or knew of anyone talking or complaining about the wages or money paid them. I don't remember if I went to a meeting the night before Mine B closed or not as I very seldom went to any meetings & I also am hard of hearing. I was not at Mine B when it closed in 1937 as I was sick for a few days before but I heard about it being closed from other men. I never heard or know of any men being expelled from P.M.A. During summer of 1937 I never signed any petitions for P.M.A. or U.M.W. & just stayed home. I never heard of any men from Mine B going to work at the Jefferson Mine. I never heard & still don't know why Mine B was closed down. I don't know if I heard about Mine B going to reopen in fall of 1937. But I did not go out during sit down strike at all. I got a job on P.W.A. & I don't know when that was. I don't know nothing about anything about the strike & I shouldn't have talked at all in the first place. I ain't going to say anything more. Nobody told me not to say a thing & I just don't want to say anymore about it. I guess what I have said is the truth but I don't know. I don't want to get in trouble or lose my job. I just feel that in my bones & that is all."

"Springfield, Ill_
Sept. 8, 1943

"In presence of Agents [redacted] affirmed that the information herein was correct and true and as he had told it to Agents."

/s/ [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 3, 1943. [redacted] advised he did not have a criminal record. He is able to understand and speak English well. He would make a fair witness. [redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

[redacted], Ill.,
September 3, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] I am now employed by [redacted]. and have been in its employment since June 1938.

"About [redacted] I became a member of UMW at which time I was mining coal in the state of [redacted] I was a UMW from time to time until about [redacted] I was not mining coal in 1932. In 1935 I started to work for Jefferson Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill. and I joined PMA during 1935. In the first part of 1936 I obtained a job mining coal with Mine "B" and I was employed at Mine "B" until May 12, 1937.

[redacted]

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" the management seemed to have been on good relations with PMA. The management did not seem to discredit PMA and the management was not hostile in settling grievances. There were not any strikes or close-downs when I was employed at Mine "B".

"I thought PMA was a good union being operated for its members, , no unusual special assessments were made against me. I took no active part in union affairs.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" I did not see any UMW pickets nor did I see any UMW literature being distributed at the mine.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"Sometime in April 1937 JAMES HALE asked me if I was satisfied with the way things were going at Mine "B". I told him I was satisfied and he said no more. No one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW. A short time before May 12, 1937 some of the men at Mine "B" informed me that ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN SIRTOUT, EMORY JACKLAY and CHARLES BOHANNON were attempting to get them to change from PMA to UMW. I saw the above named men talking to different miners, but they never talked to me. So far as I know the above named men did not threaten anyone prior to May 12, 1937. I do not remember if the above named men were expelled from PMA prior to May 12, 1937 for their activity or not.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" I did not see any officials of UMW.

"I do not know of a wage scale controversy in the spring of 1937.

"I do not remember attending a meeting of PMA on May 11, 1937. I do not know if I received notice of such a meeting.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I went to work as usual. That day someone told me to load the coal cars short, which I did. I was not told the reason the cars should have been loaded short. On the afternoon of May 12, 1937 I was told to leave the mine as there was a strike. I was not told the reason for the strike and I do not know the reason. I did not know of a growing sentiment to strike that day.

"I remember signing a PMA petition in the Summer of 1937 to have PMA act as my bargaining agent. The petition was brought to my home by a representative of PMA to be signed. I voluntarily signed the petition.

"I did not sign a UMW petition in the summer of 1937, nor do I remember signing any other petition.

"I knew of the formation of a new UMW local in the summer of 1937. I do not remember if I was asked to join or not.

"In Sept. 1937 I received notice some way that Mine "B" was to open so I went to Mine "B" to picket as I heard Mine "B" was opening under UMW. I acted as a voluntary picket from time to time for about two months. I was not present when the pickets were enjoined from picketing, and it made no difference to me if PMA was enjoined from picketing or not. Only Mine "B" miners acted as pickets and there was no violence.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I do not remember Mine "B" opening in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938, but I did receive a letter sometime in 1937 from UMW inviting me to join UMW and if I wanted to work at Mine "B" I had to join UMW. I paid no attention to the letter.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair and everyone voted as they pleased.

"I lost all interest in Mine "B" after I received employment at [redacted] and can furnish no information subsequent to that date.

"I perfer PMA over UMW as I do not like JOHN L. LEWIS and the way UMW is operated as UMW is not operated for its members, whereas, PMA is operated for its members.

"I have read this statement consisting of five pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:-

[redacted], Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] was interviewed at his place of residence, which is [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted], at which time he stated he did not have much information relative to the facts of instant case. [redacted] seems to be an intelligent individual, but stated he had never paid any attention to union affairs and consequently could furnish no information of value to this case. It is not believed that [redacted] would make a good witness for the reason his information is rather limited. At the time of this interview, [redacted] executed the following signed statement:

"Sept. 6, 1943
[redacted] Illinois

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a U.S. citizen a few years ago. I started mining coal when I was a boy and joined the U.M.W. in about [redacted]

"I believe I was working at Mine B in 1932 when the state went Progressive and at that time I joined P.M.A. I have never attended many union meetings & have never held an office in the union. I never used to go to many meetings because I always lived quite a ways from the union hall. I didn't have anything to do with the start of PMA & just joined because the majority did. I felt that the PMA was a good union and most of the officers seemed to be good men.

"Since I never went to many meetings I don't know anything about any discussions about wages in the spring of 1937. I had heard that some men who were in the Progressives were really working for U.M.W. I don't know the names of any of the men though.

"On the day of the strike in May of 1937 I was working as a digger in box [redacted] I didn't know the mine was to go on strike, and that day I went about my job as usual. As I recall it we were called out of the mine a little before quitting time. I came out of the mine and it was then that I found out that the mine was on strike. I heard after the strike that some of the men had loaded their cars short, but I don't know why they did it. All I know is that I did my job as usual that day and had no idea the mine was going on strike.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I remember that a couple of weeks after the strike, I signed some kind of a petition for Progressive. I don't recall where I signed the petition & I don't remember what the purpose of the petition was. I remember that after I heard our men were on a picket line at the mine in September of 1937 I went out to the mine and stayed on picket duty for three or four days at first and then I went out later and stayed there until the marshal came with an injunction and made us stop the picket line.

"I remember the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937. I voted at that election & as far as I'm concerned there wasn't a bit of trouble at that time. There wasn't any fighting and nobody threatened me at any time. I didn't go out to the mine until after the mine opened up in November of 1939. I don't recall what month I went back to work, but know that I stayed in the Progressives for some time after.

"As I recall it Bohannon came out to my house with a man by the name of [redacted] They asked me to join the UMW and were nice about it all the time they were here. They told me the rest of the men were going united so I signed a membership card at that time. I was never threatened by anyone and I was never forced to join any union. When I went back to work at the mine my box wasn't open & I don't think it has been worked since.

"I worked at Mine B until about [redacted] at which time I changed over to Peabody #9.

"Since I was always a man to mind my own business, I don't have any definite information as to what caused the strike in 1937. All I know is that there were some men at the mine who were working for united and the rest of the men didn't like it. I am not in position to prove a thing though.

"The above statement of four pages has been read to me by [redacted] & I wish to state it is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

[redacted]) "Special Agents, FBI
[redacted]) U. S. Dept. of Justice"

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his [redacted] residence in [redacted] Illinois on September 5, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] and became a U.S. citizen in [redacted] He is presently employed as [redacted] Illinois. [redacted] can speak and understand English fairly well, but during the pertinent period took little interest in activities at Mine "B" and did not return to work there after the strike in 1937. He would be of little value as a witness. He advised he had no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinoi
Sept. 5, 1943,

"I, [redacted] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U.S. in about [redacted] where I had come in [redacted] In [redacted] I became a U.S. citizen in Springfield, Ill.

"I first started working in coal mines in [redacted] in [redacted] and in [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers of America union while mining in [redacted] I remained with UMW until 1932. I started working in Mine "B" in Springfield, Ill., in about [redacted]

"The 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union in Springfield, because I did not like the national and state leaders of UMW because I did not think they were treating us honestly. In 1932 they stole a ballot box in an election in Springfield, and this is one example of their dishonesty. I took no active part in the organization of the PMA local in Springfield, Ill., in 1932, and I have never held an office in any union.

"During the time from 1932 when PMA was organized until the strike in May of 1937, I never noticed any attempts by any company men or officials to favor either UMW or PMA and no one ever tried to discredit the PMA that I can remember. No attempts were made to get us to join UMW. During this time I never noticed any attempt of the UMW to organize at Mine "B" and I did not see any picketing by UMW.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I remember also during this time there were some bombing cases but I took no interest in them other than reading about them in the paper and I know, or knew, very little about them, and not enough to judge whether the trials were fair or not.

"During this time between 1932 and 1937 I considered the PMA union to be an honest union. I thought the PMA officials were honest and I did not think the PMA was a racket nor did I think there were any unusual assessments_

"I never attended any PMA meetings while I was working in Mine "B" because I lived in [redacted] and it was too far to go. I did not, therefore, attend a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the night before the strike.

"On May 12, 1937, I went to work in Mine "B" as usual. Then I went down in the mine some one said we were to load our cars short that day, and so I did not load mine as full as other days. I noticed that all the other cars were loaded short. Shortly after that noon, someone told us we were to come out and so I came out. I knew we were going out on strike but I did not know why. I had not heard anything about some PMA men being expelled from the local for working for UMW. I remember some men, one of whom was Frank Austin, quit the PMA to join UMW, but I never heard of any trouble over the company's refusal to fire some men who had been expelled from PMA. I knew there was some contract trouble over the wage scale. But several weeks after we went on strike I heard the reaon was because the company wanted us to join UMW and would not sign with PMA. This is the only reason I have ever heard for the strike.

"The next time I went back to Mine "B" was about May 15, 1937, to get some wwages. The only time I ever went back to Mine "B" was in Sept. of 1937. The company then tried to re-open the mine but only about 5 or 6 men went down and PMA set up a picket line. I was in the picket line a few days and then went home because I didn't like picketing and I didn't want to work where they were having trouble.

"Later in Sept. of 1937 I went to work at [redacted]

"No one at any time tried to get me to join UMW while I was at Mine "B". After the strike started in May, 1937, I may have signed a PMA petition, but I cannot remember definitely. I know I never signed a UMW petition.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I do not know anything about a UMW local being formed in Springfield, in 1937.

"I was in the picket line at Mine "B" in Sept. 1937 only a few days and do not know why it was taken off. I do not know of any happenings after Sept. of 1937 at Mine "B" except that I voted in an election held by the National Labor Relations Board in Dec. of 1937 when PMA beat UMW. I was not forced or threatened in any way to vote in that election and I believe it was a fair election.

"This statement of five pages has been read to me and it is ture and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(Signed) [redacted]

Witness
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent FBI."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] who resides at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] was very cooperative and it is believed that he would make a good witness inasmuch as he appeared to have a good knowledge of some pertinent facts in this case, is native born and speaks English well. He has no known criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 7, 1943.

"I, [redacted] do voluntarily give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born [redacted]. My present address is [redacted] I started working in the Dawson Mine in [redacted] joining the United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started at Mine B in [redacted] but was discharged early in [redacted] I returned to Mine B in [redacted] as a digger. I still belonged to UMWA at this time. Between [redacted] and 1932 the UMWA and the Mine B officials got along fine.

"The Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed to get away from John L. Lewis, "the dictator". I attended a meeting at Reservoir Park in Springfield where the new union was discussed but I took no active part in its organization. I never held an office in PMA or UMWA. I joined PMA along with all the other miners at Mine B. The new Progressive union got along swell with Mr. Elshoff. I liked the PMA because it was formed on democratic principles, and I liked the union officials. I attended about 1/3 of the PMA meetings. The PMA didn't have as many special assessments as UMWA.

"During the month or two before the strike in May of 1937 about a dozen men were "spies" or "organizers" by the PMA members who were working out there. These men were: Frank Austin, Andrew Schrelevious, Tony Plotch, Dominic Pasquale, Joe Albanese, Jimmy Hale, Charles Bohannon, "Bill" Sitrout, Pete Carter, John (Cotton) Ananias, Emory Jacaway, and Harry McDonald. These men were PMA but they were trying to organize for UMWA. It was gossip at the mine that Charles Bohannon held a card in UMWA while he was working at Mine B under PMA. I understood that a few of the above men were discharged but never attended any meeting at which these men were discharged or suspended.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"I am not able to recall anything about a wage scale controversy at Mine "B" in the spring of 1937.

"I have no knowledge of any meeting before the strike in which a strike was discussed.

"The morning of the strike I heard the men talking, while going down in the mantrip, about the Mine B co. not firing the "spies" who had been suspended by PMA. The men talked about going on strike until Mine B discharged the suspended men. I also learned about the dismissal of the "spies" from a notice on the Bulletin Board at Mine B. On the day of the strike I came out on top at noon because the ceiling was cracking and falling in my room in Box [redacted] I was loafing on top waiting for my ride home when about 2:15 I saw [redacted] run out of the Co. office and go to the Engine Room where he yelled at [redacted] to stop blasting coal as the mine was on strike. I then talked to [redacted] and he told me that he was calling a strike because the Co. refused to fire the suspended men. [redacted] said that Elshoff flatly refused to fire the men and didn't even want to talk about it. As soon as my dad came up out of the mine we drove home.

"I remember signing a petition for PMA. It was brought to my home by [redacted] I also believe that I signed another PMA petition later.

"These alleged spies formed a new UMWA local in the summer of 1937. Charles Bohannon & Tony Plotch were officers in this new union. Charles Bohannon, Joe Albonese, and "Cotton" Ananias came to the house to see me and asked me to go to work. I said no because I knew I have to join UMWA to work with them.

"One day I read in the paper that Mine B would resume work and I took my lunch pail and went out. When we got there Oscar Falcetti came out of the office with about a dozen men. Mostly the "spies" mentioned above. Falcetti rang the bell personally to lower the first men in the cage. [redacted] told us not to say anything & not start any trouble. [redacted] turned to Oscar Falcetti and gave him a good cussing and said, "look what you've done". I remember that "Cotton" Ananias got scared and ran into the office. Falcetti told [redacted] that UMWA had promised him 50 men to open the mine - but had evidently failed. I went back home.

"Shortly afterwards some miner came to see me and asked me to go up to Mine B and picket to protect my job. At first we picketed for about a week out on the old Jacksonville Road for about a week. Later I went back and stayed on the Mine B property and stayed off and on until we were put

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

off by an injunction. The general opinion was that PMA was being put out so that UMWA could come in and go to work. After I left the mine this time I didn't go back again at any of the attempted reopenings.

"I voted in the NLRB election which the Progressives won, by a large majority. From the time of this election until the mines reopened I [redacted] when I got a letter to come back to work.

"When I returned to the mine in 1939 I still belonged to the Progressives and I paid my dues to them. After we returned to work the UMWA stole tools, beat up PMA members, our men started getting excessive docks - all to get PMA men to change over to UMWA. During this period Oscar Falcetti hired UMWA men who were investigated for loyalty. No Progressives at all were hired. I saw [redacted] get beat up right at the Office door by Charles Bohannon. The reason no one interfered was that the UMWA men were supposed to be carrying guns and the PMA men weren't allowed to go armed. I heard that "Cudge" Bumgarner beat up [redacted] was beat up in the wash house. I understood that a fellow by the name of [redacted] beat him up. Most of the men who were beat up were old or weak physically. I heard that [redacted] was the one who beat up [redacted]

"No one threatened me, beat me, or stole my tools. No one ever approached me at the mine to get me to join UMWA. About this time [redacted] came over from [redacted] looking for work. He came over to see me and said that "Cudge" Bumgarner had told him that if I would sign up with UMWA. I told him I would when [redacted] definitely got the job, but I was only doing it because I felt sorry for [redacted] I did sign and then [redacted] wouldn't take the job. I was boiling and plenty mad but there was nothing I could do about it.

"Shortly after that the NLRB held the second election and I voted PMA.

"If I had a free and voluntary choice I would prefer the Progressive Union.

[redacted] was supposed to get $5.00 a day for organizing out at Mine B during the trouble.

"I have read the above statement consisting of six pages. The same is true and I do hereby sign my name.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed: [redacted], Special Agent, FBI.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed in the Springfield Office by Special Agent [redacted] on September 6, 1943, at which time the following statement was secured. [redacted] reviewed the statement on September 7, 1943, signed same, and furnished a supplemental statement also set out below.

In addition to the information set out in the signed statements [redacted] mentioned that one [redacted] who was one of the PMA miners attacked by UMW men, saw [redacted] hand money to CHARLES BOHANNON and others of his group of strong-arm men on the property of Mine "B".

"Springfield, Illinois
September 6, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats, promises or duress have been made.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I am employed as [redacted] Panther Creek Coal Mine No. 2, Springfield, Illinois. [redacted]. I began working in coal mines at the age of 18 years. I first joined the United Mine Workers of America and continued membership in that union until about 1932.

"I went to work for the Mine 'B' Coal Company in about [redacted] In 1932, along with the general movement, I gave up my membership with the United Mine Workers of America and became a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. The Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized on September 1, 1932. I continued to work at Mine 'B' up to May 12, 1937. During the period from 1932 to 1937, to my recollection, there was little or no trouble between the employees and the employer.

"I was present at the meeting of the Progressive Mine Workers of America on the night of May 11, 1937 when several members of our union were expelled. These individuals were expelled because of their activities for United Mine Workers of America while holding membership in our union. As a matter of fact I was aware of the fact that something probably was wrong and that these men were interested in the UMW prior to May 11th, because of the fact that it seemed as though these men were always getting to their feet on the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

floor of union meetings and causing arguments. I voted for their expulsion on the night of May 11th.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I went to work at Mine 'B' as usual and went down into the mine at about 7:30 A.M. as was my usual custom. When I went down into the mine that morning I knew that the PMA Pit Committee had requested the Mine 'B' Company to discharge the miners who had been expelled from PMA the night before. I also knew that there had been a disagreement between the Pit Committee, our local union president, and the coal company. When I went to work that morning loading coal I loaded short cars of coal throughout the day because of the fact that I was dissatisfied with the coal company. I was especially dissatisfied with the company because it had not immediately discharged the men who were expelled from PMA. It was my understanding that under our contract and extensions with the coal company that the company was required to discharge members who had been expelled. I was called out of the mine approximately one hour before quitting time by officials of my union. Thereafter I was of course not employed at Mine 'B' as that mine was shut down.

"I recall having signed several petitions for the PMA after the mine was shut down. I never signed any petition for any other group. Upon one occasion during the summer of 1937 I recall having met one [redacted] at the Victorian Tavern on 6th and Jefferson Streets in Springfield. [redacted] told me that RAY EDMUNDSON wanted to see me. I replied to [redacted] that I did not want to see EDMUNDSON. I identify [redacted] as a miner who I last knew to be working at Peabody Coal Company, Mine #57 at Springfield.

"At the time of the National Labor Relations Board election held at the Armory in Springfield on December 15, 1937 to determine the bargaining agent for Mine 'B', I assisted in the election in the following way. During the hours that the election booths were open I stood by the ballot box and watched the voters put their ballots in the box. I cannot recall having handled any of the ballots before they were placed in the boxes. I recall during this election that [redacted] checked off the names of voters from a list. I also recall that one [redacted] was assigned the duty of seeing to it that voters left the election hall by a different exit than the door through which they entered. I do not recall any UMW men working at the election. I recall that a National Labor Relations Board Field Examiner by the name of [redacted] with another examiner, were in attendance all during the election and the counting of the ballots.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"After the election was over the ballot boxes were unlocked and the ballots dumped out on a table. I, along with the examiners and other PMA men, sorted the ballots into three piles, namely those in favor of PMA, those in favor of UMW and those who were not in favor of any union. Thereafter we all assisted in counting the ballots and each man recounted all the ballots in order to check to see that the count was correct.

"I wish to here state that to my knowledge there was no fraud or dishonest count on the part of anyone in connection with the election.

"I recall that during the election CHARLES BOHANNON came into the election hall and handed an envelope to Field Examiner [redacted] I do not know what was in the envelope.

"In about September 1937 I became [redacted] I recall having had several meetings with officials of the Mine 'B' Coal Company, along with other comitteemen, our union president and other district officials. These meetings concerned demands for retroactive wages due after April 1, 1937; concerned attempts to negotiate a contract with Mine 'B' and concerned attempts to have the mine reopened and worked by members of PMA. I wish to state that all of our negotiations, whether with CARL H. ELSHOFF, [redacted] or OSCAR FALCETTI, were of no avail. Their answers to our demands were either evasive or they would put us off, or would say that the times were bad, there was no market for coal, and that they could buy coal cheaper than operate their own mine. On one occasion, I, along with [redacted], went to Mine 'B' for the purpose of negotiation. We saw CHARLES BOHANNON, FRANK AUSTIN, [redacted] trimming the mules' hoofs. I knew these men to be members of UMW. We asked FALCETTI why they were working and he said that they were not working; that the mine company was giving the old mules to these men. I have been shown a photostatic copy of an affidavit made before [redacted] Notary Public, signed and sworn to on January 18, 1938 by [redacted] This affidavit pertains to several matters. I wish to state that at this time I can recall the conversation concerning the old mules appearing in paragraph 2 on page 2. The statement there is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. However I cannot recall at this time other matters contained in this affidavit. I have initialed the back of the third page of the photostat exhibited to me, along with Special Agent [redacted], on this date.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I recall that some five or six weeks before Mine 'B' reopened in 1937 as an open shop that the committeemen and officials of PMA, including myself, attempted to negotiate a contract with CARL H. ELSHOFF but that all he would talk about was opening the mine on an open shop basis.

"On the Saturday before the mine whistle blew (November 6, 1939), LEE EUSEL, attorney for the Mine 'B' Coal Company, came to the offices of the PMA and advised us that the mine whistle would blow on the Monday morning, November 6th, and that all employees who did not appear within two days would lose their right to a job.

"I reported for work that Monday morning and was given my old job back.

[redacted] I did not go to work underground for about a week. I assisted in getting the men placed and in making up the waiting list of those men who had no place to work when the mine first opened. The names of the men who had no place to work were put in a hat, drawn from the hat, and placed on a waiting list in the order drawn. When I went down to my place in the mine as a coal loader I found it in substantially the same condition as when I left it almost two and one-half years before. I was able to load coal the first day I was at work.

"During about the first part of July 1940, after the mine was in about normal operating capacity and after all men had been placed, the UMW began to organize on the Mine 'B' property. On July 8, 1940, after JOE ALBANESE, TONY PLOTCH, [redacted] CHARLES BOHANNON and others had openly solicited Mine 'B' employees on mine property, requesting them to join UMW, I, together with other members of the Mine Committee, including [redacted] protested to OSCAR FALCETTI. We pointed out that the privilege of doing organizational work on mine property had been denied to PMA men. I knew that the UMW men mentioned above were doing organizational work because I actually saw them on mine ~~property with application books.~~ I actually pointed out to FALCETTI UMW men with application books on mine property. He told me, 'I'm just working here. I can't do anything about it.'

"Except for a few mule drivers and other miscellaneous UMW men who were hired earlier, the company, after July 1940, began the practice of employing new men brought to Mine 'B' by UMW organizers. I have seen [redacted] bring at least eight or ten prospective employees to the office of FALCETTI. FALCETTI would ask them for their mining papers

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

and social security cards. He would then give them check numbers and jobs. At one time I knew the names of many of these individuals and made records of these names, which I turned over to the officers of the district. However I do not have the records at this time and cannot recall the names of such employees. During this same period of time I know of one Progressive who had a card who was signed up at this time. This was [redacted] We also signed up one young boy who did not have a card, but whose father was a Progressive. This was the son of [redacted]

"Many of the Progressives whose names I cannot at this time recall made applications for jobs in the office of Mine 'B' during this time but were turned down. At one time there was a group of Progressive miners from Taylorville who came up every morning and applied for jobs but were always turned down.

"About June 28, 1940 [redacted] was employed at Mine 'B' as an air man. At this time Mine 'B' also employed another air man. Previous to this time Mine 'B' had only employed one air man. [redacted] air man at the time [redacted] was employed, continued to do the work of the air man. [redacted] did not take over the regular duties of an air man but instead went through the mine from room to room and place to place. Air men usually do not go from room to room. [redacted] was without doubt doing organizational work, although he never did approach me.

"On July 1, 1940, just as I was coming out of the wash house on the mine property [redacted] a UMW organizer, came up and struck me in the mouth with his fist. As a result of this blow it was necessary for a company doctor to take a stitch in my upper lip. After this blow I wish to state that [redacted] and I went across the tracks and off of company property, where I gave him a beating. [redacted] did not come back to the mine for some time and never did actually work there. I had reported this incident to FALCETTI. I do not know why [redacted] at that time did not return to work. I do know, however, that at a later date [redacted] did return to the mine property and was involved in physical violence against PMW men just prior to the election in February 1941.

"Upon more than one occasion when our union was having meetings on the second and fourth Fridays of every month at our meeting hall on Sixth and Washington Streets, men whom I recognized to be members of UMW would congregate in front of our hall. Sometimes these UMW men would

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

just stand in front of the meeting hall and watch who went in and out of the hall. Other times they would talk to men entering and leaving. On one occasion, I believe it was on July 31, 1940, I saw [redacted] standing in front of our meeting hall with an open knife in his hand. On that occasion the City Police came and took the knife away from [redacted] The police were called on the complaint of [redacted] was arrested but the trial postponed from time to time. Finally CHARLES BOHANNON came to me and said he would pay the costs of this case if the matter could be dropped. He did pay the costs and the matter was dropped.

"On another occasion it was necessary for me to drive PMA members home from the meetings, and CHARLES BOHANNON, in his car, followed me. This was in the wintertime and the car windows were frosty so that I could not see the identities of the other men in BOHANNON's car. However I do know that there were three other men in the car. He persisted in following me and the police finally assisted me in taking these miners home. This car followed me around the city hall square several times until [redacted] who was in front of the meeting hall, saw what was happening, gave me the signal to continue on and then called the police.

"Frequently on the morning after one of our PMA meetings the UMW organizers who had been in front of the meeting hall the night before would approach PMA members and attempt to have them join the UMW union. When these men would not join numerous incidents would occur where dirt was thrown in the PMA miners' cars or their check numbers would be taken off of their cars. I cannot recall at this time the names of the PMA men who lost check weight tags or had dirt thrown inside their cars. I do, however, recall that on two days just shortly before the election in 1941 there were forty or more cases of check weight tags missing from PMA employees' cars. I do know that at this same time on two occasions my check numbers were removed from my cars and I've never received any pay for the loss of those cars.

"I wish to here state that some of the UMW members who did appear in front of our meeting hall included TONY PLOTCH, CHARLES BOHANNON, [redacted]

[redacted] had a working place in Mine 'B' very near to mine. On about August 2, 1940 [redacted] came to me and complained that [redacted] had been to his room and called him a son-of-a-bitch. I told [redacted] that since that was all that had happened, he ought to go back to work and forget about it. Almost immediately [redacted] returned and told me that [redacted] had hit him in the mouth.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

[redacted] was not obviously bruised. However I took [redacted] from his work place to the parting and told [redacted] boss, to see that he got to the bottom, to put him on the motor, and see Superintendent OSCAR FALCETTI and tell him what happened. The next morning I called this matter to FALCETTI's attention, at which time he promised to see to it that nothing more would happen to [redacted] After FALCETTI's promise nothing more did happen to [redacted]

"I wish to state that on more than one occasion I talked with OSCAR FALCETTI, Mine 'B' Superintendent, officially, as a member of the PMA Pit Committee and requested FALCETTI to permit me and my committee the privilege of conducting organizational activity on Mine 'B' property. I was particularly interested in this and repeatedly pressed the point with FALCETTI because of the organizational activity which the UMW men were engaging in. On each occasion FALCETTI told me that the PMA would not be allowed to conduct any organizational work at Mine 'B'. This occurred during 1940.

"The injunction issued by the United States District Court prohibited PMA from engaging in any activity at the mine. However, upon no occasion did FALCETTI base his refusal to allow us the right of organizational work upon the basis of the federal injunction.

"I have been shown a photostatic copy of an affidavit subscribed and sworn to on the 12th day of September 1940 by [redacted]. This affidavit pertains to a conference held on July 12, 18th, 23rd and 29th between representatives of PMA and Mine 'B' Coal Company when protests were made by our group about the intimidation and coercive acts of UMW organizers. At this time Mr. ELSHOFF denied knowledge of such acts and said it was against the policy of the coal company to permit such activities or any activities tending to further the interests of any organization on the property of the Mine 'B' Coal Company. This affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. In connection with this I wish to further state that upon one of my meetings with CARL H. ELSHOFF I told him that he ought to go over to the mine and find out what was going on. I made this remark to him after he had denied knowing of any of the organizational work on Mine 'B' property. I have initialed, along with Agent [redacted] the back of this photostat and it is dated September 6, 1943 on the back.

"I wish to state that Agent [redacted] has exhibited to me a transcript of testimony which I furnished on February 11, 1943 to Special Agent [redacted] of the Internal Revenue Bureau. I have re-read

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

this statement at this time and wish to here state that the information contained therein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I have initialed page 10 of this statement, along with Special Agent [redacted], on September 6, 1943.

"I wish to refer to the affidavit of [redacted], sworn to on August 8, 1940 before [redacted] Field Examiner of the National Labor Relations Board. This affidavit states that CARL ELSHOFF said, 'I don't think there ever will be a contract signed at this mine and I might even default the payroll'. I have been shown a photostatic copy of this affidavit by Special Agent [redacted]. He and I have initialed it under date of September 6, 1943. In addition to the information contained in this affidavit I wish to say that this meeting with CARL ELSHOFF took place at Mine 'B' when the Progressive Committee was attempting to negotiate a contract and dispose of grievance cases. [redacted] Pit Committee would always talk to ELSHOFF whenever we could find him and this was one of those occasions. I wish to state that before a hearing of the National Labor Relations Board I testified as appears in the instant mentioned affidavit. Thereafter the next day CARL ELSHOFF spoke to me personally at the mine and let me know in no uncertain terms that he did not like my testimony of the day before, before the National Labor Relations Board.

"Special Agent [redacted] has exhibited to me a photostatic copy of an affidavit subscribed and sworn to on August 8, 1940 before [redacted] Field Examiner, National Labor Relations Board, and signed by [redacted] This affidavit substantiates information given above in this statement relative to the difficulty of Progressives securing employment during 1940 at Mine 'B'. This affidavit is true and correct and I have placed my initials along with those of Agent [redacted] on the photostatic copy, and have dated the same September 6, 1943.

"In either December 1940 or January 1941, one day when four other miners and I were going to work in my car and my wife was driving, CHARLES BOHANNON came along in his car, tooted the horn, and then attempted to side-swipe the car we were in. However he was not successful and went on down the road.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"About January 27, 1941 I went to FALCETTI's office to take up some grievance cases with him, and while I was in the office several men came in complaining that their tools had been stolen. In the meantime a 'shot firer', [redacted] told me my tools and [redacted] tools had been stolen so I asked [redacted] the boss out there, to see about them. I was told not to go down in the mine by [redacted], who I knew to be a strong-arm man for UMW, and he said that this was a warning.

"The day after my tools were stolen I decided I wanted to go into the mine and see for myself what happened to my tools. I entered the wash room and was changing my clothes when [redacted] and several others walked up to me and [redacted] called me a son-of-a-bitch and told me I couldn't work there any more. He then struck at me, but I got away from all of them. I was dressed only in my underwear and was bare-footed but I ran out of the wash house and into the yard. The ground was covered with ice at this time. I met FALCETTI in the yard and told him what had happened. He took me into his office and told the Sheriff to take me over to the wash house to get my clothes. Under the Sheriff's protection I changed my clothes, but this protection was then unnecessary because the group had already broken up.

"The next day I came back to the mine and some of the men were complaining that their clothes had beencut up, so the Sheriff and I went into the wash house. I looked at my clothes and my shoes and everything were cut into ribbons. These clothes were all gathered up and taken to the States Attorney's office. That same morning I saw [redacted] and asked him about my tools and he said they were all gone. I told him I had two kegs of powder down in the mine, which I had to purchase myself, and for him to look after them for me. The two kegs of powder were found in my box in the mine and the company paid me for them.

"Between the time my clothes were cut up and the National Labor Relations Board Election, I went back and forth to the mine each day, [redacted] and not entering the mine as a coal loader. When the National Labor Relations Board election determined the UMW to be the sole bargaining agent, I walked out of the job and have never worked at Mine 'B' since. It was my desire to maintain my membership in PMA rather than to become affiliated with UMW. I never attempted to obtain UMW membership and instead sought employment in a Progressive mine.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I have read the above statement consisting of fifteen pages. I understand the meaning of all words and phrases used therein and wish to state that to the best of my knowledge this statement is true and correct.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]

[redacted]
Special Agents, Federal Bureau of Investigation."

"Springfield, Illinois
September 7, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following supplemental voluntary statement to [redacted], who I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This supplementary statement is made by me in view of the fact that while reading my fifteen page statement, dated at Springfield, Illinois on September 6, 1943, I recall the following additional pertinent information which I desire to furnish.

"Sometime in January 1941 and before the 17th, [redacted] met me in the close quarters between the swinging doors at the entrance to the wash house. He asked me what I got him fired for and made a 'pass' at me. I ducked and hit him. Thereafter [redacted] and a group of UMW thugs gathered in the mine office along with Sheriff's deputies. At that time [redacted] spoke up and said, 'You big brute. I came out to get you and that's what I'm going to do.' A Deputy Sheriff warned him he was making threats and the matter was dropped at that time.

"Sometime during the month of January and between the 10th and 17th of that month, 1941, [redacted], CHARLES BOHANNON, [redacted] Superintendent OSCAR FALCETTI, CARL ELSHOFF and I cannot recall whether or not [redacted] was present, met in the mine office. [redacted] spoke up to the above-mentioned group on this morning and said that the local UMW union had received word from the International Union that January 17, 1941 was the deadline for the men in Mine B to sign up with UMW, and that any miners who had not signed up by that time would be met on the lane leading to the mine. They would be allowed to go to

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]. (Continued)

work at the mine if they could get through the lane without having their 'caboose shot off'. He also said that it could be that there might be another Herrin massacre. ELSHOFF spoke up and said that he did not care to have anything of that kind go on on the mine property, and said he would be there the morning of the 17th to see that nothing like that happened. I was at Mine B on the morning of January 17th and nothing of the nature threatened by [redacted] took place. However, I did notice that ELSHOFF was not on the mine property that morning.

"I have read the above statement consisting of two pages. I understand the meaning of all words and phrases used therein and wish to state that to the best of my knowledge this statement is true and correct.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]

[redacted]
Special Agents, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Springfield, Illinois "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, [redacted] was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 6, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] was cooperative, answered all questions asked, and stated he left Mine "B" as he feared being injured if he remained and worked as a member of PMA. He executed the following statement:

[redacted] Illinois
September 6, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Illinois. I was born [redacted] I am presently employed at the Panther Creek Mine #4, Springfield, Illinois as a digger. I first joined a mine union at [redacted] Illinois in [redacted] This was at the [redacted] under the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as UMW. I never held an office in any mine union. I worked in four or five mines in the Springfield, Illinois area as a member of the UMW between [redacted] In [redacted] I went to work in Mine B, Springfield, Illinois and worked continuously there until the mine closed on May 12, 1937. I went back to work at Mine B in November, 1937 when it began operating on an open shop basis. I worked as a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, when I returned to mine B in November 1939. I continued to work there until about January, 1941, when I quit.

"As I have stated, I joined the UMW in [redacted] and continued to be a member of that union until 1932. In September, 1932, I voluntarily joined the PMA when the operator at Mine B signed a contract with the PMA. I joined with the rest of the miners of my own free will. I have continued to be a member of the PMA until the present time.

"I feel that the PMA is a good union. The PMA officials and the members of that union have gotten along in a satisfactory manner, and I feel that this union's officials have handled the union matters properly. I took no active part in the formation of PMA.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]. (Continued)

"Inasmuch as I do not live in Springfield I attended very few union meetings and do not take an active part in union affairs. Prior to 1932, as far as I know, Elshoff maintained cordial relations with UMW. The relations between Elshoff and PMA from September, 1932 to April, 1937 were also satisfactory to the best of my knowledge. During this period, neither Elshoff or Falcetti gave any indication they preferred one union over the other.

"From September, 1932 to April, 1937 I do not recall that any UMW literature was distributed at the mine or that there was any UMW picket line at the mine during this period. However, in the Spring of 1937 there were some PMA members who were agitating at the mine against the PMA. These men are named as follows; Joe Albanese, John Cotton, or Ananias, John Sirtout, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, George Jacaway, Emery Jacaway, Pete Carter, Frank Assain, Charles Bohannon, James Hale, Tony Floton.

"A short time before the mine closed in May, 1937, I attended a PMA meeting at the PMA union hall in Springfield and as I recall, Charles Bohannon, James Hale, Cotton Ananias and Dominic Pasquale and several others were expelled from the PMA as they were charged with disloyalty to the PMA, but I don't recall the exact charges. I attended the PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937. I learned of this meeting by word of mouth at the time. At this meeting some more PMA members were expelled but I do not recall the identity of the men or the charges.

"At this time I heard that the above mentioned group of men were contacting miners working at Mine 3 and trying to get them to join the UMW. However, they did not contact me.

"Regarding the wage scale controversy, I am not fully familiar with the details of it, but as I recall, Elshoff Claimed his contract with PMA did not contain a retroactive clause. The PMA officials stated that the contract did contain such a clause and I was expecting some back pay which I have never received. To my knowledge, Elshoff did not take any action to stop the activities of the UMW organizers at the mine prior to its closing in May 1937. The PMA expelled about twelve to fourteen of these men and asked Elshoff to discharge them as they were no longer members of the union. Elshoff refused.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(Continued)

"On May 12, 1937, I worked with Andrew Schrelevious and since he was one of the men expelled from PMA, I knew that Elshoff had not paid any attention to the PMA request to discharge him and the others. I never saw any cars loaded short and knew nothing about it. When I saw that Schrelevious was working, I loaded one car, then quit working and left the mine.

"I recall signing a PMA petition in the summer of 1937 but I do not recall what it was about. I worked in the PMA picket line at Mine B for fifty-six days and nights.

"I went to the mine all three times it attempted to re-open. I do not recall how I received notice it was going to re-open. The only miners Oscar Falcetti would let go down into the mine to work were UMW members and since they did not have enough UMW men, the mine never opened. These UMW members were men who had formerly worked there and whose names are mentioned in this statement set forth above.

"In November, 1939 when the mine opened, I started work again in Mine B. From that time on, the UMW had organizers in the mine. Sometime in 1940, Charles Bohannon contacted me in the mine several times and asked me to join the UMW, but I refused. Later, he contacted me and said he expected me to join the UMW later after the rest of the men signed up. I told him he would have to keep expecting. Later on, I was in the wash house one morning and Charles Bohannon, [redacted] were sitting on a bench together. I walked in front of them and Bohannon called me a Son-of-a-bitch and threw a lighted cigarette in my face. I know he did this because I would not sign up with the UMW. I had no other kind of trouble with him, other than this union trouble. I reported this to Falcetti and he ignored it. I went down in the mine in the same cage with Bohannon and as I got off the cage, Bohannon said he was going to soften up my head. I still refused to join the UMW and told him 'nothing doing'. A miner named [redacted] was in the cage at this time, and heard this conversation. On another occasion, while I was in the wash house [redacted] (phonetic), a UMW member who was not even working at Mine B said, 'There's one thing, these men will not be here very long'. I said I might be in the mine for some time. I knew he was trying to start trouble, and I reported it to Falcetti. Later, Falcetti got [redacted] and brought him to the office and [redacted] and [redacted] who were both UMW members came with them. [redacted] denied making the statement, and [redacted] said in front of Falcetti, [redacted] you have been looking for trouble for a long time and you are going to get it.' Falcetti made no comment and refused to take any action. Shortly thereafter, in the first part of January 1941, Charles Bohannon and [redacted] beat up [redacted] in the wash house. [redacted] was on the outside

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

of the wash house holding the door shut so [redacted] could not get out. A day or so later I went to Falcetti with the PMA Pit Committee to ask for protection and he refused to take any action. The next day, I went in the mine and found my shovel missing and then I went to [redacted] room. [redacted] had been a PMA member, but had been threatened into joining the UMW, after having been approached four or five times to join the UMW. [redacted] told me to leave his room as the UMW were out to get me and he said he had been told not to associate with and PMA members. I went into [redacted] room and he gave me to understand he did not want me seen in his room. At this time, I felt I would be injured if I stayed at the mine, so I left.

"I voted in the NLRB election on December 15, 1937 and thought it was fair in every respect. I voted in the second NLRB election in February 1941 and felt the election was fair, but the men had been made to sign up with UMW before the election.

"I want to add that I was further threatened by the UMW in January, 1941 because some of the UMW men cut up my working clothes and shoes during the night. They were cut up so badly I could not wear them. The soles in the shoes were cut from the upper part. Several other PMA members had their clothes cut up at the same time. We reported this to the PMA District Office and later to the States Attorney's office in the County Building, Springfield, Illinois.

"I made two affidavits at the PMA District office in connection with the tactics of the UMW organizers. One of these affidavits concerned [redacted] threat mentioned above. I do not recall what the other was about.

"I know Elshoff and Falcetti favored the UMW but I never heard them say so, and I knew this because the UMW organizers mentioned in this statement were seen by me in the Company office of Mine B during the Spring of 1937 while I was at the mine. This was unusual, because ordinary miners do not hang around the Company office.

"I have carefully read the fully understand the five and one half pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to induce me to make this statement.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnessed:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 2, 1943. It should be noted that [redacted] has been very cooperative since the inception of this investigation and has upon request furnished [redacted] Progressive Miners of America, which has been of material assistance in the course of this investigation to date. [redacted] With respect t[redacted] statement, which he executed, it should be noted that he was born in the United States. However, this conviction may materially affect his citizenship status. In the event [redacted] is called as a witness, he will be very cooperative. He is intelligent and presents a pleasant appearance. He will be able to testify as to the facts set out in the following signed statement. [redacted] has some original notes and memoranda upon which to base his recollections.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 2, 1943

"I [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I am [redacted] and was born [redacted] Illinois. I am presently residing at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] I have been a miner for [redacted] years. I was employed at Mine "B" in [redacted], and I had been a member of the United Mine Workers of America at that time since [redacted] when I started working in the coal mines. I continued regularly in my employment as a coal miner at Mine "B" at Springfield under Mr. ELSHOFF's management until [redacted] The reason for my discharge at that time was given by OSCAR FALCETTI as engaging in union activities on the mine property and which, he said, had taken place on [redacted] At that time I belonged to Local #2403 of the United Mine Workers of America. This local had some difficulties with the International under JOHN L. LEWIS and District No. 12, which was under a semi-provisional government. Our local union because of these difficulties was retaining all the dues collected within the local itself. At that time we had some difficulties with CARL ELSHOFF because he was holding up a certain amount of dues that were being deducted from the pay of the miners and would not turn

INTERVIEW SITE
[redacted]
(continued)

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it over to the Financial Secretary of the local. I was active among those who tried to straighten this matter out with Mr. ELSHOFF. [redacted] and because I was active in a local at that time which was at odds with the International, my case never handled aggressively on my behalf by the United Mine Workers' Board Member.

"On July 1, 1932 [redacted] It was during this period that all the miners went out on strike pending negotiations with the Scale Committee for the contract, the old contract having expired on March 31, 1932, and it was at this time that JOHN L. LEWIS wanted to institute a new wage scale, which was considerably lower than the old contract scale. This new wage scale was presented for a referendum vote of the miners of the State of Illinois sometime in July, 1932. This referendum resulted in the rejection of the wage scale. It is my understanding that JOHN L. LEWIS was then called in by District No. 12 officials. There was a second referendum, which was around August 10. During the course of the voting of the second referendum, it was apparent that the proposed wage scale would again be defeated. However, before the results could be tabulated, the ballots were stolen allegedly by LEWIS and his followers. LEWIS then declared an emergency and signed the contract with the operators. This led to a revolt of the miners in Illinois, which was at that time practically 100%.

"There were a series of meetings at Springfield, Taylorville, Gillespie, Benld and at other places in the District, which finally resulted in the convention at Gillespie and the formation of the Progressive Miners of America on September 6, 1932. During that time I was active with the movement to form the Progressive Miners of America.

"It was in September, 1932, that Local #54 was organized at Mine "B", which was Progressive. A vote was taken from the employees of this mine to see whether they would be United Mine Workers or Progressive Miners. Only one man voted to go United Mine Workers. All the rest of approximately 450 employees voted to go Progressive.

"Sometime in September, 1932, I had a conversation with CARL ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B". I was meeting with ELSHOFF, accompanied by someone else from the Progressive Miners, an official whose name I can't recall at present, trying to negotiate with him relative to a contract.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

When our negotiations had been completed, CARL ELSHOFF said to me, [redacted], do you think when this mine opens up it will open under the Progressives?" I said, "I sure do." ELSHOFF said, "For your information, this mine will not work Progressive." I think that official was [redacted] presently residing at Springfield, Illinois, at [redacted]

"About the middle of October, 1932, we obtained the contract from ELSHOFF and the mine opened, being worked by the Progressive Miners of America affiliated with Local 54. [redacted]. We operated under a closed shop agreement, which meant that all employees outside of the bosses and clerical force had to be members of the Progressive Miners of America to work at that mine. During this period, the relationship between the management of the mine and the Progressive Miners of America appeared to be good. The mine operated regularly and all grievances were settled in accordance with established procedure.

"During 1935 and 1936 I, along with other loyal Progressives, began to take note of the activities of certain men who were members of our union Local 54 at Mine "B". Those men were: DOMINIC PASQUALE, CHARLES "BOWLING GREEN" BOHANNON, JOE ALBANESE, alias Sam Catalone, PETE CARTER, ANDREW SKRELEVICUS, JAMES HALE, EMORY JACAWAY, GEORGE JACAWAY, JOHN SIRTOUT, JOHN ANANIAS, A. J. PLOTCH and FRANK AUSTIN.

"The attitude of these men first became noticed in regular meetings of Local 54 because of their disruptive and antagonistic tactics.

"Their activity among the men at Mine "B", however, became very noticeable in the Spring of 1937. The contract which the Progressive Miners of America had with ELSHOFF as an independent mine operator expired on March 31, 1937. A supplemental agreement was signed extending that contract until negotiations could be completed with the State-wide Scale Committee by the representatives of the Progressives. At this time these men started an agitation, saying that the management would never recognize the retroactive features of any new wage scale that was accepted. These men, namely: CARTER, SKRELEVICUS, PASQUALE, PLOTCH, AUSTIN, ANANIAS and others, had yellow slips of paper which they said were given to them by [redacted] which stated that ELSHOFF would not recognize the retroactive features of the contract. They stated that this yellow paper had

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been drawn up by [redacted] under instructions of ELSHOFF. At this time, definite proof was obtained establishing the association of these men with the United Mine Workers and five of them were expelled sometime previous to May 12, 1937, namely: PETE CARTER, ANDREW SKRELEVICUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, JOE ALEANESE and FRANK AUSTIN. I was active, along with other members of Local Union #54, in bringing the charges against these five men which resulted in their expulsion from the Progressive Miners of America. In accordance with the policy of such matters, it was referred to the Pit Committee, who was to take it up with the Management relative to the discharge of these five members in accordance with the accepted practice under the closed shop contract with the company.

"I did not actively take part in the demands which were made of the Management on the morning of May 12, 1937. I did report to work and I knew these men who reported to work also. In fact, I saw FRANK AUSTIN and PETE CARTER. I told FRANK AUSTIN that he had been expelled from the organization and that he had no business out there. I also met PETE CARTER and asked him what he was doing there, I asked him if he knew he had been expelled and he said, "Yes." He said he had to eat and was going to work there until he was laid off. I worked that day and loaded at least two short cars. It was my understanding that this was done generally over the mine as the miners did not want to strike but felt if they would slow down the production some they could persuade the Management to come to their terms and discharge these five men without strike. About an hour before quitting time, the company stopped hoisting coal. I went to the top and found that there had been a disagreement between the operator, CARL ELSHOFF, and the Board Member [redacted]. I am not in position to say whether [redacted] had called a strike or ELSHOFF had shut off production.

"The mine did not work any more after May 12 for sometime. Pickets remained at the scene of the mine on the oil road about a quarter of a mile from the mine until the early part of June, 1937. This was done in order to make sure that United Mine Workers did not import strike breakers to take our jobs. It was during this period that I, personally, saw [redacted] whom I know to be a United Mine Workers investigator and gun man, drive by that vicinity with at least five other cars full of men, whom we identified by license numbers as individuals from the Kincaid area where the Peabody Mine operated under contract with the United Mine Workers.

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(continued)

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"A petition was circulated by the Progressive Miners of America of Local 54 during the latter part of May, 1937, at which time some 412 signatures were obtained. This was done because we felt there was going to be an attempt to throw this mine over to United Mine Workers and we wanted to be ready to prove to the National Labor Relations Board that all employees at that mine wished to belong to the Progressive Miners of America.

"Although I was aware, through the press, that a contract had been signed between ELSHOFF and the United Mine Workers on or about August 20, 1937, I did not take any part in the negotiations that went on between the Progressive Miners of America and ELSHOFF at that time.

"On or about September 26, 1937, I received word that the mine was going to open. I went out to see if any other members of our organization had been notified to report for work. They had not. In spite of this, about 400 Progressive Miners reported for work on the morning of September 27. I was present with the group of men among whom were [redacted] who were talking to OSCAR FALCETTI, Superintendent of Mine "B". [redacted] was the spokesman for the Progressives. He told FALCETTI that he had his men out there to go to work that morning, all Progressive Miners, and OSCAR FALCETTI told the miners that he had a contract with the United Mine Workers and he said that the mine would only employ United Mine Workers.

"It was at about this time that I and others of Local 54 heard that strike breakers were going to be imported from Southern Illinois by United Mine Workers to operate the mines. Therefore, our men stayed out at the mine on a 24-hour shift to see that no strike breakers took our jobs. From time to time we notified the Management that we were willing to go to work and that it was not a strike against the company. This situation lasted up until November 23, 1937 when the company obtained an injunction in Federal Court which enjoined us from coming on to the property.

"During the early part of September, 1937, after charges of unfair labor practice had been filed by our organization against the Mine "B" Coal Company a hearing was held in Chicago, Illinois, before Mr. LEONARD BAJORK, Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board. Attending this meeting were: [redacted] representing the Progressive Miners of America. RAY EDMUNDSON was there representing

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[redacted]
(continued)

District No. 12 of the United Mine Workers of America, of which he is the Provisional President.

"During the meeting, [redacted] who was our spokesman, produced the petitions signed by the Progressive Miners definitely establishing the desire of the employees of Mine "B" to belong to the Progressive Miners of America. EDMUNDSON was asked by [redacted] to show his petition in that hearing and he told him he would present his petition at the proper time.

"At a later date CHARLES BOHANNON told [redacted] on the day that the hearing was held in Chicago before BAJORK that they did not have over twenty or twenty-five names signed to a petition but when EDMUNDSON came back he contacted them and they went to the United Mine Workers Building and signed a lot of names on the petition with their left hand and right hand in any way they could change their writing. He said they signed 350 names on there altogether. I, personally, never saw any petition circulated by the United Mine Workers and none was ever produced in any of the proceedings which followed that I know of.

"I was not at the mine in December of 1937 when an attempt was made to open it just prior to the labor board election. The labor board election was held on December 15, 1937, at which time the Progressives won the election by an overwhelming majority by vote of 404 for the Progressives and 25 for the United Mine Workers. There was nothing that I saw that was unfair concerning this election.

"A meeting was held at the Progressives Hall on the day of the election of various members of Local 54.

"On January 4, 1938, after the labor board had certified the Progressives as bargaining agency for Mine "B" I started to go out to the mine but on being told by some of the members coming back that the mine was closed down I returned home.

"On January 1, 1938, I became a member of the Pit Committee for Local 54. It was the duty of this committee to take up grievances with the Management of Mine B.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"On or about January 18, 1938, I went out with the Pit Committee to talk about opening the mine. We talked to OSCAR FALCETTI about opening the mine and he said that ELSHOFF wasn't there at the time and there was no use of him talking about it. Upon our visit to the mine we found that some of the men from the United Mine Workers of America were working there: FRANK AUSTIN, CHARLES BOHANNON and [redacted] They were bringing mules out of the mine and trimming the hoofs of the mules. We took it up with the Superintendent, Mr. FALCETTI. He said there were no wages involved and he was paying these men by giving them some old mules. We again went out to the mine on or about February 16 in an effort to locate and talk to CARL ELSHOFF. He was not there on that date. However, we served a written notice on [redacted] demanding retro-active wages due from April 1, 1937 for each day the members of Local Union 54 worked; that when any men are employed at said Mine "B", the company should employ members of Local Union 54, Progressive Miners of America, who were in the company's employ on May 12, 1937.

"We again returned to the mine on February 21, at which time we saw ELSHOFF concerning this same matter. Those present at that time were [redacted] OSCAR FALCETTI was also there. ELSHOFF, after reading our demands which were handed to [redacted] on February 16, said, "All right." He was then asked to sign the receipt. ELSHOFF said, "I will see my attorney on the matter." Mr. ELSHOFF was also asked to sign the Progressive Miners of America contract. He said the mine had shut down.

"In the late summer of 1938 I had still another conference with ELSHOFF in company with the Pit Committee regarding the opening of the mine. At that time ELSHOFF refused to open the mine saying that the weather would not permit it. In December, 1938, my term as a member of the Pit Committee expired and I had no further contact with the Management of this mine.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"After the mine opened again I applied for employment on or about September 19 or 20, 1940, at which time OSCAR FALCETTI told me that he would not hire me back. I told him I had a right to my job because I worked there when it closed down May 12, 1937. FALCETTI said he just wasn't putting anybody on.

"This statement, which consists of eight pages, which I have read and initialed, recites the experiences and conversation I have had as an employee of Mine "B" Coal Company and as a member of the Progressive Miners of America. To the best of my knowledge and ability, this statement is true.

[redacted] (signed)

"WITNESSES:

[redacted] signed)

Special Agent

F. B. I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

Upon definite inquiry, [redacted] advised that his civil rights had not been restored to him since his release from the federal institution as a result [redacted] It should also be noted that [redacted] took a definite part in preferring charges against some of the U.M.W. spies who were suspended and expelled from Local 54, Progressive Mine Workers of America, some before May 12, 1937, and some afterwards.

[redacted] was asked to furnish any information he might have concerning those trials and did comply [redacted] It is possible that others who took an active part in preferring the charges against these particular men may have more definite information, particularly [redacted] who according to [redacted]

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44-845-105 p. 290-295 (Sec. 7)

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FBI/DOJ

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted]

He is [redacted] years old and is a native born citizen. [redacted] It is not believed [redacted] would make a good witness due to the fact that he was not employed at Mine "B" during all the pertinent periods relative to this investigation. However, he was very cooperative during the interview. He has no known criminal record.

[redacted] submitted the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill
September 7, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted]

"I first began working in the mines in [redacted] when I started at Mine "B" [redacted] got me the job. I joined P.M.A. at that time.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"I quit working at Mine "B" about the 1st of April 1937 and went to Rockford, Ill., to work. Just before I left, I remember that [redacted] read a copy of the temporary agreement he had signed with the mine officials. As I recall there was some dissatisfaction among the men about some back pay and that is why the agreement was read to us in the yard one morning.

"I had no difficulty in settling grievances and I thought P.M.A. was O.K. I seldom attended any P.M.A. meetings.

"Mine "B" was working only 2 or 3 days a week when I quit. I did not work in the mines then until Oct. 1938 when I started working at Jefferson Mine. I joined U.M.W. at that time because U.M.W. had the contract for bargaining rights at Jefferson Mine. I worked at Jefferson Mine until it went bankrupt and closed down in January 1939.

"While working at Jefferson I was required to kick in $10 each pay

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

and I also failed to get my last two checks. As I understood it the reason for the $10 kick in was that Mr. BREWERTON had borrowed $135,000 from the R.F.C. to open the mine and the miners were required to pay back $35,000 of this amount and the $10 each pay which we paid in was to pay off this loan. When I gave $10, I was given a receipt which was supposed to be an interest for that amount in the Indiana Coal Lands Trust but to the present time I have received nothing for the amount of money I paid in for this scheme. My father was working at Jefferson Mine at this time and he also paid in $10 each pay.

"I began working as [redacted] until Mine "B" opened in Nov. 1939. When Mine "B" opened up at that time my father went to work as boss and I went to work as a trip rider. At this time the mine opened on an open shop basis and I was still a member of U.M.W. from Jefferson Mine but since the mine was on an open shop basis I did not pay any dues to U.M.W.

"I did not see anyone beat up while I was working at Mine "B".

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941, and I voted for U.M.W. because I thought the majority would vote that way and no force or threats of any kind were made to get me to vote one way or the other. About March 1941, or the first pay after the check off system went into effect I quit working at Mine "B". I quit because U.M.W. checked off back dues on me which I did not think I should pay. I learned that there was nothing I could do to get this money, paid for back dues, returned to me, so I quit working in mines altogether.

"I have had this 3 page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"WITNESSED:
[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] but became an American citizen through naturalization at Springfield, Illinois, on [redacted] It is not believed that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge about unions and Mine "B" and his inability to speak English. He admitted no criminal record and furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943.

"I, [redacted], do voluntarily give the following signed statement to [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to America in [redacted] I was naturalized in Springfield, Illinois, on [redacted] My present address is [redacted] Springfield, Illinois.

"I first started working in the mines in [redacted] in Illinois, joining the United Mine Workers of America. I have worked at Mine "B" since [redacted] Between [redacted] and 1932 the UMWA got along fine with the Mine "B" officials.

"I had nothing to do with the formation of the new Progressive Mine Workers of America and don't know how or why they organized. However, I joined the Progressives because everyone else at Mine "B" did. So far as I know the Progressives got along oke with Mr. Elshoff. The PMA Union was just the same as UMWA, both settled my grievences oke and the dues were about the same.

"I hardly ever attended union meetings for either union, and never held an office for either UMWA or PMA. I just worked and minded my own business and know very little about the Mine "B" troubles.

"I think the strike in May of 1937 was caused by the Progressives suspending some men and the Co. wouldn't fire them. The men who were suspended as best I can remember were Joe Alboneso, Dominic Pasquale, Andrew Schrolevious. I don't know why these men were suspended. The first I knew of the strike was when [redacted] called everybody out. I don't know anything about coal being "loaded short" that day.

"I don't remember signing any petitions for either PMA or UMWA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I didn't take much part in the Set Down Strike at Mine "B" because I didn't like it. While I was out there I never saw any trouble or anyone from UMWA try to open the mine.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election and thought that it was fair & square. The Progressives won this election. I don't know anything about any attempts to reopen the mine after this election.

"During the time Mine "B" was out on strike I worked about a year on WPA, until I got a letter from Mr. Elshoff to come back to work. When I went back to Mine "B" in 1939 it was under an "open shop" agreement, but I still belonged to the PMA. I changed back to the UMWA because I saw that's what the majority were doing. I don't care which Union I belong to just so I work. I changed to UMWA of my own free will and nobody threatened me or beat me up. After the UMWA got a majority a second election was held and the UMWA won. I voted for UMWA at this election because I was already a member.

"It makes no difference to me which union I belong to.

"The above statements were read to me by [redacted] The statements consisting of two and three-quarters pages (2 3/4) are true and I do hereby sign my name.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI. "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is [redacted] who apparently has little knowledge of the matter under inquiry. He executed the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 7, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born in [redacted] entered the United States about [redacted] and took out my first papers at Springfield, Illinois about [redacted] I am not a citizen at the present time.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. This was at the Peabody Mine #6 at Springfield, Ill. about [redacted]

"I worked at four mines under the UMW after I left Peabody #6 and before I started to work at Mine B in [redacted]

"I liked the UMW and I liked to work under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA. I joined the PMA voluntarily in 1932 and as soon as Mine B went on strike in May, 1937 I got another job. I did not help picket Mine B. I returned to work at Mine B. in November, 1939.

"I returned to Mine B as a PMA member and two months later I voluntarily joined the UMW. I went to the UMW Pit Committee and asked them for a membership card. I was never contacted by a union organizer or threatened in any way.

"I did not help organize PMA in 1932. I never held an office in a mine union. I can not read or write. I did not attend many PMA or UMW meetings.

"I did not know any miners at Mine B who might have been organizers for UMW.

"I never knew that anyone was beaten up at the mine.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN L. LEWIS

PART 7 OF 13

FILE NUMBER: 44-845

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT John L. Lewis

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 8

SERIALS 105

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I have nothing to say against the PMA or the UMW. I like to work under the PMA and I am also satisfied to work under the UMW.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937.

"As I remember, I never signed any petitions either for PMA or UMW in 1937.

"I did not vote in the first N.L.R.B. election in December 1937. I never heard that this election was not fair.

"As aforementioned I can not read or write. Therefore, [redacted] has read this statement to me consisting of one and one half page and it is true and correct and the same information I have furnished in the presence [redacted]

/S/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I."

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] was interviewed By Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is illiterate and appears to know nothing of the facts concerning the strike. His memory and English are poor and he would not make a satisfactory witness.

He furnished the following statement:

[redacted] Illinois
September 3, 1942

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves as being Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to get me to make a statement.

"I presently reside on [redacted], Illinois. I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a citizen of the U. S. in [redacted]

"I started mining in [redacted] and joined the United Mine Workers at that time. I started working at Mine B in 1935 and at that time belonged to P. M. A. I never attended many meetings of any union.

"I was working at Mine B at the time of the strike. I remember the men were talking about wages and contracts but I don't know what they were talking about. I don't understand very well. I also heard that [redacted] and some of the other fellows were working for U.M.W. but I don't know anything about this.

"On the day of the strike I was working in Box [redacted] as a digger. I went down to work that morning and someone said load short but I filled my cars up. I worked all day long that day and the next day they said, "Mine no work, strike."

"I signed a lot of things at Springfield that summer but I don't know what they were. I remember when they had a sit down strike at the mine, I was there two or three days, it make me tired and I go home.

"I voted for Progressive in the election at the Armory. Nobody ever threatened me or bothered me.

"I didn't go back to the mine until it opened up in 1939. I went back to work in the same place as I remember. I had no trouble when I went back to work, nobody ever threatened me. [redacted] asked me to join U. M. W. but I wouldn't join with him. I joined U. M. W. when some other fellows ask

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] me because I didn't have any trouble when I worked under U. M. W. before and I had trouble with P.M.A.
(continued)

"I don't know what caused the strike in 1937. I don't understand very well.

"Above read to [redacted] by Agent [redacted] and admitted to be true to the best of his memory."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
U. S. Dept. of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] AND [redacted] at his place of employment, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on September 8, 1943. He resides at [redacted] Springfield. [redacted] English is very broken and it is sometimes difficult to follow his line of conversation. He appeared to be willing to fully answer questions propounded to him, and would be a willing witness. He submitted the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois,
September 8, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] entered the United States at New York in [redacted] and naturalized at Springfield, Illinois about [redacted]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be hereinafter be referred to as UMW. I joined this union in [redacted] at the Sangamon Mine #2 at Springfield, Illinois.

"The first time I started working at Mine B was about [redacted] and I continued there until the mine closed in May, 1937. I think I worked at Mine B in November, 1939 when it re-opened and quit in the early part of 1940, but I am not positive of this period of employment.

"When I began working at Mine B. in [redacted] I was a member of the UMW. However, I voluntarily joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America hereinafter refered to as PMA in 1932. I liked the PMA because the leaders were more honest that the UMW leaders.

"I never held an office in a mine union. I attended only a few PMA meetings, but I attended more UMW meetings as the UMW fined the men fifty cents if they did not attend the meetings.

"When I was employed at Mine B I was a coal digger.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
[redacted]
(continued)

"I do not think ELSHOFF liked the PMA union before the strike in May, 1937, but liked the UMW as he allowed some UMW agitators to work in the mine when the PMA had a closed shop contract with Elshoff. I know these UMW agitators by the following names: ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, COTTON ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEORGE JACKDAY, EMORY JACKDAY, BOWLING GREEN, AND JAMES HALE.

"About six months before the strike JAMES HALE came to me in the mine and told me that if I wanted to keep my job I had better join the UMW.

"I short time after the strike started in May, 1937 JOHN SIRTOUT and TONY PLOTCH came to my house to get me to join UMW. I said I would not sign even if I lost my job. They told me I would lose my job then.

"Also a miner named [redacted] and a miner named [redacted] last name unknown, came to my house and told me if I signed with UMW I would get a good room in the mine to work, and if I did not sign with UMW I would not work at all. This happened a short time before the mine opened in 1939.

"I know nothing about the wage scale controversy.

"I do not remember if I went to the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 which was the night before the strike at Mine B.

"I do not know what happened at this meeting.

"I helped picket Mine B for ninety two days.

"I went to the mine when it tried to open in September, 1937, but did not go to work. None of the PMA men would work because FALCETTI told the PMA Pit Committee only UMW men could work. I heard about this from the other PMA miners. The only men who went to work were a few UMW members which included the miners whose names are mentioned above in this statement as agitators.

"I knew the mine tried to open two times after September, 1937, but I did not go out to the mine. I do not remember how I knew about the mine attempting to re-open.

"Then the Mine opened in November, 1939 I went back to work. I knew about this because [redacted] came to my house and talked to my wife and told her to tell me

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

the mine was going to open. At this time I was working on W.P.A.

"I left Mine B in the early part of 1940 because I worked four days cleaning up slate and my boss [redacted] would only get me money for two days work. I had already signed up with UMW at that time. My friend [redacted] (phonetic) told me that he was afraid for, if I did not sign with UMW I would be beaten up.

"I never understood what was said at the mine or what the trouble was about, because I do not understand English well.

"I do not like UMW. I do not like UMW leaders. I would never work under UMW again.

"This statement consisting of three pages and one quarter has been read to me by [redacted] in the presence of [redacted] This statement was carefully read several times and each part of it explained to me. It is the truth as best I can remember. I can not read English, but I can speak English and I can write my name.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was [redacted] interviewed at the Springfield Field Division on the evening of September 7, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] He has been an American citizen since [redacted] is the father of [redacted]

[redacted] would not be considered as a good witness due to a very poor memory, poor speech, and a difficulty in understanding questions propounded to him. He cannot read well, and refused to sign the following statement prepared for him, because he could not read. He listened, however, to it intently, and stated that it was all true and accurate.

"Springfield, Ill
September 7, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I first started to work at Mine B in [redacted] At that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers. In 1932 when the Pogressive Mine Workers of America was organized, I had to go into that organization in order to work at Mine B. I did not particularly like to go into the PMW of A. I kept right on paying my dues to the United Mine Workers because I felt that I was a member of that organization all of the time,. I did this even though they were taking the PMW dues out of my pay. [redacted] continued to do do the same, paying their dues to the UMW while they were working at mine B. My son [redacted] and quit working at the mines.

"I used to attend the union meetings occassionaly. I was never an officer in any labor union. I was not particularly disatisfied with the operation of the PMW while I was a member. I had no objections to it except that they took a lot of my pay for dues. Other than that I think the PMW was alright. I belonged to the UMW and that was my union. I never talked about the unions, and did not care much which union was at the mine as long as they would leave me alone and let me work. I would have been asatisfied to have continued at Mine B with the unions just as they were. I did not do any agitating about changing the unions. I do not know if my boys did any agitating or not. [redacted]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I do not know what caused the strike at Mine B in 1937. I was not interested in the affairs of the union or the company, and I did not want to get in any trouble. I do not remember what happened then. I know I was not at the mine on the day that they started the picket line. I am not sure. I did not go out to the mine when it was being picketed, or sit on the picket line. I did not see any of the men who were out there then.

"I voted at the election of the unions held in the Armory in 1937. That was a fair election. No one told me how to vote, or tried to influence my vote in any way. I voted exactly as I wanted to. I think every one else had a chance to vote as they wanted to also.

"I do not remember exactly when it was, but while Mine B was closed, I went to work at [redacted] I was a member of the UMW because I had always been. I was not interested in what went on out there in organizing the unions, and do not know what happened. I did not see any fighting, or hear about it.

"I did not know of any organizing that was going on out there at the mine. I do not know of anything that FALCETTI or ELSHOFF did to favor one union over another. I do not know of any violence, or anything wrong done by either union in the trouble that occurred at mine B.

"The above statement has been read to me by [redacted] This statement was on this and two other typewritten pages. Everything that he has read to me is true and accurate."

"(Refused to sign because cannot read, but declared that it was all true.)"

[redacted] Special Agent FBI
[redacted] FBI"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Although he appeared cooperative and furnished the following signed statement, it is not believed that he would make a good witness inasmuch as he has no definite knowledge about the trouble at Mine "B".

"Springfield, Illinois
September 6, 1943

"I, [redacted] do voluntarily give the following signed statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to America in [redacted] I was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. Jan. [redacted] My present address is [redacted] Springfield, Ill.

"I have worked in the mines continuously since [redacted] joining the United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started working at Mine B about [redacted] continuing my UMWA membership. Between the time I started at Mine B till 1932 the mine officials and the UMWA got along fine.

"The Progressive Mine Workers of America started because the wage scale ballots were stolen. I had nothing to do with the formation of the Progressives and never held an office in either union. After the new union was formed I joined it along with all the other miners at Mine 'B'. So far as I knew the Progressives got along as well with Mr. Elshoff as the UMWA did before 1932. The Progressive Union officers, dues, settlement of grievances, etc. was alright so far as I was concerned.

"I don't know anything about any alleged UMWA spies being at the mine before the strike, and I never heard that any of the Progressive members were expelled.

"I don't know what caused the strike at Mine 'B' on May 12, 1937 and don't even remember how it started. I don't remember anything about cars being 'loaded short' on the day of the strike.

"I recall signing a petition shortly after the strike showing that I favored the Progressives.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I know that a few UMWA men tried to open the mine one day and all of the PMA men went down and picketed. I don't know who the UMWA miners were who tried to open the mine.

"I remember voting at the NLRB election which the PMA won by a great majority. We didn't go back to work at Mine B because Mr. Elshoff didn't seem to want to contract with the Progressives.

"When Mine 'B' opened in 1939 under an 'open shop' agreement I went back as a Progressive. After a few months I signed up with UMWA. The mine was hiring new men, and some of the miners were being beat up & forced to join UMWA. I joined UMWA to keep my job and to keep out of trouble. I didn't want to take any chances. Three men came to my house to get me to join UMWA [redacted] and Andrew Schrelevious. I know that [redacted] got beat up something terrible.

"I don't recall any second NLRB election.

"If I could have a free voluntary choice I would choose the Progressive Union.

"On Dec. 5, 1941 I started working at Mine A. I was fired at Mine B allegedly for being drunk. Mr. Elshoff also owned Mine A and I can't understand why I was fired at one and hired at the other.

"I have had the above statement consisting of two and three-quarters (2 3/4) read to me by Agent [redacted] The same is true and I do hereby sign my name.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] of [redacted] Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed on September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Agent [redacted] took shorthand notes of this interview and the notes were transcribed by him and a statement drawn up which was presented to [redacted] on September 2, 1943, at which time he read the same, pronounced it correct and signed it. It was observed that [redacted] had a better than average intelligence for a miner and it is believed that he is a reliable individual. [redacted] was entirely cooperative and it is believed he would make a good witness if called. [redacted] advised that he had no criminal record.

The following statement was executed by [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.,
Sept. 1, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill. phone [redacted] am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] and I came to the United States when I was about [redacted] years old and I have been a citizen of the United States for over [redacted] years. I am presently employed as coal digger at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., and I have been there about [redacted] or [redacted] years or so. I formerly was a miner [redacted] and belonged to the [redacted] and when I came to the U. S. I brot along my international card which was good here too. [redacted] Since I have been with the B I have never held any union office. When I first came to Mine B they had a UMW contract and as far as I know UMW got along with the management of Mine B alright. UMW was alright until John Lewis pulled off his tricks and stole the ballots--it was gossip to me then. When the other men left UMW and went over to PMA I also went over with them and I did not help organize anything then. I felt then that Lewis was not treating the mining men fairly. From 1932 until the mine closed PMA got along with the management at Mine B to my knowledge. I have always said that I can't see why the company wanted a change back to UMW. Both contracts were the same and I don't recall of any strikes or other troubles there before the mine closed. Between 1932 and 1937 Carl Elshoff and Oscar Falcetti did not say anything to me about changing back to UMW. [redacted] it is quite some way to Springfield, Ill., so I did not know what was going on all the times. However, everybody seemed to be well pleased between 1932 and 1937. I neverheard any talk about PMA local being run by crooks nor did I ever suspect that they did anything wrong as we miners were satisfied

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] with the way the PMA officials were running the local and handling the money matters. PMA never had any special assessments except once I recall when they needed some money to help out other locals who were out or were short of money but that money went to help those other miners. The miners in local 54 ran that local themselves and it was not run for or by a few and everything was taken up at meetings and was propertly voted upon or debated on. I was not very active in the union affairs as it was too far for me to go to attend the meetings as by the time I got home and ate it was too late to go to Springfield, Ill. and attend a meeting but I did go once in awhile.

"In regards to those PMA men convicted in those bombings cases we miners felt that they got a rotten deal, and there was some gossip that Edmundson and that bunch had them railroaded. The gossip then was that Edmundson was very much interested in their trials.

"Prior to the time the mine closed down UMW never bothered PMA men at the mine to my knowledge and there was no strikes or pickets out there and there was no trouble that I know of. However, before the strike started there were 2 or 3 PMA men who were pretty strong for UMW and they were FRANK AUSTIN, SAM and ANDY Schrelevious and Jim Hale. They would go around and talk to the other miners about going back to UMW. But they never personally contacted me. I never heard anything about Elshoff or UMW giving any parties.

"In the spring of 1937 when our contract ran out [redacted] told us several times at the mine that they had a temporary agreement with the management and that if there was any increase it would be retroactive back to April 1st. We miners felt that Elshoff would make a contract and that it would be just as good as any contract that UMW could get for us. There were no fights on pay days and everybody seemed to be satisfied with the agreement and we all thought we would get a lump sum if the increase went thru. Everyone seemed to be satisfied with the way it was handled. I never say any short or other strikes then. I heard that around in April, 1937 Pasquale and several others were playing around with men in their own nationalities and were trying to swing them over but they never contacted me. The management of Mine B never said anything to me about the wage agreement that I know of.

"I don't recall of any meeting being held the night before the mine closed but there could have been one but I did not attend it as I went to very few of them. On the morning of 5-12-37 when I went to work I did not know there was going to be a strike and no one talked about a strike to me at the mine and the men were not arguing or fighting about their wages either. However, later that afternoon I heard some gossip that [redacted] had

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

been out and something was said about some men being expelled but not fired. When I came out of the mine I did not know there was a strike and I left my tools in the mine and they are still there. I believe that the trouble was over those men and I know it was not over any wage trouble. I also heard something about cars being loaded short that day but I was not told to load them short and I did not see any of my cars were all full.

"Several weeks after the mine closed I signed a PMA petition and I think I signed it at Springfield, Ill. I signed it of my own free well and no one forced me to sign and I never heard of any force being used to sign it. The men were all crowded around and seemed happy to sign it. I heard that UMW got up a petition too during summer of 1937 but I never signed it and was not approached by anyone in regard to it.

"Agents [redacted] have shown me an affidavit dated August 25, 1937 at Virden, Ill., which is signed by several men and I recognize my signature on it. This is in regard to Charles Roth, who is now dead, contacting some of us about going to a UMW meeting and the information in that affidavit is correct and true and no one forced me at that time to make the affidavit. If I recall right the lawyer for PMA made it up after we miners told him what happened and no one forced us to make it.

"I also heard that during the summer of 1937 the UMW started a new local in Springfield, Ill., but I never was contacted by anyone and don't know a thing about it. I also recall hearing something that several men from Mine B went over to the Jefferson mine and I also heard that Oscar Falcetti took that mine over and that he was boss there.

"In September, 1937 I did not go out to Mine B to work but I heard they were going back under UMW and I went out and helped them picket until the Marshall came out. I went out to see what was going to happen and did not go out to work under UMW. I recall that the same men I have mentioned before went down into the mine but no PMA men went down. Sam is the right name too for Joe Albanese. We PMA men did not work because we heard the mine was to be reopened as UMW. Nobody asked me either to go out there. When I did go out I saw Falcetti there too. PMA had a regular meeting before the picketing started and I understood that it was decided upon that if UMW went in there that PMA would picket but I did not attend that meeting but just heard that. I would come home from the sit down strike several nights a week but did stay out five nights a week and PMA local men were just out there and no strangers were brot in at all. The picketing and guarding of the mine was very peaceful and we men were there to protect our jobs and we did not do anything wrong there and the place got cleaner than it ever was before. UMW did not come out and cause us any trouble. However, I once heard that UMW was going to bring some outsiders in. We men went out to the sit down strike of our own free will and no

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

force was used and we could go out and leave as we pleased and nothing unusual happened. When the Marshall came out we all left and the men did not resent the Marshall as the men were getting tired of being there so long. I think the Marshall told the men that nobody else would come out and take over.

"I heard several days later after the Marshall came out that the mine was going to be reopened but I did not go out. I remember that in Dec. 1937 the NLRB had their first election for us and I voted for PMA because they were the best union. It was an honest election and nobody forced me to vote any special way and no strong arm methods were used. We first went to the union hall and then went to the Armory to vote in a group. In Jan. 1938 I think I read in the paper that the mine would be opened but I did not go out there as we were satisfied that the injunction would keep anyone from the mine property. I knew Elshoff had not signed a contract with the Progressives and as I recall it at this time the rumor was that he would not deal with the Progressives because Lewis and UMW was paying him to keep the mine closed. I received a registered letter telling me to come back to work in Nov. of 1939, this letter gave me a certain number of days to report in, I dont remember how many but I went back the first day and saw Falscetti, who told me I would have to wait till my place was ready to work in. No inquiries were made of me as to which union I belonged to. I went back to work shortly after the first of the year of 1940, one of my sons telling me when my place was ready for me to go back in. Nobody caused me to be docked or threatened me in any way. Chas. Bohanon did talk to me at the mine about swinging over to UMW, he said that all the men were joining and I had better get lined up. Bohanon was very careful what he said, he did not threaten me or say I might lose my job. No force was used by PMA to keep their men in line as the PMA felt their men were loyal and this was unnecessary. I heard at this time that whenever a new man was hired or replaced the management would only hire UMW men, I think this is the way that UMW got a majority at the mine. I heard that if new men coming in were not UMW they would be signed up with that union before they went to work, this signing up of new men to UMW went on right in the mine yard where the official and everyone could see it, so everybody must have known what was going on. During this period I was treated about the same as always and Elshoff and Falscetti made no statements to me indicating that they favored either union.

"I never signed anything for the UMW until after the second NLRB election, when everybody had to sign up with them if they wanted to keep their jobs. I dont remember signing any card for the Progressives either during the summer of 1940

"I voted at the 2nd NLRB election voting again for PMA, I voted this way because that was the way I felt. Noone forced me to vote for PMA.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

I went directly to the Armory from my home. As far as I know the election was fair and honest. The election was by secret ballot and was under the supervision of a man from the Gov't. I paid PMA dues from Jan. of 1940 up until the time I went with PMA, I was with the last group to join UMW I believe this was around March of 1941. I joined the UMW because I either had to do that or quite my job, I still like the PMA but I had to have a job to make a living, having been out of work for two and one-half years. When I went back in Jan. 1940 the territory I had formerly worked in was not open, I used to work in Box [redacted] but when I came back to work I went in Box [redacted]. I never heard anything about there being a big fire at the mine in 1939. I heard about [redacted] going on talking at some meeting but I was not there and dont know what it was all about. I would have preferred to stay with PMA but felt I had better join UMW. I had heard of [redacted] of Springfield having two of his tires ripped open and had heard stories of other men being beaten.

"I have at [redacted] Ill., read the foregoing statement on Sept. 2, 1943, it is to the best of my knowledge and belief the truth. I am therefore voluntarily signing this three page typewritten statement and initialing each page thereof.

Signed [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted] Special Agt. FBI (St. Paul)

[redacted] Special Agt. FBI (Milwaukee)

Virden, Ill.
Spte. 2, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Illinois on September 1, 1943, at which time shorthand notes were taken of the interview by Agent [redacted] these notes later being transcribed by Agent [redacted] and a statement drawn up, based upon them. On September 2, 1943 this statement was presented to him. He read the same and pronounced it correct and signed it. [redacted] was found to have a higher intellect than most miners. It is believed that he is a very reliable person and would be a willing witness if called upon to testify. He advised that he had no criminal record.

The statement given by [redacted] is as follows:

[redacted] Ill.,
Sept. 1, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No force or threats have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the United States about [redacted] years ago and I became a citizen thru my father, [redacted] Ill. About [redacted] years ago I became a member of UMW in Illinois and I have never held any union office and I presently am working at Mine 3 in Springfield, Ill., and I started there back around [redacted] when Mine 3 was under UMW. UMW and Elshoff got along then as far as I know of, and the union appeared to be alright for the men. I wanted to turn over to PMA in 1932 and I went over with the rest of the men then and I did not help in turning over from UMW to PMA. Between 1932 and 1937 Elshoff and PMA seemed to get along alright as nothing unusual happened that I know of. I don't know of the management of Mine 3 being dissatisifed with PMA or wanted to get UMW back. I never heard anything bad at all about PMA men or officials, and we miners felt that the PMA officials were all right and were doing right for the men. PMA was not a racket run local and we had over 400 members. I would attend meetings only now and then as Springfield, Ill., is too far from [redacted] but I would go once in a while.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I and other miners felt that those PMA men who were convicted in the bombing cases were railroaded.

I was satisfied with the PMA officials and think it was a good union and I never suspected anyone of stealing money from the local.

"Before the mine closed I never saw UMW picket Mine B nor did I see any papers or literature from UMW. Before the mine closed I never was approached by anyone to join UMW and I never knew of any UMW spies being in PMA then. Things were running smooth and there was no trouble at all. I never heard anything about any parties given by Elshoff or UMW.

"I recall that in spring of 1937 we worked without a contract and we were told that we would work pending a settlement. The rumor was that the pay would be retroactive. I think that [redacted] told us about this at Mine B. I never heard that PMA could not get as good a contract as UMW could. In April, 1937 I don't recall of the men complaining at all on pay days and we were just waiting for a settlement of the contract and I don't recall of any strikes or troubles then either before the mine closed. The mine officials never said anything to us about that wage question that I know of.

"I did not attend a meeting on the night before the mine closed but I think I knew of the meeting and think it was a Special one but am not sure but I heard around the mine of that meeting. On the morning when the mine closed I went to work as usual and did not hear anything about the wage question and I don't recall hearing anything about some men being expelled and I did not see or hear anything about any short cars. I think I worked all that day and when I left I thought I would go back to the mine the next day and I don't remember anything about a strike then. I think I went home that day and went back to work the next day and then learned about the trouble. I had even left my tools there the day before. I think I then heard that the trouble started over some men being expelled. A short time after the mine closed I signed a PMA petition of my own free will and no one forced me to sign it and I believe I signed 2 or 3 in all around that time or so. I signed because I wanted PMA to represent me and I never heard of anyone being forced to sign them. I also heard that UMW had a petition out but I never was approached and I never signed it. I also signed another PMA petition in fall of 1937 and no one forced me to sign that. I think that was for Washington or something like that. I always was willing to sign for PMA as I wanted PMA as my bargaining agent.

"In summer of 1937 I heard that UMW was forming a new local but no one asked me to join it. I heard they got about 12 members or so and I heard that UMW was going around talking to the men. I once heard that Falcetti went over to the Jefferson Mine to run it.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"Agents [redacted] and [redacted] have shown me an affidavit dated August 25, 1937 at Virden, Ill., which refers to Charles Roth, who now is dead, telling me and others to attend a UMW meeting. The information in that affidavit is true and correct and I have recognized my signature on it and no one forced me to give that affidavit then and I think it was made in the court house at Virden, Ill.

"I recall that in the fall of 1937 Mine B reopened and I don't recall how I got the notice but I think some one phoned me and I don't recall of going to any meeting where they decided to do something about it. I was all ready to go to work and on that first day I believe that about 5 or 6 men went down and they were Pete Carter, Cotton Ananias, Andy Schrelevious, Tony Plotch, Domonic Pasquale, Sammy, Frank Austin, John Sirtout, Geo. and Emory Jacaway (father and son they are) Charles Bohannon and Jim Hale. I think they all had their working clothes on and nobody stopped them from going to work. I don't recall of being told that I would have to be UMW before I could go to work. I remember that some of these men who went down had worked there before but I never heard they were spies for UMW. I lived [redacted] and did not know everything that went on then. I came back home that day and in a day or so went back and the picket line was set up and I stayed there about 56 days and there was no trouble at all. The men on this strike were from the local and there were no outsiders brot it and there were no fights or trouble at all and we were just protecting our jobs. We felt that the UMW men might come out if we left and we felt that they might bring in some outsiders and take over the mine.

"I was there when the Marshall came out and about half the men were glad as they wanted to get home and I think the Marshall said that they would not let anyone else on the property and everyone left at once.

"I did not know that the mine attempted to reopen again in Dec. 1937 but I recall that I voted at the first NLRB election which was held in Springfield, Ill. and it was by secret ballot. I was working at [redacted] and we both went over together and voted and then went home. I voted for PMA as I figured it was the best union for us and we miners were satisfied with it. PMA never influenced us men how to vote and it was an honest election and no strong arm methods were used. I was still working at [redacted] in Jan. 1938 so don't know if mine reopened again or not but I did see something in the paper about where they had signed up for UMW but I felt the injunction was still out.

"The gossip was that Ilshoff must be getting money from some place as he did not sign a contract with PMA in 1938 or 1939.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"When the mine reopened for good in Nov. 1939 some one phoned me and I don't remember getting a letter and we were given a limited time to return. I went out and am still there. Falcetti did not say to me as to what union I belonged too. No one ever bothered me there but a couple of guys asked me when I was going to join over to UMW and I told them I was satisfied the way it was but they said the UMW was the best union. They never threatened me that I would lose my job and they talked to me at the mine. No one ever contacted me at home and when I returned I paid my dues to PMA as there was no check off then. PMA did not use strong arm methods at all as they depended upon their men to stick together because they knew they had the majority and they did not have to do any dirty work. I saw quite a few strangers at Mine B all of whom were UMW men. When I returned nothing was said about the wage agreement and I figured there would be a contract signed later on. I always had a good room and Elshoff and Falcetti never said anything to me about wanting UMW back there. I did hear that the management of Mine B would not listen to PMA complaints but would listen to those from UMW. I was told by someone that if I joined UMW then I could get in free but later on I would have to pay and I told them I would pay if necessary.

"In the summer of 1940 I never signed anything for UMW and don't know for sure if I signed anything for PMA. Everybody was turning over and I think I joined over to UMW after the last NLRB election or either just before the election was held. At that election I voted for PMA and no pressure was brot on me and it was a fair and good election and was by secret ballot. However UMW won because whenever a PMA quit the new men they hired were UMW men and after the election many quit. I finally turned over because I needed a job and I am still there. The mine was in bad shape when it reopened and I think it took a lot of money to fix it up and I never heard anything about a fire there in 1939. I did not attend the meeting when [redacted] was kicked out and I have attended only 1 UMW meeting since joining. I did not have any trouble with Falcetti at Mine B as I know him well because he used to live around Virden, Ill.

"I have read this two page statement at [redacted] on 9-2-43 and I have signed it of my own free will because it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnesses:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, FBI,
St. Paul, Minn.
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, FBI,
Milwaukee, Wis.
[redacted] 9-2-43."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 5 and 6, 1943.

On the afternoon of September 5, 1943, agents went to the residence of [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and no one responded to Agents knock although both front and rear doors were open, but the screen doors were closed indicating that some one probably was sleeping. At the rear door, Agents, while on the porch, noted that on the kitchen table there was some kind of a note which was placed up against a dish and Agents believe that the note said something about phoning [redacted] when he got up, and it was signed "Mom"; also on the note there appeared to be some writing which said "Don't let this out." It is not sure whether or not the name [redacted] is correct, but that is what the name looked like.

On the morning of September 6, 1943, Agents returned to the home of [redacted] and upon introducing themselves to [redacted] he advised that he did not want to get mixed up in anything and he did not want to appear in Court. He volunteered this information before Agents had a chance to explain their mission. He also said that he did not care to answer any questions and did not want any trouble. Agents explained to him and his wife who also was present, their mission and he still said that he did not want to say anything as it did not matter to him what union he belonged to just as long as he had a job. [redacted] was asked whether or not he had been contacted relative to the investigation and he refused to affirm or deny that he had been. He further said that if he did give a statement he wanted a copy of the same and the Bureau's policy in this matter was fully explained to him. During this time both [redacted] were told by Agents that he did not have to make any statements at all to Agents if he did not desire to do so and that Agents would like to have him place in writing just why he did not desire to give a statement, and then they would immediately leave. At this time he asked his wife for her opinion, and she told him that it would do no harm to answer the questions. He was told by Agents that he could answer whatever questions he desired to, or could refuse to answer any he desired to. At this time he remarked that he would answer the questions, but did not desire to any anything that might incriminate him.

When about half through the interview he again expressed fear to Agents in the presence of his wife that he might have to go into Court and that he might get "balled up", and he was told that Agents would discontinue the interview if he so desired, and would leave immediately; that Agents were there to protect his rights and not to violate them. However, he said that he would continue on and when the interview was completed he asked Agents if he had said anything that would involve him and make it necessary for him to come into Court. He was told that Agents had nothing to do with

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

that and that it would be up to the attorneys for the United States Government to decide that matter. He previously had been told that neither he nor the unions were under investigation, but that the investigation was being conducted to determine if Federal laws had been violated.

[redacted] was then given the statement to read and he gave it to his wife and asked her to read it to him. After she read the first two pages she requested Agent [redacted] to read the same to [redacted] which was done. After the statement was read to him he said it was true and correct and was asked if he desired to sign the same or not, and that he need not sign it if he did not care to do so. He sought the advice of his wife who said that if it were true he should sign it, and therefore did.

[redacted] advised Agents [redacted] never had been arrested in his life and [redacted] as well as later on. It was noted by Agents that he was not overly intelligent and it is felt that he has concealed information from Agents, and that he undoubtedly had been contacted by someone in regard to this investigation.

[redacted] gave the following signed statement:

[redacted].
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943.

"I [redacted], hereby give the following statement to [redacted] & [redacted] who are known to me to be Spec. Agts. of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement.

"I am employed at Mine "B" as a [redacted] I have been there since [redacted] I was born [redacted] I first joined a mine union [redacted] when I was just [redacted]

"Prior to 1932 there was no trouble between Elshoff and U.M.W. so far as I know. In 1932 when the Progressives were formed I joined the P.M.A. I took no active part in forming this union.

"I don't know what the relationship between P.M.A. and Elshoff was from 1932 up until the strike was. I don't know of the management of mine B ever having said or done anything to make the men join one union or another or to make the men change from P.M.A. to U.M.W.

"I never paid a lot of attention to the way the P.M.A. union was run from 1932 to 1937. I didn't even attend the meetings. It didn't

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

make no difference to me which union they had. I don't know how the money collected by P.M.A. from the miners was spent, there were lots of rumors but I don't know what was done with the money.

"I don't know anything about the guilt or innocense of the P.M.A. men who were sent up for bombings.

"I never saw any U.M.W. picket lines or any U.M.W. literature around the Mine B from 1932 to 1937. I never during this period saw anyone around the mine trying to get the men to swing back to U.M.W. from P.M.A.

"I know nothing about any parties being given by Elshoff for U.M.W. officials or U.M.W. officials for Elshoff.

"I don't recall much about the contract running out in the Spring of 1937. I'd rather not say anything about the wage question at all.

"I was home the night before the mine closed and did not go to any meeting.

"When I went to work the morning of May 12th, 1937, I really didn't think there was going to be a strike. That afternoon I heard that we were to quite work and I quite and came home. I found out some time later why the strike was called but would rather not state the reason given me. On the day the strike started I saw some cars loaded short. They were I believe loaded short over a dispute over the contract. I don't know whether the mine closed over the dispute over the wage question or over the men who were expelled from the union.

"I recall signing a petition for P.M.A., I don't remember just where but I don't think it was signed on mine property. I signed this of my own free will.

"I did not hear anything about any U.M.W. petition the summer of 1937. I never saw such a petition.

"I don't remember whether I signed one or two petitions for P.M.A. Whatever I signed I did of my own free will.

"I was not approached to join any U.M.W. local the summer of 1937. I did hear that such a local had been formed.

"I don't recall anything unusual happening during the summer of 1937.

"I remember there was an attempt to open the mine in Sept. 1937.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

I went to the mine that day I believe someone came and told me they was going to reopen. I did not work that day and don't know whether anyone worked or not. I was at the mine about 10 or 12 days during the strike, we were there to protect the mine and our jobs. I never saw anyone there but local 54 members. I went out there of my own free will. I was not at the mine when the Marshall came out.

"I did not go out when they attempted to open the mine in Dec. 1937, I heard of it but did not go out.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election. I was not forced to vote and I voted the way I wanted. The election was by secret ballot and as far as I know was honest.

"I don't recall anything about an attempt to open the Mine "B" in January of 1938.

"I know that some of the men from Mine "B" were working at the Jefferson mine in 1938. I don't know who they were though.

"In most of 1938 and 1939 I was on W.P.A. and don't remember anything about what may have happened in regard to the Mine "B" then I took no interest.

"When the Mine "B" opened in 1939 I received a registered letter telling me to come back. I went out on a Monday and went right to work. I understood that we were to get Union wages and I was paid Union wages. I paid dues to P.M.A. for some time after going back to work. After I went back to work for a while I quite paying dues to P.M.A. and made up my mind to join U.M.W. I stopped paying dues to P.M.A. because I did not like the way they were handling death benefits.

"I joined U.M.W. of my own free will nobody forced me in any way. I think this was after the 2nd N.L.R.B. election.

"I don't recall signing any cards for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. the summer of 1940.

"I voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election at the Armory. I voted of my own free will the way I wanted to. This election was by secrect ballot and was entirely honest so far as I know.

"There were some falls and slate in the mine when it re-opened but they got coal out of one section of it in about 3 days. I know nothing about any fire at Mine "B" in 1939. I was not at the meeting at which

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was kicked out.

[redacted]
(continued) "I have had Agent [redacted] read the foregoing eight page statement to me and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is the truth. I am therefore signing it of my own will.

Signed: [redacted]

[redacted], Special Agent (F.B.I.) (Milw.)
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.

Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943. "

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois. At that time Special Agent [redacted] took shorthand notes of the interview, which were later transcribed and a statement drawn from them. This statement was presented to [redacted] on September 2, 1943, at which time he pronounced it correct in all details and signed it. It was observed that [redacted] had an intellect above that of the average miner. He appeared to be an honest and reliable individual. It is believed that he would make a good and willing witness if called upon to testify. He advised that he has no criminal record.

The statement given by [redacted] is as follows:

[redacted] Ill,
Sept. 1, 1943

"I [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement and I make it voluntarily, of my own free will.

"I was born [redacted] Ill. and I am a citizen of the U. S. I am working at the [redacted] Mine. [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. at [redacted] when I was about [redacted] years old. I started working at Mine "B" about [redacted] at that time they had a U.M.W. Union there. Up to 1932 the U.M.W. and Elshoff got along OK so far as I know. During this time the union was alright so far as the men were concerned.

"When the union split in 1932 I wanted to go with the Progressives, I went over with the majority of the other men and did no organizing.

"From 1932 to the time of the strike in 1937 P.M.A. seemed to get along OK with Elshoff so far as I know. I dont remember anything unusual happening during this time. I did not know anything about the management at Mine "B" being dissatisfied with P.M.A. or wanting to get U.M.W. back in the mine.

"I never heard of the P.M.A. officials doing anything wrong and as far as I knew the men were satisfied with them and the way they handled union affairs. I did not feel that the P.M.A. local was being run as a racket at Mine "B", I know P.M.A. had over 400 members there. I attended meetings only once in awhile because it was so far to go to Springfield to attend after having worked all day.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"I believe the general feeling among the miners at Mine "B" was that the 33 or so miners who was sent up for bombings had been framed. I was always satisfied with the P.M.A. officials and felt it was a good local, I never suspected any of them of doing anything wrong with the money of the local. I think it was a good union.

"Between 1932 and the time of the strike in 1937 I never saw any U.M.W. men picket Mine "B". So far as I know the U.M.W. did not hand or sent out any pamphlets to the Progressives either at the mine or at the mens home. Prior to the time of the strike I was never approached to swing over to the U.M.W. and knew of no spies in the P.M.A. local, during this period as I recall things went smoth and there was no trouble. I never knew or heard anything about any parties being given by Elshoff for U.M.W. officials or men.

"I remember that in Mar. 1937 the Union contracts ran out and that we worked for awhile without a contract. As I understood it they expected to make a contract and any pay increase would be retroactive to April first. I think it was [redacted] who told us this and that he told us out at Mine "B". I knew of no reason to believe that P.M.A. couldn't get as good a contract as U.M.W. and we expected the P.M.A. would get a contract. I dont remember any complaints being made over the mens pay in April and dont recall and work stoppages or other trouble at this time.

"I didn't go to the meeting the night before the strike but as I remember it I knew the meeting was to be held. I think this was a special meeting and dont recall how I heard of it. On the morning of the day the strike started I went to work as always. I didn't hear any argument over wages that day but do remember hearing talk of some men having been expelled from P.M.A. I did not see or hear anything of cars coming up and of the mine being loaded short. When I came up out of the mine and went home that night I did not know there was going to be any strike. I came back to the mine to go to work the next day and found the mine shut down, it was then I heard that the mine was closed because the P.M.A. men refused to work with the expelled miners. A short time after the mine closed I signed a petition for P.M.A. No one forced me to sign this and as far as I know everyone who signed it did so because they wanted to. I heard that the U.M.W. got out a petition that summer but no one asked me to sign it and I dont know anything about the methods used to get men to sign. I also remember later on signing another P.M.A. petition, I also signed this one as the other because I wanted P.M.A. as my union, I heard nothing about anyone being forced to sign this petition.

"In the summer of 1937 I heard that U.M.W. was forming a new local in Springfield, but no one asked me to join it. I did hear that

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

the U.M.W. had men going around trying to sign men up but I dont know anything about the methods they used. I once heard that during the strike Falscetti went over to the Jefferson mine to run it. I don't know anything about Mr. Elshoff owning any interest in or being a reciever for this mine.

"I have been shown by Agents of the F.B.I. an affidavit dated Aug. 25, 1937 at Virden, Ill. this affadavit refers to Charles Roth, who is now dead, telling me and others to attend a U.M.W. meeting. The information therein is true and correct and I reaffirm it and my signature. The statements in it were given freely by me and I was not forced to sign it or compelled in any way. I believe it was made at the Court House in Virden, Ill.

"I remember that mine "B" was reopened in the fall of 1937, I knew it was going to open but dont recall just how I got notice of this. I believe someone phoned and told me about it. I have no recollection of the Progressives having held any meeting to decide what they were going to do. As I remember I went back the first day all ready to go to work but didn't. I think that only about 5 or 6 men went down in the mine that day. Those men as I recall were Pete Carter, Cotton Ananias, Andy Schrslevious, Tony Plotch, Dominic Pasquale, Sammy, Frank Auston, John Sirtout, Geo. & Emory Jacaway (Father & Son), Charles Bohanon and James Fale. I believe they were all in working clothes and nobody tried to stop them. I dont remember any body saying you had to join U.M.W. in order to go to work. I dont remember that these men were supposed to be U.M.W. spies but do remember that they went to work. I came on back home that day and went back to the mine the next day to help with the picketing, I helped with this for about 30 days and then got a job with [redacted]

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election as I had a right to do this and intended at the time to go back to work at mine "B". As I remember this election it was fair and honest. The balloting was by secrect ballot and no one tried to influence me to vote one way or the other. I voted P.M.A. because I believed in that union and still do.

"When the mine opened in Dec. 1939 I went back and worked one day then quite. I quite and went to work at the Virden Mine which is a P.M.A. mine, I am still a P.M.A. member. I quite the mine "B" because I had another job at the Virden Mine and felt I would rather work there.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"I have read the foregoing statement of nine handwritten pages and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is all true. I am therefore signing this statement of my own free will.

"Signed: [redacted] (signed)

"Witnesses:

[redacted] /S/
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted] /S/
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)
[redacted] Ill. Sept. 2, 1943"

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on September 7, 1943. He appeared to be willing to answer questions put to him, but had no knowledge of pertinent facts. He would not make a good witness. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 7, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

[redacted] I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and I am unemployed at this time.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of Amerca which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW. I joined this union in [redacted] at Mine 'B'. I worked at this mine continuously from [redacted] to May 12, 1937, the day the mine closed down.

"I never held an office in a mine union. I am not familiar with the circumstances at Mine B in 1932 which brought about the formation of the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"I was satisfied with the UMW before 1932. I noticed no trouble between Elshoff and UMW before 1932.

"As far as I know Elshoff got along alright with the PMA until 1935 or 1936 when it appeared he began to favor the UMW. I felt Elshoff seemed to be very friendly with some of the men who seemed to be UMW organizers. I consider the following men who were working at the mine before it closed down were UMW organizers: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"None of these men ever talked to me. I heard they were UMW organizers from the other miners.

"I was satisfied with the PMA. I would still rather work under the PMA than the UMW. While I worked at Mine B. I was a coal digger.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I know nothing of the wage scale controversy.

"I heard about the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937. Some miner told me about it. I was not able to go to that meeting. I heard the next day some UMW organizers had been thrown out of PMA at this meeting.

"I remember that the coal cars were shorted on May 12, 1937 but I did not know why.

"I never tried to go back to work at Mine B after May 12, 1937 when it later tried to re-open or when it did open in November, 1939. I did not go back because I was too old and my health would not let me work anymore.

"Inasmuch as my eyes are not good I have had [redacted] read this statement to me consisting of two pages and it is true and correct.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] insisted that he knew nothing concerning activities at Mine B. He expresses himself with some difficulty and appears to have a poor memory. It is not felt that his faulty memory is the result of any contacts that might have been made with him. Although his personal appearance is satisfactory, it is felt that he would make a poor witness. He furnished the following signed statement:

"9-6-43
[redacted] Ill.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born in [redacted] & came to the U.S. in [redacted] I have been a U.S. citizen since [redacted] I presently live at [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. in about [redacted] when I started working as a miner. I have never held any office in any union. I never attended many union meetings and haven't been to any since gas rationing.

"I started to work at Mine B in 1936 and had joined the Progressive in 1932 when the state went Progressive. When I first started working at Mine B everything seemed to be going alone fine. All the men were getting along with the officers and the union was getting along all right with the company.

"I was working at Mine B in the spring of 1937 and don't know anything about any wage dispute or any questions about wages. I never heard anything about any men working for United. At the time of the strike I was working in Box [redacted] and remember that we all worked as usual until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when they told us to go home. We didn't know anything about any strike until after the strike was called.

"I remember that a short time after the strike some Progressive men told me to sign a paper so I signed it. I don't remember any petitions being sent around to the men. I went out to the mine in the fall when the men went on the picket line and stayed there off and on until the injunction was issued in Dec. of 1937. I used to come every once in a while, especially on Saturday nights to see my wife and clean up. I didn't see any fighting and nobody said I had to stay out to the mine.

"I remember that I voted in the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937. I remember that we all marched to the Armory in groups of about 15 or 20

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

men in a group. After the strike some men came to my house and asked me to join United. I told them I didn't want to join until all the rest of the men did. I remember that Bohannon came to my house sometime in the fall of 1940 after I started back to work in Mine B and told me that the mine wasn't going to operate any more with Progressive men. Two other men were with Bohannon but I don't remember their names. They didn't hit me or threaten me in any way though. As I recall it, I started back to work at Mine B shortly after the new year started in 1940.

"I believe I joined the United Mine Workers in the winter of 1940. I wanted to keep my job and was afraid of losing my job if I didn't sign up with United. Nobody ever told me, but we all felt that unless we joined United we would lose our job. Nobody ever hit me or threatened me in an attempt to get me to join union. During the time I was at the mine I never saw anyone hurt.

"This statement of 3 pages has been read to me t[redacted] & it is true to the best of my memory. I am still employed at Mine B.

Signed [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI, U.S. Dept. of Justice. "

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

[redacted] was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] can neither read nor write English, has a very poor memory and would not make a satisfactory witness. He failed to remember any details concerning activities at Mine B and the following statement was secured from him:

[redacted] Illinois,
September 2, 1943.

"I, [redacted], make the following signed voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as being Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to get me to make a statement. I reside at [redacted].

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S., in [redacted] I am an American citizen. I started coal mining in about [redacted] and joined the United Mine Workers at that time. I have never held an office in any union.

"I went to work at Mine B about 1935, as near as I can recall, and I was working there on the day of the strike. I don't know anything about the strike, I was working in Box[redacted] at the time, its a long time, I don't remember.

"After the strike I signed a petition at the Union Hall in Springfield. I was at the mines on the picket line, three, four months. All the other fellows were there. I went to show I was a good member of Progressive, someone told me to go.

"The above is all I know about the trouble.

"[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed))
[redacted] (signed))
"Special Agents, F.B.I.)
"U. S. Dept. of Justice)

"Note: Above read to [redacted] by Agent [redacted] and he advised contents were true."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed at his residence on September 7, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] seemed afraid of something during the interview, but when asked if anyone had told him not to give information to the F.B.I., [redacted] said that no one had talked to him. He speaks English with difficulty and understands it when spoken slowly. He claimed to have no criminal record. If necessary, he is willing to testify. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 6, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and I am employed at Mine B. I was born [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted]

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] I stayed in this union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I think it was before the election in February 1941 at Mine B that I rejoined the U.M.W., but I am not sure. I have never been an officer in any union.

"I started to work at Mine B about [redacted] When the P.M.A. union was organized in 1932, I went along with the majority. From that time until 1937 everything was smooth at Mine B. I was satisfied with the P.M.A. union and with the leaders of that union. I would have been satisfied with U.M.W. also because it makes no difference to me to which union I belong. I just want to be with the majority in a union.

"Before the strike started in 1937 no one ever said anything to me about joining the U.M.W. I don't remember any talk about anyone trying to force any of the miners to join a union.

"I went to quite a few P.M.A. union meetings, but I don't remember a meeting on the night before the strike started. I don't

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

remember any talk about some men being kicked out of the P.M.A. because of their working for U.M.W.

"On the day the strike started I went to work in Mine B. I don't know any reasons for the strike. I think the miners were called out of the mine, by the P.M.A. officials, but I don't know for sure. I don't know if any of the men were loading their cars with short weights.

"After the strike started, I don't remember signing any petition for any union.

"I recall that I received a notice from the mine company that Mine B was going to open in September 1937. When the mine opened, I recall that the P.M.A. had a meeting and voted to picket the mine if the management tried to send U.M.W. men into the mine. The P.M.A. officials thought the U.M.W. men would try to go into Mine B. I am not certain whether the P.M.A. meeting was before or after the management tried to open the mine. I recall that I went out to the picket line which the P.M.A. started to keep U.M.W. men from going into Mine B. I went out to the picket line because I wanted to. No one forced me to go out to the picket line. I remember the federal injunction obtained by the mine company, but I don't know any reasons for it.

"In the election at the State Armory in December 1937 I voted for the P.M.A. because I was a member of that union, and I liked that union and wanted it to stay at Mine B.

"Prior to the reopening of the mine in November 1939, no one said anything to me about joining U.M.W. After I went back to work at Mine B Bohannon came to my home, and showed me a list of names of men who he said had joined the U.M.W. He did not threaten me, and did not tell me that I would lose my job if I did not join the U.M.W. However, I knew that I would lost my job if U.M.W. got into Mine B and I was not a member of it, so I joined up with U.M.W. to save my job. I think this was before the election in February 1941.

"I recall that [redacted] had a job as an air-checker, and I seem to recall that there was such a job before the strike started in 1937.

"Bohannon was the only man who ever talked to me about joining the U.M.W. but he never did threaten me if I did not join the U.M.W.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"In the election in February 1941 I voted for the U.M.W. because I was a member of that union at that time. It did not make any difference to me which union was in Mine D.

"This statement consisting of this and two other typewritten pages has been read to me, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by [redacted] Special Agents [redacted], and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Illinois on September 2, 1943. He appeared willing to answer the questions put to him, and would willingly testify to the facts set forth in his signed statement.

The following is the signed statement of [redacted]

[redacted] Illinois
September 2, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born at [redacted] I moved to [redacted] Illinois when I was [redacted] years old. I have lived in the vicinity of [redacted] Illinois all my life. I first joined a mine union in [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois. This was local 443 of the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW. The only office I ever held in any mine union was [redacted] I presently reside at [redacted].

"Approximately speaking, I started working at Mine B in [redacted] and continued working there until May 12, 1937 when the mine shut down. I never went back after that date for any reason whatsoever. As I mentioned above, I joined the UMW in [redacted] and remained a member of that union until September, 1932 when Mine B went over to the Progressive Miner Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I felt that the PMA was a very good union and believed it had capable leadership. The members of the union seemed to get along alright with their union officials. I'm speaking of the PMA.

"I do not know how Elshoff got along with the UMW prior to 1932 or his relationship with PMA from 1932 to 1937. During the time I worked at Mine B, I only at ended one union meeting and that was a PMA meeting. I did not go to the PMA meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937.

"Sometime in the first part of April, 1937 some aggitators were working in Mine B and trying to get the PMA miners to join the UMW. These men, all of whom I knew at the mine are; Joe Albanese, Cudge Bumgarner, John Ananias, James Hale, Tony Plotch, Andrew Schrelevious, John Sirtout, Frank Austin, Pete Carter, Dominic Pasquale, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway and Charles Bohannon.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"None of these above mentioned men talked to me about joining the UMW, but I heard that they talked to other miners on that subject. These UMW organizers did threaten and beat PMA members to get them to join the UMW. I never overheard these threats or saw the fights but I heard about them from other miners. I heard also that these UMW aggitators went to the wash house and cut up the PMA miner's clothes so they could not be worn. This happened after the mine re-opened in November, 1939. I voluntarily joined the PMA in 1932 when John L. Lewis's officials stole the ballot boxes. It was my understanding from PMA officials that in 1937, Elshoff was to pay retroactive pay dating back to April, 1937, but he did not do so. I did not attend the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 when some of the agitators were expelled from PMA for aggitating for UMW, but I heard about it the next day at the mine.

"On May 12, 1937 the members the PMA Pit Committee told the men who had been expelled not to go into the mine. After I had gone into the mine, a member of the PMA Pit Committee told me to load my cars short as the expelled miners had been permitted to enter the mine by Elshoff. I did not load short, but some did and the mine was shut down. The short loading was not do to the wage scale matter. I signed the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of PMA. This was the only petition I signed. Since I did not attend union meetings, and was not an official of the union or have any dealings with the Operators, I know very little about the wage scale question, or have first hand knowledge about the labor organizing.

"I saw the agitators mentioned in this statement, enter Elshoff's office at the mine a large number of times in April, 1937. I don't know what they said, but it is my belief that the UMW bought Elshoff off to get the contract and the bargaining rights but I have no way of furnishing evidence to prove it.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the two and one half pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] appeared cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of what occurred during the trouble at Mine "B". [redacted] advised that he was a good friend of PETE CARTER, who is one of the alleged UMW spies, and that he thought these men (the spies) "were right in acting as they did". He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 6, 1943
[redacted]

"I, [redacted] do voluntarily give the following signed statement to Special Agents [redacted] an [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to America to stay in [redacted] I am an alien. I started working in [redacted] Mine in [redacted] joining the United Mine Workers of America bringing my International card [redacted] I started at Mine 'B' about [redacted] retaining my UMW membership. Between [redacted] and 1932 the UMW and the Mine 'B' officials got along as usual. As I understand it the Progressive Union was formed because of wage trouble and the votes being stolen in 1932. I never had any part in forming this union and have never held an office in either the PMU or the UMW. I joined the Progressives along with the majority at Mine 'B'. So far as I know the Progressives got along as well with Mr. Elshoff as the UMW did. I don't think that the management was partial towards either union.

"I thought that the Progressive Union was fine in the beginning and favored it up to the time of the strike in 1937.

"The strike at Mine 'B' in May of 1937 started because of a dispute over wages. Mine 'B' wasn't paying as much as some of the surrounding mines. [redacted] signed a temporary contract but it didn't pay as much as the new UMW contract. Shortly before the strike I remember Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John 'Cotton' Ananias, John Sirtout, George and Emery Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

and a few others were saying that they weren't going to work for less wages. I think that these men were right. These men were Progressives but they said that they weren't going to 'scab' on the other mines. The came out and said that they were going to join UMWA. I never attended any meetings at which any of the above named men were suspended or expelled. I don't recall any meeting the night before the strike.

"I didn't know a thing about the strike until we were called out by [redacted] in the afternoon of May 12, 1937, because we couldn't make an agreement with Mr. Elshoff. I didn't load any coal short on the day of the strike, but understand that some of the miners did load coal short that day.

"I recall that about [illegible] including the men named above called the Progressives 'scabs' and went on strike a short time before the big strike on May 12, 1937. After these men struck some of them were expelled by the PMA. I think that these men went on strike on April 27, 1937 after the first pay day where we didn't get a raise.

"I recall signing one petition for the Progressives before we went back to work.

"The men mentioned above formed a new UMWA local and Pete Carter, who was a good friend of mine, tried to get me to go to their meetings.

"During the 'Set Down Strike' at Mine 'B' I spent about a month picketing. While I was there I never saw any attempts to open the mine by UMWA.

"After the Government stopped the picketing I voted at the NLRB election, which was conducted very fairly. The Progressives won the election 404-25. After the election I don't know of any attempts by UMWA men to reopen the mine.

"When I went back to Mine B a couple of months after it opened I was still paying dues to the Progressives. I remained Progressive for a couple of months before I switched over to UMWA. I changed over because I thought the Progressives were losing and I wanted to protect my job. No one ever threatened or beat me to get me to join UMWA. I went down to a UMWA meeting and signed up there. If I quit Mine B the PMA told me that they couldn't do anything for me [redacted] I had to join UMWA to keep my job.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I voted UMWA in the second NLRB election. UMWA won this election.

"At the present time I prefer UMWA.

[redacted] has read the above three and one half ($3\frac{1}{2}$) pages of statements to me. The same are true and I do hereby sign my name.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted] Sp. Agt. F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This man speaks English with considerable difficulty and with a limited expression. He can understand only plain and simple questions. He said he is willing to testify in court, but prefers not to. He claimed to have no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and am working in Mine B. I was born [redacted], and came to the United States in [redacted] I was naturalized [redacted] at Springfield, Ill. I joined a mine union, some small local, in Pennsylvania, in [redacted] In [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. at Springfield, Ill. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, when the majority of the men at Mine B where I was working did. I didn't take any part in organizing the P.M.A. and went with the majority of the men.

"From 1932 until 1937, there was no trouble between the P.M.A. and the mine management. The P.M.A. always treated me all right, and I had no fault to find. The U.M.W. had always treated me all right, too. It made no difference to me one union or another. I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. To the best of my memory, I don't think anyone went into the mine on the day of the strike. I don't remember who it was that told me to stay out of the mine that day. I heard that the strike was called because the Mine B management said they didn't want the P.M.A. in the mine, that they wanted the U.M.W. I don't remember any more about it. I don't know if U.M.W. had any organizers or agitators in the mine before the strike or not.

"I think I signed a paper for the P.M.A. shortly after the strike, which paper said that there were more P.M.A. men that U.M.W. in the mine, that the P.M.A. didn't want to fight, they just wanted to work. Sometime, I think it was that summer, before the mine opened, two men, whose names I don't know, one an Italian and one a Lithuanian, came and asked me to join the U.M.W. I told them I wouldn't sign, and they left. They didn't threaten me, but told me that conditions would be better for me if I joined the U.M.W.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"In the fall of 1937, I went out to the picket line at the mine. We were told by the P.M.A. that we were picketing to keep the jobs for ourselves, and away from the U.M.W. All the men on the picket line were Mine B men. One night a man came to the mine, and told the men to leave. All left quietly.

"About two weeks after the mine opened in 1939, [redacted] told me to come back to work. A short while after I started work, Dominic Pasquale came to my room, and tried to get me to join the U.M.W. He told me I wouldn't be able to work at the mine if I didn't join the U.M.W. He didn't threaten me, and I never was hurt, although I did hear of men getting beat up in other boxes.

"Sometime later, before I joined U.M.W., some man, I think it was Sirtout, told me I wouldn't get my track laid near a wall and I wouldn't get a good room, unless I signed with the U.M.W. I had to lay some of the track myself. I joined the U.M.W., because Sirtout told me I would have better conditions. This is the only reason I joined U.M.W. [redacted] and wouldn't get a job anywhere else. I liked the P.M.A., and I was satisfied with it, although, as I said before, all unions are the same to me. In the election of December, 1937, I voted P.M.A. because most of the men seemed to want it. In 1941, I voted for U.M.W. at the election, because I was a member at that time, and because I didn't want any more trouble at the mine.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of about three pages, read to me, and I swear it is the truth to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed on September 8, 1943, at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is very deliberate in his actions and speech, but when he wants to he can express himself so that he can be understood. He understands English, but claims to be unable to read very well. He said he was arrested once by mistake, but it was not on a criminal charge. [redacted] said he is not afraid to tell the truth as he knows it.

[redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 8, 1943.

"I [redacted], make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I was born [redacted], and came to the United States in [redacted] I acquired my citizenship through my father when he was naturalized, but I don't remember the date. I am presently working at Mine B.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. I stayed in this union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. As I recall I rejoined the U.M.W. just before the election in February 1941. I never have held an office in any union.

"From 1932 until 1937 while I was working at Mine B, everything seemed to be O.K. The P.M.A. union was satisfactory so far as I was concerned, but it really made no difference to me which union I was in because I thought one union was as good as any other.

"As I recall after the strike started BOHANNON came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.W. I did not say "yes" or "no". I just told him that I would see about the matter later. SHRELEVIOUS was with BOHANNON; the younger JACAWAY was also present. No threats were made to me at this time.

"After the mine reopened in 1939 there was a new bunch of men in the mine. Every few days a new bunch of men would come into the mine. They did not do any work, but merely walked around the mine and talked to the men. I think these men were changed frequently so that the men working in the mine would not get to know these men.

"One night after the mine reopened, Mine B I mean, a big man whose

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

name I don't know, came to my house and wanted me to sign up with U.M.W. He said that the men would have good working conditions in Mine B if they joined U.M.W., but if they stayed in P.M.A., the conditions would not be good.

"I recall that BILL SIRTOUT was always asking me to join U.M.W. He talked to me almost every day. He said that if I did not join U.M.W., I would not have any job.

"I finally joined U.M.W. because I thought I had to to keep my job at Mine B. I had no fault to find with P.M.A., and merely signed up with U.M.W. to keep my job. On the day I signed up with U.M.W. some man whose name I don't remember talked to me about joining U.M.W. down in the mine. When I came to the top [redacted] signed me up for U.M.W.

"I heard that some men were beat up at Mine B, but I don't know their names.

"I don't know why the strike started. I don't know if the miners were loading cars with short weights on the day the strike started. I found out about the strike after I had completed my work on the day the trouble started. I was told that the men were not working any more. I don't remember who told me this.

"I remember that I signed a petition for P.M.A. shortly after the strike started. This petition was to show that the P.M.A. had most of the miners at Mine B in their union, and that they wanted to go back to work. I don't recall any other petitions.

"I received a notice from Mine B in September 1937, as I recall, that the mine would reopen. The notice said that the mine would open with U.M.W. men only. I recall the picket line in the fall of 1937, but I don't remember how the picket line was decided upon. The purpose of the picket was to keep U.M.W. men from going into Mine B to work because we of the P.M.A. felt we had the right to protect our jobs. I remember that the P.M.A. official used to pick up the miners and take them out to the mine to the picket line. They told me to go out to the picket line, but they did not threaten me or force me to go. I only saw Mine B men in the picket line.

"In the election in December 1937 at the State Armory I voted for the P.M.A. because I liked that union as well as I liked the U.M.W., and I knew that most of the miners preferred the P.M.A. union.

"I don't remember how I voted in the election in February 1941. At this time I was a member of the U.M.W. because I knew that I would have been beat up if I had not joined when I did.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"When BILL SIRTOUT talked to me about joining the U.M.W., I remember that he told me that it would be too bad for me if I did not join the U.M.W. I knew that he meant that I would get a beating if I did not join the U.M.W.

"When the mine attempted to reopen in September 1937, FALCETTI told the men that if they did not join U.M.W., they would not go down into Mine B, and that the company was not going to work Mine B with P.M.A. men anymore. He said that they would never open Mine B under a P.M.A. contract any more, and that the mine would be under U.M.W. only.

"This statement consisting of this and two other typewritten pages has been read to me, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection."

/s/ [redacted]

"WITNESSES:
[redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois. [redacted] furnished agents with the following statement and he read the same over but then said that he would not sign it unless he was in Court and was told to sign it and he also mentioned that he would testify to that in Court if he were called upon. He also advised agents the information was true. It was noted that [redacted] is a rather intelligent individual and readily understood the questions asked him and it was noted that he is very well versed in union matters. [redacted]

The following is the statement obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.,
Sept. 2, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born at [redacted] and presently am a timberman at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., and I have worked there over [redacted] years or so. I joined some union when I was a small boy and it was called [redacted]

"Prior to 1932 when UMW was there at Mine B the local was just the same as any other UMW local. Everything was fine and dandy between UMW and Carl Elshoff that I know of before 1932. When John L. Lewis caused the trouble around 1932 and they turned over to PMA I did not like the idea as I never liked to see too many organizations for us miners. But when the split came I went over to PMA with the others because they were the controlling party. I did not take any active part in going over to the PMA. [redacted]

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Between 1932 and the time the mine closed I never knew of any difficulty between Carl Elshoff and PMA. When I first became president Elshoff and I had an understanding that if any cases were brot up that they would be decided according to the contract which was then in force and Elshoff said he would do that and I never had any trouble with Elshoff as long as [redacted] and the cases were disposed of satisfactorily. I believe that Elshoff was fair. I never had any trouble with OSCAR FALCETTI then either.

"Between 1932 and the time the mine closed down there never was any trouble or strikes or slow-downs there at Mine 3 and things went along very fine and nice.

"Between 1932 and the time the mine closed I never heard Falcetti or Elshoff make any remarks that they liked UMW better or wanted them back. Neither did they do anything to my knowledge of trying to get UMW back at that time.

"I recall that [redacted] and up until the mine closed that there would be small fights and troubles especially around election times as the men would have too many drinks etc. but it had nothing to do with the coal company. There would be men who wanted to see their friends in as officials and naturally they would get to arguing about the matters.

"I said then and still say now that in any local union there is too much profiteering in them. In connection with local 54 they were no more racket ridden than any other local. The local would seem to be run alright but there were a few such as [redacted] and several others, would try to force their will on the other members to swing something one way or another. [redacted] No threats or beating were given by these men but they would just try and talk the men into something one way or another. I was very active in PMA prior to the time the mine closed and attended most of their meetings. Some of the miners felt that those PMA men convicted in the bombing cases had an injustice to them. I never had any opinion on the matter but I knew quite a few of them personally.

"Between 1932 and 1937, while I was president, there was passed a 10% levy on all miners and this was called a strike fund and was to be used for helping miners in other locals who were not working. I don't think that all of this money went to the strike fund but went toward salaries and other expenses. There was no books then and everything was on a cash basis. [redacted]

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

not even under bond. There were 12 men on this board who took care of this money. There were no other outstanding special assessments outside of the regular dues and assessments for death etc. I know that during 1932 and 1937 a lot of the members were able to get gas coupons from the local if they had to do something on union business and a lot used to get such gas.

"The officers and other expenses and salaries all came out of the general fund of local 54. The death fund was handled O.K. as far as I know. If there was any crookedness with the money affairs it could have happened in the 10% levy but I don't know for sure if anything wrong did go on there. The local expenses were all read off at the meetings. The PMA officials, however, did make regular reports to the miners at the meetings as to what happened to their local funds. However, this 10% levy was not accounted for as it was a special set up. When the Special strike fund was discontinued by local 54 [redacted] left his job and moved to Michigan. At a special meeting in Springfield, Ill., at 8th & Washington, all but 15 men voted to remove the assessment. [redacted] and several others opposed it. [redacted]

"While we had our Progressive union at Mine B, there were rumors around that there were UMW men out trying to get the PMA to go back to the UMW but none of them ever approached me. During this period there was no picketing at Mine B by the UMW that I know of, I did see some white papers scattered along the lane leading up to the mine once but whether this was UMW literature or not I could not say. I knew nothing about any paid UMW spies or organizers being in the PMA local prior to the strike.

"I never heard of any parties given by Elshoff or Falsetti for the UMW men or officials.

"I remember when the contract between the Progressives and the operators ran out in Mar. of 1937, at that time a temporary agreement was drawn up as I recall and white slips with the substance of this agreement on them were passed around among the men, by [redacted] There was no feeling at this time that the Progressives would not be able to get as good a contract as good as the UMW or anyone else, I remember no arguments or disputes over this. There was never any trouble at the mine over the wage question so far as I know. I never had Falsetti or Elshoff say anything to me about the agreement between the union and the company, I believe that the company did have some slips showing the nature of the agreement, but I dont know exactly what the nature of this was at this time.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I did not attend the meeting the night before the mine closed out, I do recall the contention over the 5 men who were to be expelled. I remember telling some of the trial board members that the charge that they had placed against these men was a serious one, a bad thing and would only cause trouble unless they had good proof of the charges made. I think that this was a special meeting of the trial board and was handled in the same way that all such matters were handled. I went to work the morning of the day of the strike the men went to work as always. As I remember it the men worked most of this day. I think that I heard that the men were being called out about 5 min. before quitting time. I do know that during that day the men were going around whispering one to the other to load the cars short. I dont have any idea who started this nor do I know what it was about. I dont know to this day why the strike started that day, some said that it was over pay, some that it was over loading the cars short, I never heard it said that it was over the men who were expelled from the union. I dont remember hearing anything about the management refusing to fire the men expelled from the union. I have often wondered why this strike was called. I believe that if every man had tended to his own business that this mine would have never shut down.

"I believe I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937, as I recall we signed this petition out on the road in front of the mine and those that didn't get to sign it there were visited at home and given a chance to sign it. I signed because I thought as long as we had a PMA union out there we had a chance of getting a contract. I felt at this time that in a few days we would have a contract.

"I did not hear of or sign any petition for the UMW.

"I dont remember signing specific petitions but think I signed one or two these were all for PMA.

"During the summer of 1937 I read about the UMW starting a local in Spring. all I knew was what I read in the paper. I remember that Chas. Bohanon was president of it.

"I dont recall any unusual activity or events during the summer of 1937. I did hear that some of the mine B men had gone to the Jefferson Mine to work and heard that Falsetti was over there as boss of the mine. I remember signing the affidavit which has been shown me by agents of the FBI, this affidavit was made at Virden, Ill. Aug. 25th, 1937, and concerned statements made to myself and other miners about going to UMW meetings, this statement is true and the signature attached thereto is my own. Later on learning of this Mr. Falsetti told Roth that he had no power to make any

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

such statement to these men, Mr. Falsetti was pretty sore about this, I dont remember who else was present at the time Falsetti made this statement.

"I remember the attempt to reopen the mine in Sept. of 1937, I believe that I read in the paper that the mine was to be reopened at that time. On the morning the mine was reopened the officers from both local unions were there. Mr. Falsetti stated he wanted 50 men to go to work. When Progressive men would come up to go down to work Mr. Falsetti would shake his head and not let them work, I dont remember anybody going to work that morning. I do know that the morning we started picketing no one went to work. I remember some of those who were there that morning among them "Sammy", Andy Schrovelicus, Domoric Pasquale, Cotton Ananias, Charles Bohanon and James Hale. I was at the mine most of the time during the picketing, I looked after the medical supplies. There was no regular meeting held the boys just met and said that if they couldn't go down wasn't nobody going down. I believe that the picketing started the same morning that they tried to open the mine. I never heard of there being any thugs brought in to help in this picketing, some of the fellows had men from the other mines come and visit them this was during the day and these men took no active part. The men were just there to protect there jobs and were ready to go to work at any time. I was there when the Marshall came out to tell the men to leave the mine. When the Marshall came out the union officers ran like sheep and the committeemen also left, I called the men together and the Marshall addressed the men, he read the injunction and pinned it up. One of the men jumped up and said we didn't have to leave, I asked him how long he would give us to leave the mine this was about 7 pm, the Marshall said he couldn't say how long he could give us but that he was going to be a very busy man until 12.30 am, I told the men that I didn't know what they were going to do but I was leaving after some discussion most of the men decided to do the same some of them said something about breaking windows and such, but I told them not to do that. Later [redacted] came out and he told the men that I had told them right and that he wouldn't tell them to stay. I believe the marshalls name was [redacted] one of the officers said I had no business to tell the men to leave this was [redacted] he said I wasn't running it and that they didn't have to leave. I never know of the UMW coming out and causing any trouble at all while we were out there on strike. Everything was cleaned up and gone by 12:30 am.

"I heard about the attempt to open the mine of Dec. 13th but we did not go to the mine.

"The first labor election was held by secrect ballot, no one tried to force me to vote one way or another as I remember now I voted PMA

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

although this was against my principles as I felt it would be well to go back to UMW. This was so far as I know a good honest election in every way.

"I dont recall going to the mine when they attempted to open it in Jan. 1938.

"I didn't go near the mine during this time up until the mine opened, I did not attend any meetings and took no active part in what was going on at this time. I never heard anything as to why Elshoff would not sign with PMA, or how he was able to keep the mine closed all this time.

"I got a letter telling me to come back to work in Nov. 1939, within a certain number of days, I don't remember how many. I started back to work about two days after the mine opened, this was on a Sunday. When I went back to the mine no body said anything to me. I had no understanding at all as to wages when we went back to work, we just figured it would be the regular union wage scale. I think that I joined the UMW prior to the 2nd. NLRB election, nobody approached me to join the UMW. One PMA man asked me what I was going to do, I told him I was going back. I was discusted because some of the PMA men had been able to get all they wanted from PMA relief but when I was out of a job nobody seemed to care or want to do anything for us, they did send word that there was five bars of soap but I told them I couldn't eat soap. The PMA man who approached me was the PMA local sect. a fellow by the name of [redacted] He really came to talk to me about why I wasn't paying my dues to PMA, I was not threatened and don't know of anyone who was. I have heard rumors of men being beat up by UMW but I have my first time to see any of it. I dont know anything about any acts of favortism on the part of the management for either UMW or PMA. I dont recall signing any cards for either PMA or UMW up until the time I rejoined the UMW. I did nothing to influence anyone to join the UMW.

"I voted at the 2nd. NLRB election so far as I know it was an honest election just as same as the other one was. Nobody said anything to me either way. The election was by secrect ballot and as I recall the report was won by UMW.

"When I went back to work in Mine "B" it was in very bad shape. Boxes 2 and 9 have never been reopened. All of the cars and rails in these sections were lost. I dont know of any fire at mine B while it was closed. I did not hear of nor attend the meeting at which [redacted] was kicked out.

"I have read the foregoing statement of 3 pages and to the best of my knowledge and recollection it is the truth in its entirety. I am therefore signing the same of my own free will and initaling each page thereof.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] signed _____
(continued)

[redacted] read the same and said it was true but he would not sign it unless he was in Court and was told to sign it.

Witnessed
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.,
St.Paul, Minn.

[redacted]
Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)
[redacted] Ill. Sept 2, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 8, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This man speaks and understands English with some difficulty. Very simple questions must be asked of him. He said he is willing to testify in court. He claimed to have no criminal record. It is noted that his name, as used by his children in school, is also spelled [redacted]

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 8, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I am living at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and am employed at Mine B. I was bor[redacted] In [redacted] I came to the United States, and was naturalized in [redacted]

"In [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers when I was working in [redacted] when I came to the United States I became a member of the U.M.W. in this country. I had to join again because I did not transfer my membership. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I have never been an officer in any union.

"Since [redacted] when I started to work at Mine B, I have worked in several mines around Springfield. When the P.M.A. started at Mine B in 1932, I had no part in the formation of that union. I just went along with the majority of the men. After 1932 things went along O.K. at Mine B, I was satisfied with the P.M.A., but I think I would have been satisfied with U.M.W. too.

"On the day the strike started, I did not hear about the strike until I finished my work in the mine. As far as I know, no one in my parting loaded their cars with short weights that day. I don't remember who told me that there was a strike at the mine.

"After the strike started I don't remember signing any petition for any union.

"I was on the picket line in the fall of 1937. As I recall I rode out to the picket line with [redacted] I did not get any notice that the mine

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

was going to reopen in the fall of 1937. I recall that [redacted] told me that the mine was going to open, and that he went out to work. When he arrived there, he told me he learned they were picketing. After that I joined the picket line to keep U.M.W. men out of the mine. I only saw Mine B men in the picket line.

"In December 1937 I voted in the election at the State Armory. No one told me how to vote. I voted for P.M.A. in this election because I liked this union and wanted to keep it at Mine B.

"Bill Sirtout has tried to get me to join U.M.W. He talked with me, but did not use any rough tactics. I told him that I'd make up my mind later on this matter. I don't recall exactly when Sirtout talked to me, but it was after I went back to work in 1939.

"After going back to work, Cotton Ananias asked me to join U.M.W. He did not get rough with me. Some time after I started back to work in Mine B, Tony Plotch and Cotton came to my house. At that time I signed up with U.M.W. I said that if most of the men wanted U.M.W., I was willing to join U.M.W.

[redacted] talked to me in Mine B after I started back to work. He did not get rough, but he told me that if I waited too long before I joined UMW, I would lose my job, and some one might get hurt. I think he meant that I would get hurt. I heard that some men were beat up, but I never saw any of this.

" hen the mine reopened in 1939, Oscar Falcetti came to my house and told me when to come back to work. I had been working on W.P.A. I don't remember the election in February 1941.

"I joined U.M.W. to keep my job. I was entirely satisfied with P.M.A., but it didn't make much difference to me which union I was in at Mine B.

"This statement consisting of this and two other handwritten pages has been read to me, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

[redacted] signed)

"Witness:

[redacted] /S/
[redacted] /S/
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. Throughout the interview [redacted] appeared to be extremely nervous and afraid to talk. It is not known whether this is his usual demeanor. He speaks and understands English well. [redacted] refused to sign the statement prepared from the interview, but admitted to both Agents that everything in it is true to the best of his knowledge. He said he preferred not to testify. [redacted] claimed to have no criminal record. When asked if anyone had threatened him if he gave information to FBI Agents, [redacted] said that no one had talked to him. Following is the statement which [redacted] refused to sign.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 7, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themeselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I was born in [redacted] I came to the U.S. in [redacted] I was naturalized in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] Presently I am working at Panther Creek Mine #2, and am a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America union.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. I began to work at Mine B in [redacted] While working at Mine B in 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I had no part in the formation of this union, and merely joined it when the majority of the men swung from the U.M.W. to P.M.A. I have never held an office in any union.

"From 1932 to 1937 I don't recall any trouble at Mine B, either between the management and the P.M.A., or between the miners themselves. I did not attend many union meetings during this time. I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A. union, and the officers and members all treated me O.K. I have found all unions pretty much alike, and I have no preference one way or the other.

"No one talked to me about joining the U.M.W. before the strike started in 1937. I did not hear of anyone trying to organize for U.M.W. in Mine B prior to 1937. I don't think that I went to a meeting of the P.M.A. on the night before the strike started in 1937. On the day of the strike, I think that I had

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

finished my work, and when I came to the top I heard that no work would be done the next day. I don't know any reasons for the strike.

"In October, 1937, I got a job at Panther Creek Mine #2, and have been working there ever since.

"I don't remember signing any petition in 1937. I might have done so, but I don't remember. After the strike started, no one tried to get me to join the U.M.W.

"I did not know that Mine B was going to reopen in September 1937. I did not go out to the picket line and no one asked me to go out to it. I knew a lot of men who did go out to the picket line.

"I voted in the election held at the State Armory in December 1937. I don't know how I heard about the election. I was working at Panther Creek Mine #2 when this election was held. I prefer not to say how I voted in this election, but I will say that I had nothing against P.M.A. at the time of this election.

"Since the election of 1937, I have had nothing to do with Mine B or the unions at that mine.

"This state ent consisting of this and one other typewritten page has been read to me, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

"Witnesses:

[redacted] stated that everything contained in the above statement was true, but he declined to sign it.)

/S. [redacted]
Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Although [redacted] is cooperative it is felt that due to the short time he worked at Mine B he does not possess sufficient information to make him a good witness. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 7, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"I reside at [redacted] and was born [redacted] I started mining when I was [redacted] years of age and at that time joined the U.M.W. I joined Progressive in 1932 and at that time was working at Panther Creek mines.

"I started working at Mine B in August, 1940 and voted in the NLRB election in February of 1941. I knew Oscar Falcetti and I went out and asked him for a job. He told me if I wanted to work nights he would put me on. I worked there about a year and one-half, until April, 1942. When I went to work at Mine B I did not belong to any union. Falcetti didn't say anything to me about joining any union. I used to belong to Progressive and I had tried to get a job through them, but I couldn't. I decided to join United, for I was a little mad about not getting a job under Progressive. When I started to work I was approached by both P.M.A. and UMW men who wanted me to join their unions. No one threatened me and I didn't see anyone beaten up. After I had been working about a week I joined United. As I was working nights I didn't see much of what was going on.

"I was never active in any union and never attended many meetings.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.,
U.S. Dept. of Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks and understands English very well. He was cooperative, but his memory did not seem to be very good. He claimed to have no criminal record. If necessary, he is willing to testify.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 6, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I live at [redacted] Illinois, and am working at Mine B. I was born [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers at Springfield in [redacted] In 1931 I was working at the Peabody Mine, and we went on strike. I didn't work in a mine until January of 1934, when I began work at Mine B. I had been a member of PMA for some time before beginning work at Mine B. I had not paid dues in the P.M.A., but started to pay dues when I began working there. I had no part in the organizing of P.M.A., and have never held an office in any mine union.

"From 1934 until 1937, I don't remember any trouble at the mine, between the management and the union. I was satisfied in the P.M.A. during that period, and heard or saw nothing to make me think the P.M.A. was not being run fair and square. I didn't hear of any talk on the part of the management which would show a preference for the U.M.W. or against the P.M.A.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike. I went to the mine on the day of the strike, but didn't go down into the mine. I think the strike was caused because there was no contract between the P.M.A. and Mine B, and I'm not sure. I don't remember the union officials ever telling any of the men the reason for the strike. I don't remember, either, getting any explanation from the P.M.A. officials why we only had an extension agreement.

"I remember that, just before the strike, there was some agitation on the part of some men for the U.M.W., or some union. No one talked to me about joining the U.M.W. at that time, and I knew that Andy Schrelevious and Dominic Pasquale, and some others, were agitating for the U.M.W. One day I heard Pasquale and a man named [redacted] arguing, and I supposed the argument to be over union matters.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I remember signing a petition, I don't know just when, asking for a referendum to see which union had the majority. This was a P.M.A. petition, and I'm reasonably sure I signed one, but I can't be positive of it. I do remember that no one asked me to join the U.M.W. in 1937.

"I don't remember getting any notice that the mine was going to open up in the fall of 1937. I picketed the mine at this time, to keep the U.M.W. men out of the mine. I don't remember how I got notice of the picket line. It might have been at a P.M.A. meeting, but I'm not sure. I was not made to go out to the picket line. The P.M.A. men went out to the mine to work. I don't remember seeing any U.M.W. men trying to go down into the mine at this time. The injunction was read to us by a federal man, and was for the purpose of getting the P.M.A. men away from the mine. After the injunction was read, we all left. We were willing to leave the matter up to the P.M.A. officials, and were willing to abide by their decisions. The decisions were all arrived at after a discussion, and anyone could get up and speak his mind.

"I remember the election in the winter of 1937, at the arsenal. I don't remember how I heard about it but think I saw it in the paper. I went to the election of my own accord, and voted the way I wanted to. I got no instructions from the P.M.A. officers as to how to vote. I voted for P.M.A. because I was satisfied with that union, and preferred it to the U.M.W.

"I don't remember anyone coming to me while I was out on strike, either to join the U.M.W. or to keep in the P.M.A. I went to some P.M.A. meetings, but don't know how many, or what was discussed. In the fall of 1939, I got a letter from the Mine B management saying that the mine was going to open. They said they would let me know when a place was ready for me. I don't remember just exactly when I went back to work.

"After I went back to work in the mine, [redacted] asked me to join the U.M.W. by signing a referendum petition. I told him I didn't want to until I saw how the men felt. He then asked me to come to a U.M.W. meeting to see how many Mine B men were there. I went and saw about half the men from Mine B there. Around this time I heard several men saying that if the U.M.W. didn't get a contract with Mine B, the mine wouldn't stay open. I don't remember any certain man saying this, and don't know if it was a U.M.W. man or not. I joined U.M.W. at that time, because I thought that if I didn't join U.M.W., and the U.M.W. didn't get the contract, the mine wouldn't stay open. No one forced me to join, and I wasn't threatened.

"In February of 1941, at the election I voted for the U.M.W. because I figured that under the U.M.W. the men would be able to keep on working. After the mine opened up, I saw [redacted] walking around the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

mine. I thought he was a new boss, and didn't know what his job was. I talked with him several times, and he never mentioned anything about the union.

"I always liked the P.M.A. and don't care for John L. Lewis. I'm satisfied with U.M.W. now but liked P.M.A. when I was a member of that union, and wanted to keep that union.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of approximately four and one-half pages, read to me and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

(s) [redacted]

[redacted], Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill. "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 7, 1943 by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] speaks English with difficulty of expression and can understand it only when it is spoken slowly. He claimed to have a poor memory, and denied that anyone had told him not to give any information to the F.B.I. He did not state whether he would or would not testify. [redacted] claimed to have no criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 7, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine B. I was born [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] I was naturalized [redacted] in [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] & belonged to that union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. in the fall of 1939, and am a member of that union at the present time.

"From [redacted] to 1932, the conditions at the mine were all right. However, the men didn't seem to be satisfied with the U.M.W. The U.M.W. wasn't looking out for the miners, but was just interested in collecting dues. In 1932, when the P.M.A. was started, I just went along with the men and didn't take any part in starting the P.M.A. From 1932 to 1937, the conditions at the mine were just about the same. The P.M.A. union was all right, but it made no difference to me which union was in. The P.M.A. was a little better just because the dues were less. I went to union meetings once in a while, but not often. During that time I didn't hear of anything said by the mine bosses which would show that they favored the U.M.W.

"I don't remember going to a P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike in May of 1937, and I don't remember ever hearing about the meeting. On the day of the strike, I worked all day. The next day the mine was closed down. I don't know the reason for the closing down, although I think the management was looking for another union. I don't remember anything about P.M.A. men being fired, or anything about a wage dispute. I don't remember signing any paper for the P.M.A. just after the strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"In the fall of 1937, when they tried to open the mine, I went out to the picket line. No one told me to, and I went to protect my tools and property from possible damage by the U.M.W. men. I didn't hear anything about trying to get U.M.W. men into the mine. I think the federal injunction was to hurt P.M.A. and help the U.M.W.

"In the election at the state arsenal in 1937, I voted for the P.M.A. because I wanted to vote for that union. No one forced me to vote either way, but voted the way I wanted to. In the fall of 1939 I got a notice from the company that the mine was going to open up, and I should report in a certain time or lose my job. I went back to work as soon as the mine opened. Shortly after the mine opened, I joined the U.M.W. I heard from several men, none of whom I remember, that I had to join the U.M.W. or lose my job. I saw other men sign, so I signed up. Nobody made me sign up with U.M.W. No one had contacted me before the mine reopened to join the U.M.W.

"I don't remember voting in the election of February 1941, and don't remember which way I voted. It doesn't make any difference to me what union has the contract.

"I remember, on the day of the strike, in 1937, that some of the men were loading short weights in protest against the fact that some U.M.W. men were working in the mine in violation of the closed shop agreement.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of about two and a half pages, read to me, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill.

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RE; JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 8, 1943.

At his residence, 914 Percy, Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he had never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that he had some difficulty in understanding the questions and when answering the questions his answers were not clearly understood. It is felt that he will make a very poor witness unless his testimony is absolutely necessary.

After the statement mentioned hereinafter was read to him he was asked if he cared to sign the same and he asked if he had to. He was told that he did not need to and he was asked if there was any reason why he should not sign it. He thereupon signed the same without saying anything further.

He also was asked as to whether or not he had been contacted and he said that he had not been, but had heard some of the other miners at Mine B talk about the matter; that they did not seem to understand what it was all about. He was asked by Agents as to whether or not he did not understand why the investigation was being made, and he said that Agents had so told him about it.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943.

"I, [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to get me to give this statement. I started working at Mine B in [redacted] and I am still there working as a coal digger. I was born [redacted] I came to the U.S. in [redacted] and became a citizen in [redacted] I first joined a union at Westfield, Ill., in [redacted] this was a U.M.W.

"Before 1932 everything was OK at mine B under the U.M.W. When they went over to P.M.A. it made no difference to me. I just wanted a job. From 1932 to 1937 the P.M.A. got along ok with Elshoff as far as I know. I never heard Elshoff or Falsetti say anything against the P.M.A. or its officers. I just worked and paid no attention to union matters. I don't know of anything wrong between the P.M.A. men and their officials. I only went to meetings for an election or something like that. I never

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

knew anything about the money matters of the Union. I don't know whether the P.M.A. men sent to jail for bombing were guilty or not, I never saw U.M.W. picket or distribute literature at Mine B. I never saw any U.M.W. organizers at Mine B at that time.

"I know nothing about any parties given by Elshoff for U.M.W. officials or U.M.W. for him.

"I knew the contract ran out in the Spring of 1937, but I don't know what [redacted] did about it, one time we were going to work and the next thing we went on strike. The men understood a temporary agreement had been made and were satisfied with the way the officials were handling it.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike and don't think I went. I was home the day the strike started and some fellow came to me and told me that Mine B was on strike we went over the next day and stood around. I don't know why the mine was shut down. I don't remember anything about cars ever being loaded short.

"I don't remember signing any petitions during the summer of 1937 for either P.M.A. or U.M.W.

"I don't remember the U.M.W. forming a local in Springfield in the summer of 1937.

"I went to the mine in Sept. 1937 on about the 2nd or 3rd day of the strike. I went of my own free will and we were just there to protect our jobs.

"I was at the mine most of the time the strike was on. No one was there but the local P.M.A. men, everything was peaceful and quiet. I was there when the Marshall came nothing happened except we went home.

"I heard that they tried to reopen the mine in Dec. 1937, someone told me of this but I did not go out.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election at the Armory. We went there in groups from the Union Hall, I voted P.M.A. as I belonged to that union. I voted of my own free will & the way I wanted. I think this was a good election.

"I don't recall anything about any attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938.

"I know nothing about why Elshoff would not sign a contract with the P.M.A.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I don't remember anything about any men or Mr. Falsetti going to work at the Jefferson Mine, while Mine B was shut down.

"I got a letter from the Co. when the mine opened. I went out and saw Falsetti who said I would have to wait awhile because of falls in the mine. A fellow came and told me to come back in a few days. I used to work in box [redacted] and went back to box [redacted] as I could not get into Box [redacted] Nothing was said about unions or wages at this time, I just went to work because that was my job.

"Nobody ever talked to me at the mine or at home about joining the U.M.W. One time I went to a U.M.W. meeting and saw a lot of the old P.M.A. over there so I signed up. When I first returned to Mine B I paid dues to P.M.A. I do not recall signing any cards for U.M.W. or P.M.A. in the summer of 1940.

"I heard talk of some men getting beat up but I never did see any of it.

"I don't know for sure whether I voted at a N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941, if I did I don't remember it now.

"When we first went to work the mine was in bad shape, but they fixed it up.

"I know nothing about any meeting where [redacted] was kicked out.

"I have had [redacted] read to me this 6 page statement as I have trouble reading. To the best of my knowledge it is all true and correct. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

(signed) [redacted]
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI (Milw).
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI (St. Paul, Minn.)

Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943. "

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was born [redacted] and became a Naturalized citizen of the United States in [redacted] It is not believed he would make a good witness inasmuch as he has difficulty speaking English. He has no known criminal record.

He supplied the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 3, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois do voluntarily give the following signed statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have made themselves known to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind were made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to America in [redacted] I was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois [redacted]

"I have been employed in Coal mines ever I came to America joing up with the United Mine Workers of America at [redacted] I started working at Mine B in [redacted] continuing my membership with U M W A. I never held any offices in any union.

"Between [redacted] and 1932 the U M W A and the Mine B Officials got along alright. So far as I know the Progressive Mine Workers Union was formed by some of the miners who got mad when the wage scale ballots were stolen in 1932.

"I had nothing to do with the formation of the new union but switched over when my local joined the Progressives.

"There were no strikes or close downs between 1932 and 1937 and Mr. Elshoff seemed to treat the Progressives as well as he had treated the U M W A. I thought that the new union was fine and that the leaders were good. The dues and assessments were about the same.

"Shortly before the strike in May 1937 about 13 men went back to U M W A. A few of these men were suspended just before the strike. The men that I remember were Frank Austin, Charles Bohannon, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, and James Hale. These same men are the ones who tried to reopen the mine U M W A while we were on strike in 1937.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"The strike in 1937 started because the temporary wage agreement was no good and the U M W A men mentioned above started going around stirring up the men. Before the strike we were told to load coal short in the cars. I never loaded any cars short but went home instead on the morning of the strike.

"I never attended any meeting the night before the strike nor any meeting where the U M W A men were suspended.

"The first I knew about the strike was when I got to the mine in the morning and heard the men arueing about the Co. allowing the suspended men go down in the mine. We were then told to load coal short until the management fired the men who had been suspended. I was home when the actual strike was called about 2 p m on May 12, 1937, and didn't find out about it until the miners came home.

"I remember signing a petition shortly after the strike showing that I favored the Progressives. This was a free and voluntary signing.

"I was a member of the Set down strikers for almost of two months. We never had any trouble during this time. While we were there 13 men including the ones I have named above tried to reopen the mine under a U M W A Contract and tried to get the Progressives to join up. The second day they were afraid to come back.

"When the Court said we had to quit staying at the mine all of the Progressives went home.

"A couple of weeks later the N L R B held an election which was fair and square. I voted at that election and the Progressives won 404 to 25.

"The U M W A attempted to reopen the mine in early January of 1938 but they were not successful.

"I went back to Mine B in November of 1939 under the "open shop" agreement. I was still paying dues to the P M A. I remained with the Progressives until I began to see the miners beaten up by the U M W A men and I joined U M W A to keep from getting beat up. Andrew Schrelevious and a man called [redacted] came to my house and asked me to join U M W A and I did to keep my job and to keep from getting beat up. I would rather remained with the Progressives and if I had a free choice today I would choose the Progressives. I like to vote for my officers,

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I joined the U M W A before the second election. I voted in this election which the U M W A won by quite a majority. I voted U M W A in the second election to keep my job, but if I could have had a free choice and kept my job to I would have voted Progressive.

"I have had the above statements read to me by Special Agent [redacted] The same are true and I do hereby sign my name."

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:
[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. It is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to speak English or remember clearly. He admits having been arrested for being drunk on two different occasions.

He supplied the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 3, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] I emigrated to U. S. in [redacted] and became a Naturalized Citizen of U. S. [redacted]

"I joined U. M. W. in about [redacted] when I began working at Sangamon Mine #2. I began working in Mine "B" in [redacted] I have never been an officer in any union.

"I do not know of any difficulty or of U. M. W. being in any trouble of any kind at Mine B before P. M. A. was formed.

"I joined P. M. A. in 1932 because the leaders of my union told me I had to join P. M. A. to work.

"I know of no trouble between Elshoff and P. M. A. before the strike in 1937. I was working as a digger at Mine "B" when the strike occurred. I did not see any one trying to organize or change the miners from P. M. A. to U M W at that time. I remember the mine closed down in 1937 and the P. M. A committee told me that it was because twelve men had been working for U. M. W. and that we would strike. I do not recall loading any cars short the day of the strike.

""Sometime in the summer of 1937 ANDREW SCHRELLEVIOUS and DOMINIC PASQUALE came to me at my house to get me to join U. M. W. but I said no.

"I remember picketing at Mine "B" for 56 days and nights, then the U. S. Marshal served an injunction on us.

"I voted in the N. L. R. B. election held in the Arsenal. As far as I could see it was a fair election. I know P M A won the election.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Shortly thereafter I heard the mine was going to reopen and I worked one day with Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, John Cotton, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale. [redacted] stood on the road and watched us go to work. The next day I was told word had come from Washington, D. C. that only P M A could work at Mine "B" so I didn't get to work anymore. I made $7.10 that day.

"Sometime later I joined U. M. W. and went to work at Jefferson Mine in August 1938. I worked there 5 months and each pay I had to give Brewerton $10 or $20 a month. He kept this amount out each pay because he said his expenses were too high to pay the full amount of our pay so in order to keep the mine open I had to give them $10 each pay. The last two pays I did not receive any pay checks at all and the mine closed down. These last two pays amounted to $117.15.

"I went to work on W. P. A. until Mine "B" opened in 1939. I went to work then as U. M. W. and am still working in Mine "B" as U M W. I voted U. M. W. in the second N L R B election in 1941.

[redacted] I have had this 3 page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, F. B. I., Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, F. B. I., Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 6, 1943.

At his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he had never been arrested in his life. [redacted] understood the questions asked him and his answers could be understood. However, it appeared that he was not well versed with the union affairs of the period under investigation, but it is felt that he would make a fair witness if his testimony is needed in Court.

The following signed statement was received from [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
Sept. 6, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill. am making this free & voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I presently am a coal digger at Panther Creek #5 & have been since year ago last April 16th. I started at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. around 1933 or 1934 & I didn't work any after May 12, 1937.

"I was b[redacted] and came to the U.S. in [redacted] & became a citizen in [redacted] I first joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] in Illinois and I never held any office. P.M.A. was at Mine B when I started & I joined over then. In 1932 I worked in Mine 5 at Peabody & was P.M.A. then so just switched over. Before Mine B closed I believe Elshoff & P.M.A. got along O.K. Before Mine B closed I never heard Elshoff or Falcetti say anything about P.M.A. officials or men being crooked. I never heard them say they wanted U.M.W. back.

"Before strike P.M.A. men felt PMA leaders were O.K. & I never heard anyone kicking about a thing. P.M.A. local was run by the men and questions were settled from the floor. I didn't go to many meetings [redacted] Regarding the P.M.A. men sent to jail in the bombings I gave up bond for [redacted] altho I never knew him & we felt they were not guilty. P.M.A. officers made reports of money matters to me & I never suspected anything wrong. We had no unusual special assessments except death assessments. Before Mine B closed U.M.W. never picketed the mine nor did I see any literature. Just before Mine B closed 2 or 3 men started some trouble & they would argue & Falcetti would not do a thing about it. They would argue about not being with U.M.W. One was

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

Dominic Pasquale I recall & he was for U.M.W. Others were [redacted] & he has several names; Andy Schrelevious, and Tony Plotch, was active later on. These men would argue a lot amongst themselves before the strike. I never heard of any parties for Elshoff or U.M.W. I recall when contract ran out in Spring of 1937, [redacted] told us at the Mine B that he had an extension of the old contract & that it was retro-active, but I later heard on that the company denied it.

"We PMA miners felt our PMA officers would get us as good a contract as U.M.W. could get. On pay days no one seemed to be sore as we felt we would get back pay when contract was signed. The men I mentioned above were active just before Mine B closed. Mine B never said a thing about the wage agreement that I know of. Just before Mine closed I did not attend a meeting & don't recall of hearing about it.

"On May 12, 1937 I did not know of a strike till I came up on top that afternoon & that morning I never heard a thing about it. I didn't hear a thing that day about a pay increase & I don't recall of any members being expelled. I did not load any cars short but I saw some half loaded & no one told me to load any short. I came up on regular quitting time but I did not get notice ahead of time of strike and I was in Box [redacted] then & came up & I first heard that a strike was on from the other miners. I don't recall what was said as to why there was a strike. I went home and a few days later I helped picket Mine B for a short time and while out at the Mine B on picket I signed a P.M.A. petition and no one forced me to sign it and it was to show what side we belonged to. If I recall we signed 3 different sheets as company got one and P.M.A. kept one. I heard about a U.M.W. petition I never was contacted in regard to it. I most likely signed another PMA petition that fall in 1937 & I believe I signed it at the meeting and no one forced me to sign it. I heard about U.M.W. forming a new local but no one contacted me but I heard of men going around in reference to it. In summer of 1937 I don't recall of anything else happening. I also heard that some Mine B men & Falcetti were at the Jefferson Mine & that Falcetti was a boss there, and I believe I also heard something about Elshoff being connected with it. In fall of 1937 I heard thru other P.M.A. men that the mine was going to reopen & that I should be out at the mine and I went to the Mine but did not go down. Falcetti came down by the shaft and told a bunch of us that if we wanted to go to work we would have to sign up with U.M.W. as he said the Company had a contract with U.M.W. None, but 8 or 10 men went down & they were of that old group who were against P.M.A. I didn't go to any meeting later that day. The same morning we started to picket & were there about 7 or 8 weeks. I was out there almost all of the time & no one forced me to go out & I went of my own free will and no outsiders were there and it was a quiet & peaceful strike & no U.M.W. men came out later on. When the Marshall came out I

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

was home that night. I heard several days later that they had tried to reopen the mine but I did not go out as I wouldn't join the U.M.W. I voted in 1st N.L.R.B. election & it was by secret ballot and I voted for the side I wanted and it was an honest election. No one forced me to vote. We went over in groups to the Armory. I did not see any men giving out literature on way to Armory. We were not told at meeting of P.M.A. as to how we should vote.

"I did not go out to Mine B when they re-opened it again. In Jan. 1939, 2nd of month, I got a job at Barr Mine & worked there 3 yrs. & 3 months. In 1938 and 1939 I don't recall of anything unusual happening. I don't know why Elshoff would not sign a contract with P.M.A. In fall of 1939 I got a registered letter from Mine B & I went back to see how I stood & Falcetti said when my turn came he would send me a letter & in a month or so I got a letter to come out but I never went out as I felt I didn't want to work under U.M.W. & I still am a Progressive. I never have been back to Mine B since. I have had Agent [redacted] read this 6 page statement to me and it is true and correct to the best of my recollection & I have signed it of my own free will.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI, (Milw)
[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI (St. Paul, Minn.)

Springfield, Ill. Sept. 6, 1943. "

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 8, 1943.

At his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he never has been arrested in his life.

It was noted that he is not an intelligent person and he had great difficult in understanding questions and he stuttered when he answered the same. It is felt that he would make a very poor witness. He could not write his name so signed "X" on his statement and on all pages.

Agents obtained the following statement from him:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943

"I, [redacted], give the following statement to [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises whatever have been made me to procure this statement.

"I am presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #5. I have been there about 3 month. I quite Mine "B" after being there about 16 or 18 years. I was born [redacted] I came here when I was about [redacted] or [redacted] and have been a citizen for about [redacted] years now. I first joined a mine union [redacted] years ago. I have never been a union officer. There was never any trouble at mine B prior to 1932 the union always got along with the Co. I joined the Progressives at mine B in 1932 because everyone else did. From 1932 to 1937 every thing was all right between the Co. and the union. I never heard Elshoff or Falsetti say anything about not likeing the P.M.A. men and officials and the P.M.A. local was run by all the men. I only attended a few meetings during this time. There were not many special as essments and the men were always satisfied with the way the money was handled. I never saw any U.M.W. men picket mine B or distribute any literature there before the mine closed. I did not at that time know of any U.M.W. organizers in Mine B. I never heard of any parties being given by Elshoff for the U.M.W. men. I remember that in 1937 the union contract ran out. I heard talk of this but we worked any way. I don't know what agreement there was between the Co. and the P.M.A. I don't recall there being any trouble over this.

"I did not attend any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. I was working in the mine the last day it worked. About a quarter to three the mine started closing down. I worked the full day. I came on top and

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

then I heard the mine was closed I still do not know what the trouble was. I heard nothing about the wage question or expelling men. I did not see any cars loaded short and knew nothing about it. I do not remember signing any petition for either P.M.A. or U.M.W. the summer the mine shut down. I heard nothing about the U.M.W. forming a local in Springfield in the summer of 1932.

"I was at Mine "B" about a month after the sit down strike started. I was sick during the first part. While I was there there were no fights or other trouble. I was there of my own will. We were there to protect our jobs. I was there the night the Marshall came out, nothing happened except we all went home. We were afraid when they sent us home that someone else might get our jobs.

"I never went back in Dec 1937 and know nothing about it.

"I voted at the Armory at the first N.L.R.B. election. I voted for P.M.A. because that was the way I wanted it, no one forced me to vote. I went down to the Armory straight from home.

"I don't remember anything about the attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938.

"I knew nothing about any mine B men working at the Jefferson mine while mine B was shut down.

"I got a registered letter when the mine opened but I was sick and could not go back. [redacted] came out and saw I was sick. I went back in about a month. I went to work in box [redacted] before I had worked in box [redacted]. My tools are still in there. I wanted to get them but Falsetti would not let me get them. I was talked to in the mine to join the U.M.W. About 20 men came to see me in a day they were all new men. I would see about 15 or 20 men who were new every day. Nobody ever came to my home to ask me to join the U.M.W. but the new men would ask me to join at the mine and told me if I did not I would loose my job. I joined the U.M.W. because I was scared and not of my own free will. The new men who were put on did no work but went all over the place trying to get men to join.

"I don't know whether or not I signed any cards for U.M.W. or P.M.A. in the summer of 1940. After the last N.L.R.B. election all of the new men left the mine.

"I don't know why now but I do know I just voted in one N.L.R.B. election. There were some falls in the mine but I have no idea how great the damage was. I know nothing about Jack Glascow.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have had Agent [redacted] read the foregoing statement of 6 pages to me as I have trouble reading the english language. To the best of my recollection it is all true and correct. I am therefore signing it of my own free will."

/s/ "X" (his mark)

[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn."
[redacted] Special Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943"

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was born [redacted] and is a naturalized citizen of the United States. It is not believed he will make a good witness due to his inability to speak English very well and his age. [redacted] acted as interpreter during the interview. [redacted] has no known criminal record. He submitted the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 6, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to get me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] I came to U.S. in [redacted] and am a naturalized citizen of U.S. having received my citizenship papers [redacted]

"I first joined U.M.W. when I first started in the mines soon after I came to U.S.

"I began working at Mine 'B' about [redacted] I joined P.M.A. in 1932 because my local changed and we had to change to P.M.A. to work at Mine 'B', since P.M.A. had the contract with Mine 'B'.

"I had no difficulty with either UMW or P.M.A. and as far as I know everything was ok between Elshoff and the unions or the miners before the strike in 1937.

"I was working at Mine 'B' the day of the strike and we were called out before the whistle blew and as near as I know the strike was called because we could not get back pay. No one contacted me about joining U.M.W. prior to the strike in 1937. I heard that some men were contacting the younger men and attempting to get them to join U.M.W. so they could get a higher wage scale. Some of the men talking to the younger men were Dominico Pasquale, Andrew Schrelevious, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Chas. Bohannon, and James Hale.

"I saw cars with not a full load of coal in them being taken out past me but I don't know why they were so loaded.

"I signed a petition shortly after the strike to show that the majority of the miners belonged to P.M.A.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I remember I picketed at Mine 'B' in the fall of 1937. All the pickets were from Mine 'B' only. I never stayed at the mine picketing very long at a time and was there at the time the injunction was served on us.

"I voted in the election in 1937 conducted by N.L.R.B. and it was fair & square as far as I could see. I recall the P.M.A. won it by a large majority.

"About a year after the strike I got a job on W.P.A. I worked at this until the mine was opened with U.M.W. and P.M.A. workers. At the time the mine opened I was a member of P.M.A. but changed to U.M.W. a few months afterward when I saw that the majority were changing and I saw also that I could hold my job.

"I voted in the second N.L.R.B. election in 1941 and it was a fair election.

"I have had this 3 page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]

[redacted], Sp. Agt., F.B.I.
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 7, 1943. [redacted] advised he had never been arrested in his life. He is the owner of this business and it was noted that he is an intelligent persons and if his testimony is needed, it is felt that he would make a good witness.

[redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943.

"I, [redacted] give this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] & came to U. S. in [redacted] & became a citizen thru my dad. When I was 16 I joined U.M.W. at [redacted] Before 1932 [redacted] I started at Mine around [redacted] or so I guess. Elshoff & U.M.W. got along O.K. but there were preferences given to certain cases when they came up. I recall that some U.M.W. men got fired before 1932. In 1932 I wanted to change over to P.M.A. but did not take any active interest or part in going over. Elshoff & P.M.A. got along fine when they first started in 1932. I was a timber-man & worked from 4:30 P.M. to 1 A.M. so I didn't come in contact with men at the mine & did not know what was going on all the time. I don't recall of Elshoff complaining about P.M.A. or wanting U.M.W. P.M.A. men were satisfied with the way the P.M.A. officials ran the union and it was run by the men and not by the officers. I did not attend many meetings for P.M.A. as I was working nights. In regard to the P.M.A. men going to jail for the bombing the men felt they were framed & I do myself. When we were under U.M.W. they would frame men to gain their point if necessary & I recall of 4 men being fired & this was before 1932. As far as I know P.M.A. officers handled the money alright & I don't recall any unusual number of special assessments. I never saw U.M.W. picket Mine B or give out literature before the Mine B closed. But there were about 8 or 10 men who were P.M.A. but they tried to get the P.M.A. men to go back to U.M.W. They never contacted me as I was on night shift. Some of them were [redacted] Andy Schrelevious; Pasquale; Pete Carter; Frank Austin; & he was a bad one; Tony Plotch; Cotton Ananias; John Sirtout; Geo. & Emory Jacaway; Chas. Bohannon and Jim Hale. I don't recall of any parties that Elshoff gave for U.M.W. or U.M.W. for Elshoff. In spring of 1937 when our contract ran out our P.M.W. officials told us they had a temporary agreement & that it was retroactive

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

[redacted] told us. Later I heard the Company said something about it & said there wasn't any agreement but I never read the contract. We sure felt that PMA could get as good a contract as U.M.W. could get. I don't recall any trouble over the wage issue. Some of the men mentioned above said around that the men would not get their back pay. I heard it from them too but I can't recall just who it was that told me. I can't recall of management saying anything just before strike about wages. I did not attend meeting night before mine closed. Some of the boys told me on 5-12-37 that mine was closed & that I shouldn't go to work on my night shift. I can't recall why strike was called & 2 days later I went to work at Mine A till Apr. 1939 & then I went into [redacted] business. I recall signing a petition for PMA & no one forced me to sign it. I don't recall of signing any other petitions then. I don't recall of U.M.W. forming a new local. I never went to Mine B after it closed down & I quit as a P.M.A. at Mine A. I voted at N.L.R.B. election & went down from my home. It was by secret ballot. I saw a few men near the Armory giving out papers but I didn't take any. It was an honest election & I voted for P.M.A. I never attended the sit down strikes in 1937 as I was at Mine A and I don't know what happened as I left in May, 1937 at Mine B.

"I have read this 4 page statement and it is true & correct to the best of my recollection & I have signed it of my own free will.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I. (Milw)
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943"

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING UMW LABOR SPIES

OPERATING IN FMA DURING SPRING OF 1937

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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ALLEGED U.M.W. SPIES AT MINE B

A review of the file indicates that the following named individuals were expelled from Local #54 of the Progressive Mine Workers of America either before or soon after May 12, 1937 for allegedly being U.M.W. spies:

JOE ALBANESE	JOHN (COTTON) ANANIAS
ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS	JOHN SIRTOUT
DOMINIC PASQUALE	GEORGE JACAMAY
PETE CARTER	EMERY JACAMAY
FRANK AUSTIN	CHARLES BOHANNON
TONY PLOTCH	JAMES HALE

Attempt was made to interview these individuals in quick succession on September 4 and 5, 1943. Appointments were arranged by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] with these individuals for September 4, 1943:

JAMES HALE, 9:00 A.M; FRANK AUSTIN, 11:00 A.M; ANDREW SKRELEVIOUS, 2:00 P.M.; and JOHN ANANIAS, 4:00 P.M.

Appointments were arranged with the following individuals for September 5, 1943:

ANTHONY J. PLOTCH, DOMINIC PASQUALE, JOSEPH ALBANESE, and EMERY JACAMAY.

Mr. HALE, Mr. AUSTIN, and Mr. JACAMAY were the only ones keeping their appointments, although at the time that each appointment was made each individual seemed cooperative and willing to come to the Springfield Field Office. Mr. HALE, Mr. AUSTIN, and Mr. JACAMAY were all cooperative and executed signed statements as set forth below. Mr. AUSTIN requested a copy of his statement at the time of the interview, but was advised that this could not be furnished to him by the Springfield Field Office.

Mr. PASQUALE, who resides [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was contacted by telephone on September 5, 1943, and professed to have forgotten the appointment, but expressed willingness to come to the office at some other time. JOSEPH ALBANESE, who resides at [redacted] was also contacted on September 5 by telephone and advised that he was a poor working man and did not want to get into trouble, and would not come to the office until he had seen his attorney.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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Mr. PLOTCH, whose correct name is ANTHONY J. PLOTCH, and who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was contacted personally at his residence September 6, 1943. He advised that on the morning of September 4, 1943 he, with JOE ALBANESE, and JOHN ANANIAS, were at the office of the United Mine Workers talking to RAY EDMUNDSON. DOMINIC PASQUALE was downstairs and may have come in later. There were some other men present whom PLOTCH did not know. EDMUNDSON called ARTHUR FITZGERALD, attorney, who came to the UMW Office, and advised each of the men that they should not make a statement to the FBI unless he was present at the interview, because they might incriminate themselves. Mr. PLOTCH believed that other persons were similarly advised, but did not know.

He was cooperative and willing to make any statement which his attorney might permit.

Mr. SKRELEVICUS, whose correct name is ANDREW ANTHONY SKRELEVICUS, and who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was contacted personally at his residence on the afternoon of September 6. He advised that on the afternoon of September 4, 1943 he had been approached on the street in Springfield by a man whose name he did not know, but whom he knew to be an employee of Mine B. This person gave him one of several typewritten pieces of paper containing the address of ARTHUR FITZGERALD, and told him that if anyone contacted him about what happened at Mine B to tell them that they should see this attorney. Mr. SKRELEVICUS was born in [redacted] and is not a citizen of the U.S. He presented Alien Registration Card #1141937. He advised that he had been sentenced to 11 months at Vandalia Prison Farm, Vandalia, Illinois in 1937 for activity connected with the labor troubles at Mine B.

DOMINIC PASQUALE, who resides at [redacted] was contacted personally at his residence on September 6, 1943 and advised that he would give no information unless his attorney would appear. He advised that he had gone to the attorney on his own volition; that there had been no meeting concerning the matter of Mine B.

JOHN "COTTON" ANANIAS, who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was also contacted personally at his residence on September 6, 1943. He also refused to give any information, on the advice of his attorney, Mr. FITZGERALD. He advised he had contacted Mr. FITZGERALD on his own volition and without suggestion of anyone.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on two occasions by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] JR. The first interview took place at [redacted] home on the afternoon of September 6, 1943. At that time [redacted] was obviously suffering heavily from the effects of alcohol. The facts occurring at Mine "B" were discussed with him somewhat, but he repeatedly expressed himself as being unable to think and remember, and requested that the interview be continued at a later date when he was in a better physical condition. He suggested the morning of September 7, 1943, and assured that he would be at the Springfield Field Office at 9:00 a.m. for interview. He appeared anxious to give information and anxious to cooperate in every way in the completion of the investigation. He had known nothing of the present investigation.

The information [redacted] gave in this physical condition was incoherent and valueless to this investigation. In substance, it was that JOHN SCHNEIDER was trying to run the whole union, and boss everyone. He had nothing to do with the affairs of the Union and the mine until after the strike, although he was expelled from the union because of association with TONY PLOTCH. The interview was terminated at this point at [redacted] request. During this interview [redacted] appeared at [redacted] home, and after learning that Agents were present, waited outside until Agents left.

Following [redacted] failure to appear at the Springfield Field Office for his appointment, [redacted] was seen on the street by the above Agents. He advised that he had not come to the office because his attorney, ARTHUR FITZGERALD, had advised him not to make a statement. [redacted] was found on the street about 3:00 p.m. which was during the hours which he would normally be working as a shot firer at Mine "B".

Later in the afternoon of September 7, 1943, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, came to the Springfield Field Office to advise that her husband, who is presently employed at Mine "A", had told her that BOHANNON with CUDGE BUMGARNER had come to the shaft at Mine "A", and were stopping former Mine "B" employees, and asking them if they had been interviewed by Federal Agents. When [redacted] said that he had not, BOHANNON told him not to tell them anything, and if he was asked why not, to say that it was on the advice of attorney ARTHUR FITZGERALD. This was following the time that [redacted] had given a statement to Agents.

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On September 7, 1943 [redacted] came to the Springfield Field Office with WALTER T. DAY, Attorney at Law. Mr. DAY requested Special Agent In Charge, FRED HALLFORD, in the presence of Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] to furnish him with copies of the statements.

Mr. DAY advised that he was not representing AUSTIN, [redacted] but that he was representing and assisting Mr. A. M. FITZGERALD, Attorney at Law, who was counseling UMW miners who were sent to him. Mr. DAY expected that he would eventually know the identity of most of the miners who had executed a statement to the Bureau and would probably request copies of all signed statements executed by miners to agents. No assurance was given that copies could be furnished him, and it was suggested that he make any requests by letter.

On September 10, 1943 Special Agent In Charge FRED HALLFORD advised Attorney DAY by telephone that all requests for copies of these statements should be directed to the Attorney General. Mr. HALE, Mr. AUSTIN and Mr. [redacted] were not interviewed and were not present during the interview with DAY.

[redacted] Springfield, advised that on the morning of September 7, 1943 an attorney, whose name he did not know, addressed a group of miners at Mine B before work, and advised them not to talk to F.B.I. representatives when they called. [redacted] Springfield, advised that the attorney informed them that they need not talk to agents if they did not want to. CHARLES BOHANNON and LEE OMER "CUDGE" BAUMGARNER, were at the shaft and evidently arranged this impromptu meeting.

JOHN SIRTOUT was found to be in the United States Army and unavailable for interview.

[redacted] and [redacted] were interviewed and executed signed statements as set forth below:

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the Springfield Field Office on the morning of September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] presently resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. He was born at [redacted] He speaks fairly well, and can express himself adequately. He would be quite difficult to confuse on cross examination, and might be apt to be confused as to dates, times and sequences. He claims to have a poor education, but appears to have an intelligence at least equal to the average miner. [redacted] advised that in addition to the information set forth in his signed statement, that on the morning of May 12, 1937, when he was preparing to go to work, that [redacted] told him that he would be killed if he went down into the pit. [redacted] rode down in the case with [redacted] and all the way down made light jabs with his fist into [redacted] back saying, "you ought to be dead." When [redacted] started down into the pit on September 27, 19[redacted] nurse [redacted] had held out a can of red pepper, and said that he [redacted] that in [redacted] eyes. When signing the following signed statement [redacted] stated that he had never been threatened by a gun, and that there were no guns held on him the night of his hearing for expulsion from the union.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. It is all true and accurate, and I am willing, if necessary, to go to court, and repeat any part of this statement.

"I first went to Mine B on October 6, 1920. During all the time that I have been at Mine B, I have been [redacted], so I work in the wash house on top.

"When I first became a miner I joined the United Mine Workers. My father and brothers were all miners. They were all members of the United Mine Workers. I always went to the meetings, but was never an officer. In 1932 when the local at Mine B went to the Progressive Mine Workers, I was told that I would have to join the PMW of A if I was to keep my job and be able to work. I was just married, and needed the money badly, so I went down and joined up with the PMW of A. However, I had always been a

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

UMW and my father and brothers were UMW. My father always said that in Union there is strength, and I did not believe that there should be two unions. My brothers were still in the UMW, so I stayed in the UMW and paid my dues to both unions all of the time. I have never been out of the UMW all the time, that I have been a miner.

"When the PMW of A was formed, I did not care much which union I belong to, whether I belonged to any or two unions, just so I could work. I went to the meetings of the Unions, of both unions all the time from 1932 to 1937. At first things went fairly well at the PMW meetings, and then they got to quarrelling. They were fighting, and quarrelling among themselves all the time at the PMW meetings, and having fights. It was always fighting as to who was going to have the offices etc. They were always complaining with the company, and causing a lot of trouble at the mine. I was pretty disgusted with the way the PMW was carrying on, fighting and all that. I was pretty outspoken, and said quite often that I did not think that we ought to have two unions, even though I was going to both meetings, and was a member of both unions.

"In 1934, when there was martial law in this county, I was home one night when some men came and wanted to hide some dynamite in my house. My wife did not like that, and ever since then I did not get along very well with the Progressives who were active there because I made them take the dynamite away.

"During the time from 1932 to 1937 we had meetings at Redman's hall for the UMW. We had no charter, but we met regularly all the time. Joe Albanese, Dandrow Schrelevious, Pete Carter, went to the meetings regularly. Tony Pletch, Cotton Annias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway and Emory Jacaway, and Charley Bohannon used to go quite a bit. Sometimes there was only 10 or 15 of us at the meetings. Sometimes there were as many as 50 there. I used to talk to the men out at the mine about the situation in the unions. Some of the men were disgusted about the fighting, and the checkoffs, and I used to tell them that I thought they that they all ought to belong to just one union, and I invited them to come to the meetings at Redman's hall of the UMW. I used to joke about things and the unions, and once handed a man some cigarettes and told him to have a UMW cigarette. He preferred charges on me. I was tried about a week before the strike started in 1937. Some of the other men were tried later, and we were all expelled from the union. I did not particularly care. I just wanted to work. I thi that is the way most of the men at the mine were. Most of them were willin to just work for Carl Elshoff, without any union, because the unions were causing so much troulbe at the mine. I do not think they were complaining too much about the Progressives, they were just disgusted with all the unions.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"When the strike started, there had been a lot of trouble, and the strike started because Elshoff and Falcetti would not fire me and the other men who were expelled from the Union. I do not recall that there was any discussion or disatisfaction with the wages or anything like that at the mine when the strike was called.

"On the day that the strike was called, I went to work, and was threatened many times. Falcetti tried to talk me into not working but I told him I had worked there for years and unless he would fire me I was going to work. When the strike was called, the men ran me off of the mine property. They also ran me off the next day after the strike was called. I used to go out frequently, and they would run me away. I took the mules out of the mine a few days after that and put them in the pasture. I had always had charge of the mules, bought the new ones, and broke them in.

"In asking men to go to the meetings at Redman's hall I was just acting on my own. No one ever told me to do that, or gave me many money for expenses, or anything like that. I was never at any meeting where Charley Bohannon, and Jack Glascow talked about switching the Mine over to UMW. I was never given any money to help. I do not recall that the UMW had any petitions out either before or after the strike, any picket lines, or cause any trouble out there.

"Once a month or so before the strike started I talked to Carl Elshoff, and asked him which union he wanted us to have, and he told me that he did not care just as long as they would quit bickering, and would get to work.

"I was on the committee or something when the charter was obtained for the UMW local. I do not recall much about that. I asked men to join it, but was never given any money from the UMW or elsewhere to pay my expenses.

"In September when they tried to open the mine I went out and got four mules the day before and took them down into the mine. On the day that we were supposed to go to work, I was there, and went down into the mine. I was threatened, but nobody mistreated me. The men who were out there around the mine property were all men who had worked at the mine before the strike so far as I know. We tried to work two days, but couldn't get to the company property after the sit down started.

"I do not recall the exact date it was, but I went to work at the Jefferson mine. My half brother [redacted] came and asked me if I wanted to go to work and I told him that I would. He asked me if I knew of someone else, and I suggested Charles Bohannon. [redacted] I do not recall how long it was that we worked. We worked until the mine closed.

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I voted at the election at the Armory for Mine B in December 1937. I think that was a fair election. The Federal man ran it real fair, and would not let us talk or anything. I think that the election was fair and would represent the way the men felt at the time. I do not know how the men felt then. I thought that most of them would be satisfied with any union if they could go to work.

"I do not recall but the one time that the mine tried to open during the time that it was closed.

[redacted] I was not around the mine, and do not know what was going on in the way of organizing. I heard that there were a lot of fights there, but I did not see any of them. I did not try to organize for either union. I think that maybe they would be better off with no union.

"The above statement on this page and four other pages has been read to me by [redacted] because I do not read very well. Everything which he read to me, which was read off of these pages, is true and accurate."

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted] F B I
[redacted] F. B. I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the Springfield Field [redacted] Office on the morning of September 4, 1943, by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. He was born at [redacted] He is presently employed at Mine B.

[redacted] appears to be a person with an intelligence above that of the average miner. He makes a good appearance, can express himself well, would not be easily confused on cross examination and would make a good witness.

He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to have me give this statement. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court, and repeat any part of this statement.

"I first went to work at mine B in [redacted] I worked a little while there, and then went to mine A. I came back to Mine B about [redacted] years ago. I do not recall exactly when it was that I went back to Mine B. I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America prior to the organization of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was never an officer of that union and did not attend the meetings regularly. In 1932 when the Progressive Mine Workers were being organized, I was a shot firer. Because of that I did not get out of the mine until late, and thus did not have too much chance to go to the Union meetings. During the organization of the PMW of A, and the strike which accompained this formation, [redacted] Consequently I do not know much about that situation, and did not care too much about it. When the local at Mine B went into the PMW of A, I was willing to go with the rest of the men, because I had my job there, and I had to work. I was not too anxious about it though, because I had been a member of the UMW for years, and did not feel that we ought to have two miners unions. However, it did not make too much difference to me.

"Before 1932 the local and the company got along pretty well. After that things did not go so smoothly. It seemed to me that the union was always demanding something. The new union ran itself pretty well for the first few months. After that there was discussion about the officials, and

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] the ruling in the constitution that the officials would go back to the "face" after their term was up. Quite a few men went to the meetings so far as I know. I was shot firing, and was not too interested in the affairs. I was not complaining about things in the union. I recall that about 1935 or 1936, I was making the rounds before the men left, in the afternoon. At that time the mine was not running regularly, and we were working just a few days every pay. John Schneider, who was a union official, had just got a new car, a new ice box, and fixed up his place, or at least, so I heard. I was making the rounds and heard the men talking about it, and some of the men asked me if I had heard anything about it. A couple of days later, Schneider came to me and said he had heard that I was talking about him at the mine, and that he was going to prefer charges against me. He did, and they fined me $15, which was quite a bit considering the amount of work we were getting. I did not appeal because I was unable to get to Gillespie, Ill. where the appeal board sat. They told me that there was nothing I could do about it. I was disatisfied with the way the union ran to prevent a hearing and so forth. That caused some dissension between Schneider and myself, but I continued to work at the mine. As I was making my rounds there often times men would ask me what I thought about the unions, and I usually told them that I did not think that there ought to be two labor organizations for miners. Several men asked me about it, and I mentioned it to several men. Early in the spring of 1937, there was some discussion about the contract and the men were talking about unions more than usual. One of the men I had holdped to get his mine papers, preferred charges on me. Charges were preferred against me quite a whille before the strike started. After that I did not talk about it at all, because I could not afford to have any more fines. I was not receiving any money or expenses from the United Mine Workers for talking about these things. I did not talk to any of the other men who were dismissed from the union because of their attitude towards the union. I tried to stay away from such things at that time. I was still shot firing, and thus did not go down in the mine until about 1 o'clock every day. I did not know that a strike was going to be called at the mine before it was called, but when I went out to the mine to go down on the day of the strike it was already called, so I got my pit clothes, and went on home. I do not know what the strike was about, but I heard that it was becasuse the company would not discharge the men who had been dismissed from the union. I did not go back to the mine, and did not sign any petitions out there at that time.

"I was tried and expelled from the union sometime after the strike started, [redacted] because I did not think that I had a chance, and I did not care too much.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I had not been at any meetings with Charley Bohannon, and Jack Glascow before the strike. I did not know about any organizing attempts before then. I did not see anything that the company was doing to favor one union over the other. As far as I know there were no picket lines or violence of any kind at the mine before the strike. There had been discussion about the wage rates, but I think the strike was over the union trouble alone.

"I was one of the men who helped organize the UMW local. Some men had talked to me about it before the mine went out on strike. I had done nothing but talk with the men who mentioned the matter to me about what I thought of going back into the UMW. When the mine was closed, I did go around and try to get men to join this local. I contacted several men at their home. No one paid my expenses. I did it in order to help get the mine back into operation.

"I do not recall when it was but I know that we were notified to come back to work. The company sent a man around to notify us to come back to work. I went out the first day, in the morning, to help clean up the mine, since there was no shot firing to be done. There was a big bunch of men out there, with their buckets, evidently ready to go to work. Only about 15 of us went down that day. Those of us going down were the ones who had been expelled from the PMW, and a few others. It looked to me as though some of the men wanted to go to work, but someone stopped them, but I did not see anything happen. No one bothered me. The next day there was a bunch out there too. When these men came out, they were the men I had seen at the mine. I heard that there were some there in the sit down who had not worked at Mine B before, but as far as I know, most of them were men who had worked at Mine B before,

"I do not recall any other attempts to open the mine until it actually did open.

"I voted in the election of the Unions in December 1937. That was a fair election as far as I know. When I went to vote early in the morning of the day of the election a man whose name I do not know handed me a pamphlet. It was PMW literature. When I got inside I told someone about it, and they told me that they would take him away. I do not know whether they did or not. The election looked fair to me. I do not think that the NLRB men were favoring any one union over the other.

"I think that that election was fair, and probably represented the feelings of the miners at Mine B. When the strike started, I do not know what the men thought about the union. I heard a lot of discussion about the check off being pretty high, and some men wondered about whether the union

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

[redacted] officers were being entirely honest. There was not too much about that. I do not know of anything specific. I know when men asked me what I thought of the check off, I told them that they were checking off "too damn much."

"During the time of the strike at Mine B I worked about a year at the Jefferson mine. I heard that they were hiring over there, and went over with Emory Jacaway, and got a job. It was a UMW mine, I did not have too much troulbe getting a job. Brewerton was running the mine then. No one told me to come over and work it. Elshoff had run the mine once before, but I do not know when that was.

"When the mine reopened in 1939 I went back to work the first day, helping to take the mules back in. There had been no big fires in the mine during the strike, but there had been several cavesins or falls. Some of them have not been cleaned out yet.

"I knew [redacted] during the time of the reopening of the mine. I do not recall when it was that he went to work there. He was an air check man. He had not worked at the mine before the strike. There had been some bad air at the mine when it reopened. [redacted] was working as an air check man as far as I know. We have a man doing that job now. His name is [redacted] He was doing that sort of work before the mine closed, and while [redacted] was there, and also is doing that now.

"When the mine reopened, I did not go back to shot firing, but worked on a new mule. That meant, in order not to danger the men, that I took the mules back off the main entries before the men came in. Thus I was the first man in the mine each morning, and one of the last to leave. I heard that there was some violence at the mine, but because I left early and came back late, I did not have a chance to talk to the men, or see what was going on. I did not see any fights, but I heard of them.

"I did not see any favoritism by the company for one union over the other. I never heard any talk about the company deliberately keeping the mine closed.

"Some of the men asked me what I thought about the UMW, and I told them that I thought we all ought to get into one union. I signed two men up with the UMW, but I did not make a point of talking to men about joining the UMW.

"I have read the above statement on this page and five other pages. It is all true and accurate."

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted] F B I

[redacted] F B I"

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 6, 1943. by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born at [redacted] is not considered by interviewing agents as a good witness. [redacted] and is therefore unable to express himself clearly. He has a very poor recollection of events, and their sequence, and because of that is considered to be unreliable, and probably easily confused. He gave information set forth on the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill
September 6, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I am known and have been known for many years [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted], and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I have been at Mine A and B since [redacted] I was [redacted] at Mine B before Elshoff started to operate the mine. At the time of the strike in 1937 I was [redacted] I do not remember the events that occurred before 1937 very well. I do not recall what happened when the local at mine B joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. In 1937, I think, I was tried and expelled from the PMW of A. I was tried for associating with United Mine Workers. I had known [redacted] for many years and one night I was [redacted]

"I do not recall whether it was before or after the strike started that that meeting was held. It was after this meeting

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

that I was [redacted] I do not remember whether that was before the strike started or not.

"I was not doing any organizing for the UMW before the strike started. I do not know that any was going on. I know that there was some difficulty about a contract, and remember saying a few times to the men that they did not have any idea how much money they were making, because there was no contract. I do not recall what the strike started over. I was working on top that day, and when I came to work John Schneider told me that I was not going to go to work. I told him I was. I ran the switch engine on top that day, because [redacted] who usually ran it was not working then. Schneider did not directly threaten me that day. He had many times before, and several times had told me that he was going to throw me down the shaft. The day the strike started, the men were sending up very small cars. There was not enough coal coming up to keep me working, and so I had gone home before the men actually came up. I do not recall whether I went back to the mine to work the next day or not. I do not recall every passing or signing any petition for either union.

"At the time of the strike, I had been expelled from the Progressive Mine Workers. There had been some dissension about the way the men were running the local then, and the way the finances of the local were being operated. Until I was expelled from the PMW of A, I did not care much which union I belonged to, as long as I could work. If I had not been expelled, I would just as soon have stayed in the PMW of A. I did not attend the meetings. I did not make much difference to me. I do not know how the rest of the men at the mine felt about the local.

"After I was expelled from the PMW, naturally I had to be with the UMW if I was going to work at all. I had always thought that we ought to have only one union, and not have two unions, but I did not care particularly which union it was.

"Before the strike I had done no organizing, and had received no money from the UMW for working or expenses. I did not know then that anyone else had been doing any agitating, or organizing at the mine, and did not know that they had been expelled. I had never heard anyone complain about the unions there.

"After the strike, I went down to my folks place, and camped on the river. I did a little organizing then. That is, I took UMW cards around to men I knew and asked them about joining the UMW. I got some money for doing this. I do not know whose money it was,

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

but [redacted] gave it to me. I used it mostly for my personal affairs, and I guess [redacted] knew this. I went out with the cards several times, usually with [redacted] I do not recall how many times I went with [redacted] I do not recall how many times I got any money from [redacted] It was every now and then when I needed some, and he would give me $10 or $25. I did not have anything to do with organizing or forming the UMW local at mine B. I stayed down there camping and did not come back until the mine reopened. I did not even come back to go to work on the day that they tried to open the mine.

"While the stri e was on, and the PMW men were on the company property, I was not out there, but I did drive by several times. I could see where the PMW men had had a machine gun set up there and hidden in the trees, and I knew where the men were hiding with some guns, but I did not see any machine gun, or any guns out there.

"I do not recall whether I voted in the election at the Armory in December 1937. I voted there once, and I think I voted there twice. I am not sure. I do not think that the election was fair, because the PMW men were the clerks, and counting the votes and all around there, so they naturally would win.

"When the mine reopened in 1939 I went back to work, and started [redacted] There had not been any big fires, or falls out there during the ti e that the mine was closed, that I know of. I do not know what was going on at the mine in the way of organizing. It was an open shop mine then. I did not do any organizing after the mine reopened. I do not know of any organizing that was going on on the company property. I do not think that the company preferred any union over the other. I am still not interested in the unions, and do not care which unioon I belong to as long as I can work, and as long as there is only one union, and not all of that trouble going on.

"I was threatened many times by men of the PMW, mostly John Schneider, but I was never actually molested or injured in any way. I was knocked out and was unconscious for three weeks about two and a half years ago, I do not know what heppened, but I think I was hit. I do not know who did it. I was also injured in the mine when a big piece of coal was laid up against a door that I had just come through, and it caught the mule and I got some ribs broken. I do not know who did that either.

"I saw a few fights on the mine property, but I do not know why or hat they were fighting about. I did not see anyone get beaten up

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

out there on the mine property. I think it was after the second election that I was jurt, but I am not sure when it was. I am not sure of any of the dates.

"I do not recall any favoritism of Falcetti or the company for one union over the other. I do not recall any meetings of the UMW. I went to a few meetings at Redman's hall for the UMW. I think that all of them were after I was expelled from the PMW. I was not at any meetings with Jack Glascow or saw him before the time I was expelled from the PMW.

"I have read the above statement on this page and four other pages. It is all true and accurate.

/S/ [redacted]

[redacted] FBI
[redacted] FBI"

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois was interviewed on two different occasions. The first interview was started at his residence on the afternoon of Friday, September 3, but was discontinued by [redacted] The interviewewas continued and the signed statement obtained at the Springfield Field Office. Interviews were conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] would make a good witness. He has a fair appearance, can express himself adequately, although his voice is rather weak. He appears earnest and sincere and would not be easy to confuse on cross examination. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill
September 5, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I have worked at mine B since [redacted] I have been a driver most of the time during this period. I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America prior to 1932. I was never an officer, but I used to attend the meetings of the union quite regularly. In those days there was not a very large attendance at the Union meetings. In 1932 the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized. I think that it was organized because some of the men could not get offices in the UMW. That is the only reason that I can think of for organizing that union. When the local at Mine B went to the PMWA, I went along with them. I did not especially care which union I belonged to, and was willing to go into the PMW of A. After the PMW of A was formed, and the local was PMW the local did not get along with the company as well as before. There was always some sort of difficulty going on. The union men were complaining about things, and there were many short strikes. I went to the meetings regularly. There was always a good attendance at the meetings. I was satisfied with the way the local and the Progressive Mine Workers of America was being run. I got along pretty well with it.

[redacted]

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

[redacted] I was satisfied with it in every way, and I think that most of the men at the mine were pretty well satisfied with the way the union was being run. I did not hear anyone criticize the union, even the men who were later expelled from the union. There was some criticism of the union because of the heavy fines the union was putting on the men who were working over $35 a week. Other than that I think that most of the men were satisfied, and I, personally, would have preferred to continue in the Progressive Union as it was.

"On the day of the strike I came up, and went home as soon as the strike was called. I had not heard that there was going to be a strike. I had not been at the meeting of the union the night before. I did not know that there was one. The men were bringing out small cars that day. I do not know why the men were loading small.

"I did not know that there was to be a strike called, but I heard afterwards, that the strike was called because the men would not work with those men who had been expelled from the union, and who the company would not discharge. I was not one of the men who had been discharged from the union. I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers in good standing until shortly after the mine reopened in 1939. I had not attended any meetings at Redman's hall, or taken part in or heard of any discussions about switching unions. There had been some discussion at the mine about a contract, and that was what the men who were expelled from the union had been complaining about, but that was not the reason that the strike was called as far as I know.

"After the strike started I did not go back to the mine. I did not sign any petitions or papers of any kind that I can recall. I took no part in the organization of the UMW local for mine B. In September [redacted] and some man came to my home and told my wife that the mine wasgoing to open. I went out to the mine the day that the mine opened with [redacted] We went out very early, long before any men showed up so that we could have the mules all harnessed and ready to go when the mine opened. I stayed down all that day, hauling etc. When I came out that night all the men had gone from around the shaft. I heard that the Progressives

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

were not letting the men go to work there, so I did not go back to the mine to work. I did not go out and stay on the company property when the sit down strike was in progress. I had a job to do [redacted] I later went on WPA. I did not vote in the election about the unions at mine B in December 1937, and did not go back to the mine or have anything to do with the mine until it reopened in 1939.

"When I went back to the mine in 1939 I got the job or working on the bottom, repairing, and working on the machinery. I had to go down each morning at 6 AM, and oil the machinery etc, before the men got there to go down. So I did not see anything that happened around the pit on the top. I did not see any fights, or any violence of any kind, although I heard that there was some, and did help [redacted] out on the cage when he came down in a car, and said that he had been beaten up.

"Charly Bohannon was the only one who ever asked me to join the UMW. A week or so after the mine reopened in 1939 he came to me one day on top, and asked me what I was going to do, and which union I was going to go with. I told him that I did not know and would let him know later. That night I was talking to the fellow that I ride with, and he was a little disgusted with the PMW because of the fines they had put on him for working the sixth day in a week, and because he had not gotten the fines back as he expected to. He said he was going to go ULW, and I decided that I would go with him. I did not ask any one to join the ULW.

"I knew [redacted] slightly at the mine. I did not know who he was until later, but I saw him at the mine regularly. He was a sort of safety man. He had not been at the mine before the strike. There were men doing safety work at the mine before, but they stayed on while [redacted] was working there, and are still on. No one was hired to take [redacted] place when he left.

"I have known Oscar Falcetti personally for many years. I went out with him many times, and I never heard him say anything about which union he wanted us to have at the mine. I never saw anything at the mine indicating that they had any preference.

[redacted] Those are the only offices I have ever held. I am satisfied with the way the local is being run now. There

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

is not much difference in the way the local is being run that when it was a PMW local, except that not as many men attend the meeting as before.

"I have never been threatened, or mistreated in any way by either of the unions. [redacted] was never in any trouble with any unions, or been expelled. He was not particularly interested in the affairs of the union. He has not returned to work since the strike. My sons [redacted] never worked at mine B.

"I do not recall any literature every being passed out at the mine. Some of the men had been skeptical about the contract with the company prior to the strike in 1937, and asked Falcetti about it. He would show the contract to them. That is the only thing that I ever saw handed out at the mine.

"I have read the above statement on this page and four other pages. It is all true and accurate.

(Signed) [redacted]

[redacted] F B I F.B.I."

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] He would make a good witness for what information he does have. He makes a good appearance, and can express himself well. He gave information set forth on the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 6, 1943.

"My name is [redacted]. I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement.

"I worked at mine B for [redacted] years. I rarely went to any union meetings. I did not care anything about unions, or which union I belonged to. In the spring of 1937 I had trouble with my eyes, and did not work for six weeks. I came back and only worked nine days when the strike started. I did not know anything about the strike, or that it was going to be called. I do not know what it was over, although I think it was because the company would not fire some men. I know these men. I had never heard them or anyone else say anything about switching unions, or anything against the Progressives.

"After the strike started I did not go to any meetings, sign any petitions, or have anything to do with the mine or the union. I voted in the election, and voted exactly as I wanted to vote. It was a fair election as far as I know.

"The rules of the PMW forbid a member from associating with members of the UMW. I did not pay any attention to it, because I had friends in both unions. After the strike started, they called me and told me to come up to the union hall for a meeting. I did not want to go, and did not go. I found out about two weeks alter that I had been expelled from the union. I do not know what I was expelled for, or for how long. I did not care anything about it.

"I was never abused by any members of either union. I did not care which union I belonged to. I would have been just as satisfied with the PMW when they kicked me out. After that I did not see any reason for sticking with them, but it did not make any difference because I did not intend to work in the mines any more.

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INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"I have read the above statement on this page and one other page. It is all true and accurate.

/S/ [redacted]

[redacted] FBI F.B.I."

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MISCELLANEOUS INTERVIEWS

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed on September 10, 1943, concerning his knowledge of the Mine "B" situation. [redacted] highly intelligent, careful in his statements, and should make a good witness.

Relative to [redacted] testimony if he is called as a witness it should be noted that he kept a diary of all events of any consequence happening throughout the entire period in question. He is able to refer to this diary and refresh his recollection giving a complete picture of what happened on each individual date. [redacted] was one of those convicted in the mine bombing case. He also was indicted early in the 1930's in Christian County along with others for rioting. The case was never prosecuted.

[redacted] has been seriously injured by gun fire, presumably by United Mine Workers on two occasions. In the fall of 1932 he was shot in the leg by a Union Mine Worker by the name of [redacted] Later on March 6, of 1936, he was ambushed by an unknown assailant who shot him in the back, permanently injuring his right arm, the bullet striking him in the back and traveling down the upper arm. On two occasions, once on Christmas eve in 1933, and later on in the summer his home was riddled twice by gun fire. On Christmas eve both he and his wife narrowly missed being hit. On the second occasion no one was at home.

[redacted] diary contained much information of interest to this case to which he could not testify personally, and so is not included in the signed statement. Such incidents and conversations with Elshoff, Falcetti, and others as he could testify to personally are set out in the signed statement, which is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 10, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"My full name is [redacted] and I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I was born in [redacted]

"I have been a miner and connected in various capacities with mining organizations since [redacted] At that time, I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America, and for a period of time approximately [redacted] years ago was employed at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois. At the time the break occurred in the United Mine Worker ranks in 1932, at which time the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

Progressive Miners of America was formed, I was employed at Peabody Mine No. 59 at Springfield, Illinois. Before the formation of the Progressives in 1932, I acted as a watcher, during which time the two referendums were held by the United Mine Workers to determine whether or not they would accept the contract agreed upon between the Scale Committee of the United Mine Workers and the Scale Committee of the Illinois Coal Operators Association. I was present at the time the ballots and vote tabulations were allegedly stolen by representatives and followers of John L. Lewis. In the succeeding reaction which followed, I took an active part in the organization of the Progressive Miners of America.

[redacted]

"One of the mines which was organized by the Progressive Miners and which came under my jurisdiction as a Board Member was the Mine B Coal Company located in Springfield, Illinois, and operated by Carl H. Elshoff. This mine was under the jurisdiction of Local No. 54, Progressive Mine Workers of America and was a part of District No. 4, [redacted] The Mine B Coal Company was organized by the PMA in the Fall of 1932, and from that date, up until the Spring of 1937, relationships between the management, Carl H. Elshoff and the PMA, were friendly and all grievances arising were settled in a satisfactory manner according to an established procedure and joint contract without any interference in production or strikes.

"The first knowledge of any trouble or controversy at Mine B was brought to my attention in April of 1937. On March 31, 1937, the contract which had been signed by Elshoff and the PMA in 1935 expired. At that time and prior, negotiations had been going on between the Scale Committee of the PMA and the Scale Committee of the Coal Producers Association of Illinois in order to arrive at a satisfactory contract for all mines being operated by the PMA. On March 31, 1937, Mine B was not a member of the Coal Producers Association, and it was necessary to enter into a contract with Elshoff as an independent operator. On April 2, 1937, [redacted] signed an agreement with Elshoff extending the contract which expired on March 31 until such time as an agreement was reached between the Coal Producers Association and the Scale Committee of the PMA and ratified by the members of the Progressive Miners Union in this District. This extention of contract which was signed by Mr. Elshoff carried with it the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

agreement of record adopted March 29, 1931, which provided a retro-active wage scale if the United Mine Workers were granted one in Illinois.

"On April 5, 1937, the Pit Committee of Local No. 54 came to my office inquiring about the retro-active clause in the contract. This Committee was composed of [redacted] I told them what I knew and my understanding according to record made in joint scale on March 29.

"On April 6, 1937, I received a call early in the morning from [redacted] who informed me that trouble had arisen at Mine B, the company taking the stand that was contrary to the tentative contract which had been signed by Carl Elshoff. When I went to the mine, it was reported to me [redacted] that Falcetti had started an agitation that the company would not live up to the retro-active agreement. I found that the following men had been active in agitating this question: Tony Plotch, Charles "Bowling Green" Bohannon; Dominic Pasquale; Joe Albanese, also known as Sam Catalone; Frank Austin; George and Emery Jackaway; James Hale; Andrew Skelevieus; John "Cotton" Ananias, Jr; John Sirtout; and William "Pete" Carter. These men had been agitating among the men, stating that the superintendent of the mine, Oscar Falcetti, had stated that there was no retro-active feature in the agreement which had been signed by Elshoff.

"The mine did not work on April 6, 1937, because at the time I had arrived there and settled this trouble, the management stated that it was too late for the men to go down into the mine. The Coal Company claimed it was now almost 8:00 O'clock, claiming it was too late for the men to go down. I insisted that the men were ready to go to work as the starting time was 8:00 o'clock, but they refused to put the men to work.

"That morning, I talked personally to Tony Plotch, and he told me that the superintendent Falcetti had told him the company did not have any contract or agreement with the Progressives which provided for retro-active pay, and he was not in favor of working under such conditions. I told Plotch this was not true and that the Progressives did have a contract which provided for retro-active pay.

"On April 7, 1937, a meeting of the men at Mine B was called by [redacted] at my request. At that time, I explained when the new agreement was ratified, it would be retro-active to April 1, 1937, as far as any pay increase was concerned and instructed the men to go on down to work and that the company would have to live up to its contract. The men went on down to work. Later in the day I received a call from the Pit Committee who stated that they had been called out of the mine by what they thought at first to be the company, but upon answering the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

call, found that it consisted of Dominic Pasquale, Andrew Skelevieus, Joe Jarvis, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, Jr., and one or two others who had not gone down into the mine that day. These men had yellow slips which they said were contracts [redacted] for the Progressives, and [redacted] for the operators. These pieces of paper which these men, whom it later developed were United Mine Worker opposition in our Progressive Organization, had nothing which reflected the agreement [redacted] and it appeared that they were purposely trying to present a false picture of the actual situation in an effort to create trouble and to cause a strike at the mine. In this matter, the company made no effort to insist that these men go to their work. In fact, I noted that the bosses reported to the mine this day, April 7, 1937, without their dinner pails, which indicated to me that they did not expect to go to work.

"In view of the fact that it had been reported by these twelve spies that Falcetti had told them that there was no retro-active feature in the agreement signed with Elshoff, I personally talked to Falcetti, at which time he did not deny that he had told the men this, and I told him that there was a retro-active clause in the agreement and that the company would live up to it and that he, Falcetti, was not going to keep these men from going to work on this morning, which was April 7, 1937. From the attitude of the management and these twelve men on this morning and the previous morning, April 6, it was more or less apparent that the company was working with these men to strike the mine and put the Progressive Organization in a bad light.

"On April 5, 1937, the Joint Scale Committees arrived at an agreement that any wage increases will date from April 1, 1937. On April 9, 1937, I, [redacted] went to Mine B and talked with Elshoff and Falcetti on the second tentative agreement. At this time, [redacted] was spokesman for our group. No agreement was signed at this time, but the matter was taken under advisement by Elshoff and Falcetti.

"On Sunday, April 11, 1937, I went to Mine B in company with [redacted] to talk to Elshoff and Falcetti on the second tentative agreements. Elshoff claimed he saw no need of a second tentative agreement, he will abide by the one he signed on April 2.

"On April 12, 1937, I heard rumors that individual members of these twelve men mentioned heretofore were specifically soliciting membership for the United Mine Workers of America. This was later confirmed in fact, and these men were expelled from the Progressive Miners of America by appropriate action through the Local. I was advised of this by officials of the Local.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Early on the morning of May 12, 1937, I received a call from [redacted] PMA, to come out to the mine. When I arrived at the mine, [redacted] informed me that the Committee had demanded the discharge of five former Progressives who had been expelled because of their activity on behalf of the United Mine Workers from the PMA. The names of these men were Frank Austin; W.L. "Pete" Carter, Andrew Skelevieus; Dominic Pasquale, Joe Albanese, alias Sam Catalone. I took the case up with both Elshoff and Falcetti, but the company declined to write up joint evidence. They refused to stop these five men from working. When he refused to write up joint evidence, I asked him if we could refer this dispute, him to select a man and I to select [redacted] or someone else that [redacted] may select. Elshoff did agree to ask his lawyer about referring the case. At about this time, Falcetti was called out; he came back a few minutes later and stated that it had been reported that the cars were coming up not loaded or loaded short. Elshoff argued that he could not discharge these men because he would be liable under the Waggoner Act. That was the position he was taking. However, he agreed to get his lawyer's version of the situation. At my insistence, he called his lawyer at that time, whom he arranged to see, and agreed to meet me at 2:00 o'clock that afternoon with the Committee to give his answer.

"Then we left the office, and as we did so, Falcetti and Elshoff called my attention to the fact that cars were apparently being sent up not loaded to capacity. I suggested that he take that matter up with the Pit Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the joint contract between PMA and the Company.

"At approximately 2:15 that afternoon, I returned to Elshoff's office with the Pit Committee and [redacted] Elshoff refused to do anything at all with regard to handling the dispute. He did say, "Put this mine in normal operation. Them cars are not being loaded properly." I told him that I came out here to get his answer regarding the case before us and that's what I was here for. He refused to do anything. At this point, negotiations broke off, and I notified the engineer and the check wayman that the company had refused to handle case in accordance with the contract. When the men were notified of his action, the work ceased, and the men came out of the pit.

"A meeting of Local No. 54 was held on the night of May 12, 1937, at which time, I told the members that the five men who had been expelled had a right to appeal and that if it were proved that they were innocent, Local No. 54 was responsible and these five men would be paid.

"I further recall with respect to my negotiations with Elshoff on that morning with respect to his liability under the Waggoner Labor Act that

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

these men had a right of appeal and that if it were found that they had been wrongfully discharged, the Progressive Organization would underwrite any expense that Elshoff might have had to stand by stopping the men from working at our request. He refused to consider this offer and refused to discharge the men.

"After May 12, 1937, for a period of about three weeks, there was picketing at Mine B by the Progressive Organization. There was no violence, and it was during this time that a petition was circulated among the members of the Progressive Organization in which over 400 signed and which stated that they desired, as employees of Mine B, to be represented by the Progressive Mine Workers of America as Collective Bargaining Agency for Local Union No. 54. This petition was one of the three originals which were made at that time, inasmuch as when the men signed the petition, they signed three copies, one of which was presented to Elshoff, another to be retained with me as District Board Member, and the third furnished to the District President [redacted] Upon receipt of the petition, Superintendent Falcetti, who was present, looked at each page of signatures, Carl Elshoff acknowledged the list of names and gave [redacted] a receipt typed out on letterhead of Mine B Coal Company, signed by Carl Elshoff, President. This letter acknowledged the receipt of the petition, but refused to acknowledge the authenticity of the signatures. At this time, Carl Elshoff stated that he had seen some cards which had been signed by United Mine Workers. However, he would not state as to who they were or how many they had seen or show anything to that effect. On almost every occasion that I went out to the mine, I generally noted that at least a few of the twelve men who had been expelled from Local Union No. 54 were hanging around the mine.

"On August 6, 1937, I went to Mine B with [redacted] and two others to present a tentative contract to Elshoff for his signature. Elshoff did not sign this contract or indicate in any way that he would. He stated that if he decided to sign the contract that he would get in touch with me.

"On August 14, 1937, I telephoned Elshoff, making an appointment with him. I proceeded to the mine wi[redacted] and the Pit Committee, except [redacted] at which tim[redacted] demanded the return of the petition which we had previously given to Elshoff on July 12, 1937. This was done in view of the fact that Elshoff had not acted upon the receipt of the petition in recognizing the Progressives as the Bargaining Agent with employees of that mine. I asked Elshoff about signing a contract at that time, and Elshoff stated that he was "up in the air. You have asked for the petition back." In the course of further discussion, Elshoff said, "When I sign a contract, it will be with a Union. I started in 1912 and have

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

always been in charge or connected with Union mines." He did not say with what Union he would sign or that he would sign a contract with the Progressives. He stated that he would let us know on the following Monday whether or not he would return the petition.

"On September 8, 1937, I went to Chicago, Illinois, being driven in the car belonging to [redacted]. Accompanying me were [redacted] At Chicago, [redacted] and proceeded to the office of Mr. L. C. Bajork, who was the Regional Director of the Thirteenth Region, National Labor Relations Board. When we arrived at his office, Ray Edmundson, Provisional President of District No. 12, United Mine Workers of America, was already there. There were no terms of settlement arrived at to open the mine. Spokesman for our group was [redacted] who presented the petitions and evidence that the employees of Mine B desired to be represented by the PMA and requested that an election be held. Ray Edmundson objected to an election, stating that the United Mine Workers already had a contract with Elshoff. He claimed many names signed on cards requesting representation by the UMWA. He claimed 357 names. However, upon request, he refused to submit any evidence of these signatures, saying that when the right time came, he would produce them. He insisted that employees of Mine B who belonged to the UMWA would put the mine into operation.

"The question also arose as to whether the men suspended from the Progressive Organization, which at this time had reached twelve, would be put back to work. Bajork did not commit himself at all upon this question. Edmundson insisted that these men should be put back to work. Our spokesman [redacted] stated that they should not be put back to work and insisted that an election be held to determine what organization would represent the employees of Mine B.

"On August 28, 1937, a contract was signed between the Scale Committees of the PMA and the Coal Producers Association of Illinois. This contract was formally ratified and state-wide referendum as of September 10, 1937, by the Progressive Locals. On September 10, 1943, a new petition was signed by members of Local No. 54 at the office of the PMA as they came in to vote on the referendum.

"On September 17, 1937, I attempted to locate Elshoff at his office about a new contract. I talked to [redacted] who advised that Elshoff was in Wisconsin. I again tried to locate Elshoff at the Mine B Office on September 18, 1937, without results. I attempted again to locate Elshoff September 20, 1937, at both Mine B and at his home. He was reported to be out of the city and would probably be back on September 21, 1937.

"On September 21, 1937, I, with the Committee including [redacted] and Attorney Dowell, conferred with the Governor of the State of Illinois,

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

and he suggested that everyone be allowed to work at the mine, suspended members and all, until the National Labor Relations Board decision was completed.

"On September 22, 1937, I was able to locate Elshoff at Mine B, and upon instructions from [redacted] arranged for a meeting on the following day at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

"As agreed, on September 23, 1937, I, with [redacted] met with Elshoff and Falcetti at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel. [redacted] was the spokesman for our organization, and at that time, he again repeated the offer that I had previously made to Mr. Elshoff in that if the Labor Board recommended that the men who were expelled from Local No. 54, PMA, should be put back to work that the Progressive Organization would underwrite any expense in which Elshoff might be involved as a result. We insisted that all the Progressives of this Local were ready to go back to work, but not with the twelve men inasmuch as under the closed shop contract with the mine, they were not entitled to hold their jobs there if they were not members of the Progressive Miners of America. Contracts with Mine B expressly stated that only those who were members of the PMA were entitled to work at that mine. No agreement was reached at this meeting.

"On September 25, 1937, I received a call from [redacted] who advised that Dominic Pasquale, Charles Bohannon, Joe Albanese had run him off of the mine property. They had approached him about joining up with the UMWA and said that he must sign in order to work at Mine B. Williams advised me that they blocked his entrance to the engine room. I gave the Sheriff of Sangamon County this information. I, [redacted] proceeded to Mine B. When I arrived at Mine B, I saw Dominic Pasquale try to conceal a gun which he stuck in a box of chalk right next to the desk of Falcetti in the mine office. Falcetti at that time was at his desk.

"When we arrived at the office, Pasquale, Albanese, Bohannon were in conference with Falcetti, and our appearance apparently surprised them and Pasquale was not able to conceal his gun in time to prevent our seeing it. A few seconds later, three or four Deputy Sheriffs arrived. I picked the gun up and turned it over to the Deputy Sheriffs. This resulted in a search of the others present with the exception of Falcetti, and it was found that Joe Albanese was carrying a long barrel .38 revolver. Both Albanese and Pasquale were arrested at this time for carrying concealed weapons. I asked Falcetti if he were trying to stop [redacted] from working, and he said, "No". Falcetti did not reprimand any of these men for carrying weapons or for the situation that was created by their actions on this date. I instructed [redacted] to return to his work in the engine room.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Later in the day, I was again informed that [redacted] had been run off his job at Mine B. This time, it was supposed to have been done by [redacted] and two others with Charles Bohannon. I know that [redacted] was hired by John L. Lewis as an investigator for the United Mine Workers. [redacted] has told me that he was employed by John L. Lewis; that when Lewis told him to do a thing, he did it.

"In the local newspaper, we were advised that Mine B would open on September 27, 1937, for work. I addressed a meeting of Local No. 54, PMA, on September 26, 1937, at which time I told them all to report for work on that morning.

"On Monday morning, September 27, 1937, I went to Mine B with about 300 men of the PMA who were reporting for work with their dinner pails. I talked to Oscar Falcetti, who, at first, would give me no answer at all. Later he came out of the office and asked the UMWA to furnish 50 men for work. I told him these men who were members of the PMA were insisting on their rights under the National Labor Relations Act and are demanding pay for any displacement of men of our organization from their jobs. 10 so-called UMWA men went below to work, and three reported for work on top. I told the men that day to go in individually and report to work to Falcetti. Falcetti refused to take any of their names, and in less than a minute, left the office. However, the men continued to report for work, consulting [redacted] or anyone who happened to be in the office. When Falcetti asked for the 50 men, he said that he was only recognizing the United Mine Workers.

"It was about this time that I, along with others, heard that the UMWA was going to try to put the mine in operation with imported strike-breakers from downstate Illinois. There was also a rumor that they would bring some men in from Taylorville and the Midland Track, which is in Christian County, Illinois, and in which is situated four mines operated by the Peabody Coal Company and organized by the UMWA.

"On September 28, 1937, the men again went out to the mine to report for work and demanded their jobs. On this date, no one went down in the mine to work. In view of the rumor that we had heard about imported strike-breakers, the men determined to protect their jobs and simply stayed on the company property. At no time did we consider that we were striking against the company but at all times had informed the company that we were ready to go back to work. The men continued to stay at the mine until they were enjoined from doing so by an order of the United States District Court, Southern District of Illinois, on or about November 23, 1937. During this time, no violence of any sort occurred upon the mine property, and when the order was issued, the men complied with it.

"On October 8, 1937, I, with [redacted]

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

[redacted] had a meeting at Mine B with Elshoff concerning the entire Mine B situation. During this meeting, we felt that progress was made toward putting the mine in operation and holding an election fifteen days later to determine who would be the Bargaining Agency for the men at Mine B. This matter of fifteen days operation before an election was instituted by an Attorney, [redacted] for the United Mine Workers, and was simply delaying action as the United Mine Workers must have known that they did not have a majority of employees at this mine. At this meeting, Elshoff agreed to take our proposition regarding the election up with the other side. However, Elshoff failed to carry out his part in connection with holding the consent election.

"On January 4, 1938, which was the date on which the Labor Board certified the Progressives as the Bargaining Agency for Mine B, I went out to Mine B with [redacted] We were stopped at the lane entrance to the mine by the company bosses. [redacted] United States Marshal, was also there at the entrance. [redacted] stated that in accordance with the injunction which had been granted in Federal Court, I could not go in on the mine property. However, the others were permitted to go in. These men later came back and reported to me that when they applied for work, Falcetti answered saying, "We have a UMWA contract." After learning that PMA had been certified by the NLRB as bargaining agency I tried to contact Elshoff on this date, but later saw in the Springfield State Journal that Elshoff was going to close Mine B indefinitely. I again tried to locate Elshoff on January 7, but he was reported to be out of the city.

"On February 16, 1938, I went out to Mine B and saw [redacted] and served papers on him relative to the retro-active agreement of April 1, 1937, in the absence of Elshoff and Falcetti, and told him at that time that Progressive Mine Worker members only were entitled to work in the mine. Accompanying me were [redacted]

"Accompanied [redacted] I went to Mine B again on February 21, 1938, at which time I talked to Elshoff and Oscar Falcetti. I served notice on Elshoff concerning the demands for the retro-active scale due the members of Local No. 54 or certain employees who had worked continuously at the mine, such as [redacted] even though the mine had shut down on May 12, 1937. When Elshoff received the written demands, he said, "All right". I then asked him for a receipt and he said that he would have to see his lawyer. I then asked Elshoff about signing the contract with the PMA. He said, "The mine is shut down." I also told Elshoff I was ready at any time to sign a PMA contract. Elshoff wanted to know why I wanted a

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

receipt to the demands for retro-active unpaid wages which had been presented to him. I told him if we could not settle, we may have to resort to the Civil Courts. He said that we had already entered a suit for the retro-active wages.

"On March 14, 1938 [redacted] went out to Mine B to see Elshoff. Elshoff, when they appeared, told them to call up before they came out to the mine. During the conversation with Elshoff, they noted that the fan at the mine which circulates air was running at full speed, and six pit cars were loaded with props ready to send down. When these facts were reported to me, I called Elshoff, who said that the power was off and that the only juice for the lights and the fans was being supplied. He said that no work was being done in the mine.

"From then on until the expiration of my term as Board Member, I contacted Elshoff at various times trying to work out a contract without any results. I remember three or four times asking Elshoff how he was maintained the expense paying royalties and also the expense of opening the mine at some future date. He would never make a definite answer. At times, I accused him of favoring the UMWA, which he never affirmed or denied.

"I have read this statement which consists of eighteen pages. All information and dates appearing herein were verified by notes kept by me in my diary, and to the best of my knowledge and recollection are true.

Signed: [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted], Special Agent, FBI.

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI. "

After the execution of this statement a further review of [redacted] diary was made and it was found that on August 17, 1938, he attempted to call Elshoff at his office and was informed by [redacted] that Elshoff was out of the City. [redacted] again saw Elshoff on September 26, 1938, relative to opening the mine and signing a contract. At that time Elshoff said that market conditions were bad and that he did not know when he would open the mine.

Another attempt was made to locate Elshoff on October 8, 1938, and the last record of any conversation at all in his diary with Elshoff was on January 13, 1939. At that time [redacted] phoned Elshoff about a

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

[redacted]

contract. He was again told that market conditions did not warrant the opening of the mine and that in the event business conditions in the future improved, and he considered opening the mine that he would get in touch with

Relative to the strategic importance of Mine B, [redacted] stated that it was the largest single mine in the Springfield Area. He stated that the Panther Creek Mines considered collectively employed more men. He considered Mine B as a strategic point of attack by UMW, particularly in the Springfield District, because it was the largest single mine under one owner.

In event any background information is desired as to the struggle between United Mine Workers and Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, [redacted] can give detailed information. [redacted]

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at the Springfield Office on September 10, 1943.

[redacted] has been engaged in the occupation of coal mining or associated in the activities of unions regarding same for the past [redacted] years. [redacted] is intelligent and presents a good appearance, and will make a cooperative witness as far as the Government's case is concerned. During the pertinent periods which are covered by this investigation, he was an active official of Local 54, PMA, and attended many of the meetings in which attempts were made to reopen the mine and to negotiate a contract with CARL ELSHOFF and OSCAR FALCETTI. With regard to [redacted] it should be noted that he was one of those convicted in the mine bombing case during 1937, and served a two year term in a Federal institution from the middle of 1939 until September 1940.

The statement which was executed by [redacted] is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 10, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"My name is [redacted] and I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I was born [redacted] and ever since I was [redacted] years of age have been employed in coal mines or engaged in activity related to the coal mining industry. I first went to work for the Mine B Coal Company, Springfield, Illinois, under the management of Carl H. Elshoff in 1931. At that time and prior, I was a member of the United Mine Workers. However, when the Progressive Mine Workers of America formed their union in the fall of 1932 I joined them. At that time I was a member of Local No. 54, PMA, in Springfield, Illinois, which had jurisdiction over the Mine B Coal Company. In the fall of 1932 the entire membership of this local, except one man by the name of [redacted] voted to go with the Progressives. [redacted]

"To the best of my recollection the relationships between the PMA and the management at Mine B were good from 1932 until the Spring of 1937. All grievances and difficulties arising were handled in accordance with settled procedure and there were no work stopages or strikes during this period. I personally became aware of some agitation in Local No. 54 on the part of ten or twelve men early in April of 1937. The contract which the PMA had

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

with Elshoff as an independent operator expired on March 31, 1937. Some of these men, namely, Andrew Skrelevious, Charles "Bowling Green" Bohannon, Dominic Pasquale, Tony Plotch, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Joe Albanese, "Cotton" Ananias, and perhaps a few others, were active. It was my understanding that these men were agitating among the membership, stating that the company would not recognize the retroactive pay features which might be subsequently executed in contract. I can recall that some of these men had yellow pieces of paper which were reported to have been obtained from the office of the company, principally from Oscar Falcetti, the Company Superintendent. These men were representing that this paper stated that no retroactive pay would be obtained from the company. I definitely recall that early in April the work of these men was so effective that they attempted to stop production at the mine.

"I recall that [redacted] came out to the mine and explained that the existing contracts would provide that retroactive pay would be in effect and [redacted] attempted to persuade the men to go back to work. The men were willing to go back to work. However, the company officials, namely, Falcetti, stated that it was too late and refused to send the men down into the mine. This was shortly before 8 o'clock; that starting time at the mine was 8:00 a.m. I recall that throughout the entire month of April these men continued to cause trouble, still arguing the contract question. Early in May of 1937 I remember attending one meeting at which five men were expelled, These men were Frank Austin, Doninic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Joe Albanese, and Tony Plotch. To the best of my recollection this was a regular membership meeting, the trials of these men having been held sometime previously by the trial board. This was simply a referendum to the membership of Local 54 to voice their approval of the trial board's decisions. The membership felt that the trial committee had taken the proper action. On May 12, there was a strike at Mine B. I worked in the mine all during that day until the early part of the afternoon when word came down that Elsb ff had refused to recognize the closed shop contract between the Company and PMA in that he refused to fire the five men who had been expelled from the Union. I received more definite information on this matter when I came up out of the mine and talked to some of the men on top. Then for a period of approximately three weeks there was some picketing at the mine, and during this time a petition was circulated among the men in order to determine whether or not they wanted to be represented by the Progressive Mine Workers.

"Sometime in September I happened to be at the Board Office of the PMA when a call was received b [redacted] Board Member, from [redacted] saying that he had been run off the property at Mine B by Charles Bohannon, Dominic Pasquale, Joe Albanese, and others. As I recall it, [redacted] called the Sheriff of Sangamon County and I, with [redacted] drove out to the mine. We reached the mine just before the men from the Sheriff's Office

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

arrived and as we went in I, together with [redacted] saw Pasquale take a gun and try to hide it in a box of some sort by Superintendent Oscar Falcetti's desk. If I remember correctly, Falcetti, Bohannon, Pasquale, and Albanese were in the room. [redacted] notified the Sheriff of what Pasquale had done and after the Sheriff found the gun a search was made of the other occupants in the room with the possible exception of Falcetti. It was found that Albanese was also carrying a gun, a revolver of some sort. These two men were arrested on that date for carrying concealed weapons. I do not recall that Falcetti said a single word during all the time that this was going on. It is my recollection, however, that [redacted] talked to Falcetti concerning returning [redacted] to work, and that [redacted] actually did go back on his job. Shortly after this in the latter part of September, 1937, there was an attempted opening of Mine B. I, along with the other employees of Mine B, reported for work that morning and I recall that Falcetti came out and told the men that they would have to be United Mine Workers to work at Mine B, inasmuch as the company had a contract with the UMW of A. Falcetti gave the explanation that he had nothing to do with the hiring of the men and that he was simply carrying out orders. On that date only ten or twelve fellows went down to work in the mine, these being the ten or twelve men who had been expelled from Local 54. There was no violence at the mine, although some words might have been passed.

"I also reported to work on the following day with a number of the men from Local 54. On this date no one went down into the mine and to the best of my recollection, the Sheriff of Sangamon County was present and requested the ten or twelve men who went down the previous day to stay in the cabin for their own protection.

"From that day on the men simply stayed out at the mine ready to go to work at any time the management would put them to work. It was about this time that we received word, more or less in the form of a rumor, that the United Mine Workers were going to try to put the mine in operation with imported strike breakers, principally from the Peabody Mines down on the Midland track in Christian County, which were all organized by the UMW of A. This picketing continued up until the latter part of November when a Federal injunction was obtained by Elshoff enjoining the men from coming on to the property. I left the mine about the middle of November and was not present when this injunction was served.

"I recall starting out to Mine B on the morning of January 4, 1938, at which time there was another attempted opening. I rode out with [redacted] However, before we reached the mine some of the men coming back told us that the mine would not be put in operation, so we returned to Springfield.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"In 1938 I was elected a member of the Pit Committee, together with [redacted] and it was part of the duties of my office to attend all meetings looking forward to negotiations with a contract with Elshoff in the settlement of grievances. I remember going out to the mine with [redacted] and other members of the Pit Committee sometime in February, 1938, and talking to [redacted] concerning retroactive pay for certain of the men, namely, [redacted], and possibly others, who had continued to work at the mine on May 12, 1937. I later returned in the same month with [redacted] and the Pit Committee at this time talking to Elshoff and Falcetti. As I recall [redacted] was more or less the spokesman for our group as this would naturally be his job as Board Member. Elshoff and Falcetti were approached relative to the opening of the mine and recognition of the contract. To the best of my recollection, Elshoff's answer was that the mine was shut down and there was no business so why sign a contract.

"In March of 1938 we received word that some work was going on at the mine and that mules were being brought up out of the mine. I went out to the mine with [redacted] was along. As we drove up Elshoff met us and asked us what we were doing out there and if we did not know that there was an injunction. We said that surely we could come out there on business. We went in to talk to Falcetti, stating that if there was any work going on at the mine we were claiming it for members of Progressive Local No. 54. I can recall seeing Frank Austin at the mine that day. Falcetti told us that there was no work going on at the mine and that these mules were to be used by Frank Austin, and they were simply performing that work as payment. There was to be no remuneration for the work they were doing outside of the fact that they were to get to use the mules. We noted at the time that the fan of the mine was in operation. We went into Springfield and reported what we had found to [redacted]

"I can also recall going out to the mine at least a couple of times after that with members of the Pit Committee to discuss the opening of the mine and signing a contract with Elshoff. The answer was always the same -- there is no business and the mine is shut down. I cannot recall the exact dates of these conferences. My office was necessarily taken over by [redacted] in the summer of 1939 during my absence, and I had nothing to do with the grievances and troubles arising at Mine B when it opened in the fall of that year.

"With respect to the Mine A situation and the switch on the part of employees of that mine from Progressive to UMW of A, I can remember attending at least one meeting in the PMA Hall in September of 1941. Several men, namely, [redacted] took the

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

floor to make various addresses. In general their argument was that if they did not join the UMW of A, Elshoff would not open the mine. There was in fact a general rumor that Elshoff had said that Mine A would not be in operation under the Progressives. On that night I also heard that there was a fight on the floor of the Union and that [redacted] was one of those participating. The next meeting of this local was held in the Elks Club at which time it was my understanding that they voted to go UMW of A.

"I have read this statement which consists of seven pages, and to the best of my knowledge it is the truth."

/s [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent F.B.I.
Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, [redacted] appeared at the Springfield Office on several occasions to furnish information of interest to this investigation. His attitude is extremely cooperative and he is willing and anxious to testify concerning all matters within his knowledge. In spite of the fact that he is bitter toward LEWIS, EDMUNDSON and JAMES because of their dictatorial methods and because of his expulsion from UMW, nevertheless, he appears to have sufficient poise and intelligence to testify in an impartial manner. It is anticipated, of course, that an effort would be made to discredit his testimony on the ground of bias.

With reference to [redacted] statement that he went to Mine "B" September 27 and 28 and December 13, 1937, it is noted that he has an automobile mileage diary which reflects his travel to Mine "B" on those dates. This diary also reflects travel to Mine "B" on January 4, 1938.

[redacted] executed the following signed statement which is dated September 7, 1943, but which was actually signed by him September 9, 1943:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 7, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I understand fully that I cannot be required to make or sign any statement in connection with this matter.

"I reside at [redacted] Illinois. I am presently employed as [redacted] My office address is [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I was born in [redacted]

"From [redacted] until November 20, 1942, I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America, except from 1917 to 1919, during which time I was not employed as a miner. [redacted] from that time until November 20, 1942, I fulfilled the duties of District Board Member. The offices I held throughout this entire period were elective offices.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"As District Board Member my duties were handling grievances that arose between the members of the UMW and the managements of the different mines within the jurisdiction of the Board Member; also, internal grievances that arose from the application of the Constitution of the United Mine Workers of America. My duties also included organizing local unions and installing officers of whatever local unions might be set up by the United Mine Workers of America.

"During the Spring of 1937 over a period of several months I had several conversations concerning Mine "B", a coal mine located near Springfield, Illinois, with RAY EDMUNDSON, who was President of District 12, UMW. EDMUNDSON stated during these conversations that he was very much interested in eliminating the Progressive Miners of America at this mine and in bringing the miners employed there into the UMW. EDMUNDSON stated that if the membership of Mine "B" could be won over, the strength of the Progressive Miners of America in the Springfield area would collapse. EDMUNDSON commented that this was one of the largest locals the Progressives had in the Springfield area.

"During this period of several months in the Spring of 1937, EDMUNDSON from time to time introduced me to various individuals at the UMW Headquarters in Springfield. He stated these men worked at Mine "B" but were interested in becoming members of UMW. I recall the following persons as being among those introduced to me by EDMUNDSON during this period: FRANK AUSTIN, PETE CARTER, DOMINIC PASQUALE and PASQUALE's son, 'COTTON' ANANIAS, JAMES HALE, TONY PLOTCH, ANDREW SKRLEVICUS, EMORY JACAWAY, GEORGE JACAWAY, and JOE ALBANESE - also known as SAM CATALONE. My conversations with these men during that period revealed that they were attempting to induce other employees of Mine "B" to desire affiliations with the UMW. I do not know whether these men were being paid for their work on behalf of UMW at that time.

"I recall that my conversations with EDMUNDSON and also my contacts with these men, all of which I have related above, occurred prior to a strike at Mine "B" on May 12, 1937. I also recall that during the several months prior to this strike I frequently saw CARL H. ELSHOFF at UMW Headquarters and on numerous occasions I saw him entering or leaving RAY EDMUNDSON's office.

"A short time subsequent to the strike at Mine "B", EDMUNDSON instructed me to attend a meeting with the men I have mentioned above, which meeting was held in a vacant room next-door to Scotty's Tavern, which was located at the corner of 18th and Adams Streets in Springfield. I cannot place the date of this meeting definitely but I know that it took place in the Summer of 1937 and was not more than a few weeks after the strike. As nearly as I can recall all the men whom I have listed above attended this meeting, and CHARLES 'BOWLING GREEN' BOHANNON, a Mine "B" employee was also

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

present. I believe several other persons also attended this meeting but I am unable to recall their names.

"EDMUNDSON had instructed me to ascertain from these men what could be done to obtain for UMW a majority of the men employed at Mine "B". Accordingly, I took this matter up with these men and their proposition was that if they were given $10,000.00 they felt confident they would be able to swing a majority of the men to UMW. They stated they would have to spend a good deal of money to work their way into the PMA membership. BOHANNON was the principal spokesman for these men in presenting this proposition.

"In the presence of these men I telephoned to RAY EDMUNDSON and, after I explained their proposition to him, he instructed me to turn it down, commenting that he could buy the mine for $10,000.00. Accordingly, I informed the men that their proposition was not satisfactory to EDMUNDSON.

"During the next few weeks I saw various individuals mentioned above around UMW Headquarters from time to time, but I had no further formal discussion with them concerning the Mine "B" matter.

"Near the end of July, 1937, I was instructed by EDMUNDSON to install the officers of a new UMW local which had been organized at Mine "B". I had nothing to do with the organization of this local and did not know it had been organized until EDMUNDSON instructed me to install the officers. About 25 members attended the meeting when the officers were installed and I understood that all these members had been employed at Mine "B" prior to the strike.

"On August 20, 1937, I signed a working agreement for Mine "B" with CARL H. ELSHOFF. This contract was signed at UMW Headquarters. I had nothing to do with the preparation of this contract and I merely signed as Board Member at EDMUNDSON's instruction. ELSHOFF was there at the time the contract was signed but I do not recall that we had any discussion concerning putting the mine in operation. Agents [redacted] and [redacted] have displayed to me a photostatic copy of a contract dated at Chicago, Illinois, August 18, 1937, which contract was signed by RAY EDMUNDSON and CARL H. ELSHOFF. I wish to state that I have never seen the original of this contract and did not know of the existence of this contract until the photostatic copy was displayed to me by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]

"Prior to the time the contract was signed on August 20, 1937, I had understood that ELSHOFF had applied for membership in the Illinois Coal Operators Association. I do not recall exactly how this information came to me but I think possibly I was told by [redacted]

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"On September 20, 1937, I again signed a contract with ELSHOFF concerning Mine "B". As I recall this contract was also signed at UMW Headquarters. I had no part in the preparation of this contract and I merely signed as a Board Member at EDMUNDSON's instruction. With reference to the purpose of signing this second contract with ELSHOFF, it is my recollection that his failure to become a member of the Illinois Coal Operators Association had something to do with the necessity for signing the second contract.

"I wish to state that prior to the signing of the second contract it became known that the Progressives had instituted some sort of proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board. I recall that I signed certain documents in connection with this matter which were presented to me for signature, but I had nothing to do with preparing these documents and I don't recall the technicalities involved.

"At the time the second contract was signed nothing in particular was said about operating the mine. However, it appeared to be the general understanding that the purpose in signing the contract was to get a basis for commencing operations.

"A few days after September 20th, EDMUNDSON left town but before he left he informed me it had been decided to attempt to operate the mine under the UMW contract on September 27, 1937. He instructed me to take the necessary steps to attempt to place the mine in operation on that date. Inasmuch as it was well known to both EDMUNDSON and myself that the UMW local at Mine "B" had not over 25 members, I assumed that he intended for me to obtain a sufficient number of UMW members from wherever they might be obtainable in order to put the mine in operation. Accordingly, I made arrangements to have between 75 and 100 miners sent to Springfield from the so-called 'Midland Track' mines, that is, Peabody Mines No. 7, No. 8 and No. 9, which are located in Christian County, Illinois. I had these men report at UMW Headquarters at about 2:00 A. M., September 27th.

"Early on the morning of September 27th, ELSHOFF and his Superintendent, OSCAR FALCETTI, came to UMW Headquarters to make sure that all arrangements were complete before attempting to operate the mine. When they saw this large group of men around the Headquarters, they seemed surprised and asked what the men were doing there. I told them that UMW had a contract to operate the mine and I had simply brought in enough men to fulfill UMW's end of the contract. I also pointed out to him that it was no 'Tea Party' to open a mine which had been operated by a rival union. ELSHOFF then said he did not want these men to go out to the mine because there might be trouble. He said he simply wanted to start cleaning up the mine with the few men among his employees who belonged to the UMW with the hope that after these men went into the mine the others would gradually sign up with UMW in order to be able to go to work. He said he thought

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

that in this manner there would finally be enough of his employees go over to UMW that the mine could be operated again. ELSHOFF then telephonically contacted RAY EDMUNDSON, who was in Chicago. I believe EDMUNDSON was staying at the Morrison Hotel. He told EDMUNDSON he did not want any trouble to be caused by taking these men out to the mine and I then talked to EDMUNDSON on the telephone and he instructed me to tell the men to return to Christian County without going to Mine "B".

"Accordingly, on the morning of September 27, 1937, only about a dozen UMW men, who were formerly employees of Mine "B", went down into the mine. These were the men I had met at UMW Headquarters prior to the strike on May 12th. About 100 other employees of Mine "B" were congregated along the Jacksonville Road about one-half mile from the mine but, although the atmosphere was tense, there was no violence and the men who went into the mine to work were not molested.

"On the morning of September 27th, I stayed in the mine office until about 9:00 o'clock and it was apparent by that time that no further employees intended to go down into the mine. Accordingly, I returned to UMW Headquarters and reported to EDMUNDSON in Chicago that the attempted opening was a 'flop'. EDMUNDSON just passed the matter off by commenting that it was simply the type of thing which will happen once in a while.

"I don't recall whether ELSHOFF blew the whistle for work next day but I do recall I went out to the mine the morning after. The handful of men who had worked the previous day came out to the mine office but they did not attempt to go to work. However, I think possibly FRANK AUSTIN went below for the purpose of feeding the mules. A considerable number of Mine "B" employees were on the Jacksonville Road again that morning and believe there were also about a dozen of them standing around on the mine premises, apparently merely for the purpose of watching. There was no violence that morning.

"During my conversations with FALCETTI and ELSHOFF at the mine office on September 27th and 28th, FALCETTI named over various employees whose names I cannot recall whom he stated were men having prestige among the employees. He indicated that if these leaders could be won over there was a good chance that most of the men would then follow them into the UMW. However, no plans concerning contacting these men were made. I might state that my conversations at this time with ELSHOFF and FALCETTI were not very comprehensive, inasmuch as this entire matter had been handled more or less as a private deal between ELSHOFF, EDMUNDSON and WALTER J. JAMES, who was Secretary-Treasurer of District 12, UMW. As I have indicated before, these men did not consult me for advice on the various steps involved in this matter. They simply gave me routine instructions whenever the occasion made this necessary.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"On one occasion in the Fall of 1937, subsequent to the attempted opening on September 27th, EDMUNDSON called me and said he wanted to see me at UMW Headquarters. When I met him at UMW Headquarters he asked me to drive him out to ELSHOFF's residence for a conference. At ELSHOFF's residence we started to talk about the question of getting enough men to operate Mine "B", but shortly after the conference started EDMUNDSON said he wanted to talk to ELSHOFF in private and, accordingly, they left the room and held a confidential conversation for about ten minutes. EDMUNDSON then asked me to drop him off at the Leland Hotel. He did not inform me concerning the details of his discussion with ELSHOFF.

"Subsequent to September 27th, I had nothing further to do with the Mine "B" matter aside from the incident related in the preceding paragraph until the early part of December. However, during this period I did occasionally see the men who were trying to convert the employees of Mine "B" to UMW and the reports of these men indicated they were not making much headway.

"Two or three days prior to December 13, 1937, EDMUNDSON told me they were going to try to operate the mine on December 13th to see how many men would report for work, inasmuch as an injunction had gone into effect removing the PMA picket line. He asked me to go out to the mine on the morning of December 13th to see what happened. I went to the mine that morning but only about a dozen men showed up for work and these were the men whom I had met at UMW Headquarters prior to the strike on May 12th. There was no one around to stop men from reporting for work and the small attendance simply indicated that the UMW drive to convert members had failed. After this EDMUNDSON stated the UMW would not participate in the election which was to be held by the National Labor Relations Board on December 15th. EDMUNDSON said that it was apparent that UMW would get very few votes. He said that he had ascertained that the Progressive employees of Mine "B" intended to report at their Headquarters and vote in a body.

"I understood from indirect sources that after December 15, 1937, ELSHOFF and EDMUNDSON had a big argument. I understood that ELSHOFF told EDMUNDSON that if he could not make any better progress in breaking down the Progressive local he would simply have to sign a contract with the Progressives and operate with Progressive personnel. I understood that at this time EDMUNDSON was angry about the matter because he claimed he had already thrown away a good deal of money in the Mine "B" matter and had nothing to show for it. However, I did not hear any reports at that time as to whether EDMUNDSON and ELSHOFF had come to any understanding concerning further financial arrangements.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"On or about January 1, 1938, EDMUNDSON advised me it had been decided to make another attempt to operate the mine on January 4, 1938. He instructed me to go out to the mine that morning and see what happened. I went to the mine that morning and only the usual group of about 12 men appeared for work. However, in addition to this group there were also present [redacted] and [redacted] The other men brought lunch buckets and work clothes as though they intended to work, but [redacted] appeared in business suits. At that time both of these men were employed at Peabody Mine #59, but it was generally understood in Springfield that they were on the UMW payroll, at least part of the time, as field workers. [redacted] and [redacted] did most of the talking with ELSHOFF and FALCETTI that morning. [redacted] talked in an officious manner and it was perfectly evident that they were present as official representatives of the UMW rather than as candidates for employment at mine work. To my knowledge, both ELSHOFF and FALCETTI had previously been acquainted with [redacted] and [redacted]

"I simply reported to EDMUNDSON that only about a dozen men appeared for work the morning of January 4th and he gave me no further instructions concerning Mine "B" at that time. He did not disclose to me what his plans were concerning this situation.

"I had nothing further to do with the Mine "B" matter. This mine opened up in the Fall of 1939 on an open shop basis but EDMUNDSON specifically instructed me to stay out of the matter, inasmuch as it would be handled by 'the office'. By this he meant that it would be handled by himself, and WALTER J. JAMES.

"Sometime during the Spring of 194[illegible] I met [redacted] told me that District 12, UMW, had advanced ELSHOFF a large sum of money. I do not recall definitely the figure he stated but it is my impression that the amount he stated was $400,000.00. He said ELSHOFF had been paid $3,000.00 per month for keeping his mines down for the Summer months and $5,000.00 during the Winter months. He also told me that because of the money paid to ELSHOFF, the International had authorized District 12 to retain in its own treasury both the regular International assessment and all special International assessments which otherwise would have been paid into the International treasury.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

[redacted] After this story broke in the Post-Dispatch, EDMUNDSON was quoted in a later article as stating the matter had the approval of the District 12 membership. JAMES was quoted as admitting the payments to ELSHOFF were in the form of a loan. ELSHOFF was quoted as admitting receipt of the money but as denying that it was a loan. [redacted].

"Thereafter, RAY EDMUNDSON and WALTER J. JAMES charged me with violation of Section 3, Article 21 of the International Constitution.

"On the night of November 19, 1942, I attended a meeting of UMW Local 906 which covers the membership at Peabody Mine #59. This meeting was held on the 7th floor of UMW Headquarters. EDMUNDSON and JAMES were present. A large delegation from Mine "B" was present at this meeting. EDMUNDSON took the floor and condemned the Internal Revenue service for starting an investigation of the matter and he even stated he was going to start a law suit against the Government. He also stated he was going to demand a congressional investigation of the affair. JAMES took the floor and said the purpose of the payments was to put Mine "B" in operation under the banner of UMW. He said it had been a good investment. He pointed out that as a result of the payments, UMW had acquired in the neighborhood of 500 new members and he said that already the dues and assessments from these new members amounted to a sizeable figure. I believe he said that over $80,000.00 had been received from these new members. Neither he nor EDMUNDSON said anything to indicate they were looking to ELSHOFF for payment and neither of them made any comment whatever concerning ELSHOFF's ability to repay. However, they did refer to these payments as a loan.

"On the following day, November 20, 1942, I was suspended from UMW for six months and barred from holding office for two years.

"I wish to add that in the early Fall of 1932 I was present in a room in the Leland Hotel in Springfield where ELSHOFF and JOHN L. LEWIS were also present. At this time ELSHOFF personally assured LEWIS that he would

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

never sign a contract with the Progressives. However, as nearly as I can recall ELSHOFF did sign a contract with the Progressives a few hours after this meeting.

"I have read the foregoing statement, consisting of thirteen typewritten pages, and I acknowledge that the information set forth herein is correct to the best of my recollection.

[redacted] (signed)

"WITNESSES:

[redacted], Special Agent FBI /S/
Special Agent FBI" /S/

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REINTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN [redacted] Upon the telephonic request of Special Agent [redacted] Mr. WILLIAM M. RYAN, the former owner of Mine "A", Springfield, Illinois, came to the Springfield Office. At this time Mr. RYAN was approached by Special Agent [redacted] and Special Agent [redacted] relative to a signed statement regarding his conversations with EDMUNDSON in the early part of 1937 and the complete details of the sale of Mine "A". Mr. RYAN flatly refused to execute a signed statement unless he consulted his attorney. He said that he was willing to testify in the instant trial and that he would be glad to confer with those handling the prosecution before taking the witness stand.

Mr. RYAN was interrogated in minute detail relative to this conversation with EDMUNDSON in 1937 in an effort to get the exact words or their essence. It appears that EDMUNDSON did not reach the point where he made a definite proposition to RYAN to close down his mine in order that the United Mine Workers could organize it. Neither was any offer made to RYAN to subsidize him in case any financial losses were sustained and the mine had to be shut down. To the best of his recollection, Mr. RYAN stated that EDMUNDSON called him in the early part of 1937 approximately three months before Mine "B" actually closed down, requesting him to come down to the United Mine Workers' office.

Mr. RYAN stated that he complied with this telephonic request and in the initial part of the conversation with EDMUNDSON there was a general discussion about the weather and other non-controversial issues. EDMUNDSON at length asked RYAN what he thought of the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers. Mr. RYAN stated he sensed a proposition was in the offing and in order to forestall this he definitely stated his position, saying: 'I do not see any difference between either one. They have the same contracts, the same grievance procedure and the operator experiences the same grief with both.' RYAN stated that he was already treating with one union and did not see why he should consider any other. He told EDMUNDSON that if he should commit himself in that fashion, by and by these two unions would go back together, compare notes and then they would really put the pressure on him. EDMUNDSON then asked RYAN how he thought GEORGE SOLOMON of the Panther Creek Mines, Inc., would feel about the United Mine Workers and Progressive Mine Workers. He also asked RYAN the same question concerning CARL H. ELSHOFF. Mr. RYAN advised that he told EDMUNDSON that he did not know how either of these two men felt about that question and if EDMUNDSON wanted to know he would have to see ELSHOFF or SOLOMON.

In Mr. RYAN's explanation of the conversation, he advised that due to their background in the mining industry and labor relations, a great deal was understood between them without the actual expression in words. RYAN was certain that he was being approached by EDMUNDSON in order to make a deal with the United Mine Workers. However, it is difficult for

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

REINTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN (continued)

Mr. RYAN to understand why, in the event he is called to testify, his conclusions as to the unspoken effort on the part of EDMUNDSON could not be introduced in evidence.

It is anticipated in case Mr. RYAN is called to testify that some difficulty may arise in this situation and with respect to Mr. RYAN's attempting to state his conclusions and inferences from his conversation with EDMUNDSON.

Mr. RYAN advised that he expected to go to California within the near future and in the event he did, he would notify the Springfield Office of his address. He expected to go to Los Angeles and advised he generally stayed at the Biltmore Hotel.

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The investigative notes which were taken by Special Agent [redacted] during the interview are being retained in the files of this office.

With respect to the details of the sale of Mine "A", the narrative of these events, as set forth in the investigative report of this office dated September 4, 1943, was reviewed with Mr. RYAN and he stated that this was correct.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

REINTERVIEW WITH ROBERT C. SOLOMON — Mr. ROBERT C. SOLOMON, President of Panther Creek Coal Mines, Inc., after some reflection, advised Special Agent [redacted] that he had called for the facts concerning the attempted purchase of the Panther Creek Coal Mines by CARL H. ELSHOFF and desired to see Special Agent [redacted] again.

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Mr. SOLOMON from his attitude and cooperation is well-disposed toward this investigation and is willing to testify. He advised that he got along very well with ELSHOFF from 1932 up until the time that he became involved with JOHN L. LEWIS in 1937. Since that time, however, Mr. SOLOMON has experienced considerable difficulty in dealing with ELSHOFF and has heard that ELSHOFF blames him for the success of the organizational efforts of the Progressive Mine Workers of America in the Springfield area.

Mr. SOLOMON was reinterviewed and the following statement was submitted by him:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943

"STATEMENT OF ROBERT C. SOLOMON, PRESIDENT OF THE PANTHER CREEK COAL MINES, INC.

"As President of the Panther Creek Coal Mines, Inc., I recall the following facts, circumstances and conversations relative to the attempted purchase of these properties by CARL H. ELSHOFF of Springfield, Illinois, during the years of 1941 and 1942:

"It is my understanding that the original approach to purchase these properties was made by Mr. HARRY ALLEN, representative of the Alton Railroad Co., to Mr. HARRY MORGAN, Secretary-Treasurer of the Panther Creek Co. during the summer of 1941. It was these two gentlemen who eventually brought Mr. CARL H. ELSHOFF into the picture as a possible purchaser. In the early stages of these negotiations they were carried on more or less secretly with Mr. MORGAN. However, due to Mr. MORGAN's ill health he was not able to continue actively in the business, and these parties were eventually forced to come to me.

"I had several telephonic conversations with ELSHOFF concerning the possible purchase of the Panther Creek Mines, and eventually I told him that if he were actually interested that we should sit down and go into the details in a serious and business like manner. Consequently, a conference was arranged on June 11, 1942, which was attended by myself, my attorneys, Mr. CLAYTON J. BARBER and L. G. PFFERLE, and CARL H. ELSHOFF.

REINTERVIEW WITH ROBERT C. SOLOMON (continued)

"During that conference various propositions were formulated, one of them being that possibly ELSHOFF could purchase the capital stock of the Panther Creek Mines, Inc., and thus gain control of the corporation. ELSHOFF did not entertain such a proposal as this, inasmuch as the corporate set-up of the Panther Creek Mines would remain intact, and as such it would still retain its obligations including labor contracts, which at that time and at present are with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. It was then proposed that ELSHOFF lease the properties. This was discussed more or less at length, and it was agreed that the proposition should be drawn up in a letter of some sort. ELSHOFF stated that before accepting any proposal he would have to consult his people in Washington. Mr. BARBER then kidded ELSHOFF to some extent stating that he probably meant that he would have to go to see the man with the 'big bushy eyebrows'. ELSHOFF did not respond either negatively or affirmatively to this statement of Mr. BARBER's but sort of smiled when it was passed.

"During this interview ELSHOFF made it plain that he wished to gain control of the entire properties, and that in the event he did so he would change the name of the corporation.

"As the result of this conference a letter was drawn up which is dated June 11, 1942, addressed to Mr. ELSHOFF and beginning:

"' This is to confirm our discussion this morning, wherein it was indicated that Panther Creek Mines, Inc. is willing to lease to you all of its coal mining properties, with the option to purchase or to renew, all on the following basis.'

"I am not advised as to whether or not definitely ELSHOFF did go to Washington, D. C. to consult with JOHN L. LEWIS. However, I have received information from various sources that trips were made to Washington possibly with Mr. HARRY ALLEN.

"On July 6, 1942, ELSHOFF by letter answered our proposal of June 11, 1942, stating that the proposition which was outlined is not satisfactory, and 'we decline to accept it in its form'. ELSHOFF indicated in his letter that he desired to discuss the matter further, and to possibly make a counter proposal. However, instead of doing this these parties, particularly ALLEN and CARROLL, attempted to apply pressure in order to force a transfer of the properties through officials of the Marine Bank of Springfield. ALLEN and CARROLL intimated that if the mines were not open, particularly the Auburn, they, meaning the Alton Railroad, would have to cut down on orders. I stated that I was unable to finance an opening of the Auburn Mine, but was willing to sell or lease it at the right terms,

REINTERVIEW WITH ROBERT C. SOLOMON (continued)

and gave them an oral proposition based on the one made June 11, 1942, in a modified form. They seemed to think this was all right. However, this apparently did not meet with the approval of ELSHOFF for no further negotiations were actually made.

"In his letter dated October 30, 1942, ELSHOFF again indicated an interest in the purchase of the Auburn Mine at Auburn, Illinois. He proposed to purchase this mine by paying royalty of 10¢ per ton for a given period of time. In this manner he would obtain complete title to all property. This was the last that I heard of this matter.

"Read above
and to best of my
recollection is
correct.
R.C.S."(signed)

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH L. G. PEFFERLE. On September 4, 1943 Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed L. G. PEFFERLE, b7c

Attorney, Reisch Building, Springfield, Illinois, concerning information furnished by ROBERT C. SOLOMON, recorded in report of reference. Mr. PEFFERLE confirmed that he represented SOLOMON in connection with negotiations between SOLOMON and ELSHOFF. In these negotiations CLAYTON J. BARBER was also present. Mr. PEFFERLE advised that at no time during these negotiations, which concerned the possible purchase of Panther Creek mine properties by ELSHOFF from SOLOMON, did ELSHOFF ever mention where the money for this purchase would come from. It was the opinion of PEFFERLE that ELSHOFF or the Mine "B" Coal Company would not have sufficient funds to enter into any negotiation as large as the one under discussion. SOLOMON and PEFFERLE were discussing a sum of approximately $900,000, while ELSHOFF was discussing a sum of approximately $400,000. During these discussions at different times ELSHOFF said to PEFFERLE that he would have "to see my people". PEFFERLE stated that he never questioned ELSHOFF as to who his people or financial backers might be. "I more more or less assumed that it would be either District 12, United Mine Workers or the International United Mine Workers, or JOHN L. LEWIS, but of course my assumption was based upon common gossip and upon matters incidental to the negotiation."

PEFFERLE said that at no time during the negotiations in connection with the Panther Creek properties did RAY EDMUNDSON or JOHN L. LEWIS ever contact him or to his knowledge any of the parties involved. "During the negotiations it appeared to me that ELSHOFF would not be able to secure sufficient money to purchase the Panther Creek properties at our figure of about $900,000. Because of this fact and because of the desire on our part to save money in connection with the payment of income tax, not only for ourselves, but also pointing out it would save money in connection with income tax for ELSHOFF, we suggested that a lease arrangement might be worked out. This lease arrangement would provide for a certain yearly payment on the lease over a period of ten years, and if the lessee decided to purchase then the payments of annual lease rent would apply on the principal. I felt that this was a rather attractive offer and since ELSHOFF did not accept the offer and from his general demeanor and attitude at the time, it is my opinion that he really did not want to personally buy the Panther Creek properties at all." ELSHOFF apparently objected to the lease proposition because it might give rise to what ELSHOFF felt was a bad feature, namely that if ELSHOFF secured the property on lease that might leave the Progressive Mine Workers of America some claim to job rights under their existing contracts. The Panther Creek mines were Progressive Mine Worker mines at the time. ELSHOFF stated that it would have to be an exceptionally clean-cut proposition, apparently referring to complete severing of all rights, including those of labor.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH L. G. PEFFERLE. (Continued)

Mr. PEFFERLE stated that the feeling pervading in the negotiations was that the successful outcome of these negotiations would mean the end of the Progressive Mine Workers of America in the mine. Nothing was mentioned by any of the parties directly on this point however.

PEFFERLE pointed out to Agents that EDMUND BURKE, attorney from the firm of Gillespie, Burke and Gillespie, Reisch Building, Springfield, Illinois, first became attorney for JOHN L. LEWIS in about 1929 or 1930 during the time that injunction proceedings were initiated against LEWIS by the officers of District 12, United Mine Workers. Since that time and up to date EDMUND BURKE has remained attorney for JOHN L. LEWIS. PEFFERLE believes that BURKE is retained by LEWIS for a fee of approximately $150.00 per month, plus additional costs when particular matters arise, and that his services are paid from the International United Mine Workers. His reason for believing that BURKE'S retainer fee and other fees are paid from the International is that BURKE represented RAY EDMUNDSON in connection with a murder charge as a result of a shooting in Springfield, Illinois on an Easter Sunday about eight or nine years ago. At that time RAY EDMUNDSON told PEFFERLE that none of BURKE's attorney fees in connection with the defense of RAY EDMUNDSON showed on the books of District 12 or Local #50, but rather were all taken care of through the international union.

PEFFERLE also stated that one E. S. PERRY, manager of the Leland Hotel, Springfield, purchased his coal for the Leland Hotel from ELSHOFF prior to 1932 when ELSHOFF was operating a United Mine Workers mine. After ELSHOFF's mine became a Progressive Mine Workers mine PERRY, apparently desiring to retain the business of the United Mine Workers officials for his hotel, and which apparently he considered lucrative, discontinued purchasing coal from ELSHOFF and began purchasing coal from Peabody Coal Company, which was a United Mine Workers operated mine. Thereafter PEFFERLE stated that JOHN L. LEWIS made a long distance call to PERRY, asking him why he had stopped buying coal from ELSHOFF and requesting him to again buy coal from ELSHOFF. PERRY's reply to LEWIS allegedly was that since ELSHOFF's mine was no longer a United Mine Workers mine, he had purposely switched coal companies in order to favor United Mine Workers with his business. PEFFERLE is unable to state the source of this information, other than to say that it was a story which came to him from various people in the coal industry, the veracity of which he has no doubt.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH L. G. PEFFERLE. (Continued)

On September 8, 1943, in view of additional information furnished by CLAYTON J. BARBER, and in view of the fact that he stated he had talked with PEFFERLE in an attempt to refresh their minds correctly on the matter, Special Agent [redacted] re-interviewed Mr. PEFFERLE.

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In addition to the information already reported, Mr. PEFFERLE after examining a copy of a letter addressed June 11, 1942 to CARL H. ELSHOFF and containing the offer by the Panther Creek Mine Company to make a lease to ELSHOFF, recalled that this was one of the main meetings of the parties in connection with ELSHOFF's negotiations for Panther Creek. He recalled several other meetings before this meeting, the exact number, time and place of which he could not recall. He did remember one instance, however, previous to the meeting on June 11, 1942, when he met ELSHOFF at ELSHOFF's office, at which time ELSHOFF exhibited a large pile of photostatic copies of information pertaining to an appraisal which the Panther Creek Mines had had made. The Panther Creek Mine had previously contemplated attempting to secure a loan from Reconstruction Finance Corporation and for this reason had had the appraisal made. ELSHOFF had undoubtedly secured photostatic copies of the appraisal from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and in this connection claimed that the Panther Creek people had to some extent misrepresented Panther Creek Mines.

Mr. PEFFERLE recalled that the main meeting, at which an offer of lease was made, took place in the forenoon in the office of CLAYTON J. BARBER, attorney for the Panther Creek Mine Company. Present were Mr. ROBERT SOLOMON, President of Panther Creek Mines, Mr. BARBER, representing Panther Creek Mines, Mr. PEFFERLE, who represented the Panther Creek Mines in connection with compensation claims, and Mr. CARL ELSHOFF. Mr. PEFFERLE recalled that the suggestion was made that CARL ELSHOFF secure control of Panther Creek Mines by purchasing the capital stock. He would thus obtain all the assets and liabilities and contracts of Panther Creek Mine. ELSHOFF stated that he was not interested in purchasing the capital stock because all rights of the corporate entity and all contracts of it would be included and he would be tied up with a contract with the PMA Union.

Mr. PEFFERLE further recalled in addition to the information set out above, that ELSHOFF stated that the lease proposition would carry with it the labor contracts and that "I don't want those." ELSHOFF wanted to buy only the physical property. On June 11, 1942, ELSHOFF also stated, to the best of PEFFERLE's recollection, "I've got to have it in writing to take to my people in Washington." Here he meant the proposition or offer of Panther Creek Mines.

INTERVIEW WITH L. G. PEFFERLE. (Continued)

PEFFERLE stated that it was his understanding that the "people in Washington" was JOHN L. LEWIS, but ELSHOFF did not say so.

During the conversation Attorney BARBER, according to PEFFERLE, kidded ELSHOFF about the "man with the heavy eyebrows", as being the financial backer of the purchase. To this ELSHOFF never admitted or denied anything. PEFFERLE stated that the original discussions, considerations were for all Panther Creek mine properties, but that they also talked about Panther Creek Auburn Mine No. 1.

Mr. PEFFERLE was unable to recall any statement at any later meetings with ELSHOFF wherein ELSHOFF said that his people in Washington turned the proposition down. He said that at one time during the conference on June 11, 1942, when the price question was being discussed that it was his (PEFFERLE's) information that the money was available to which ELSHOFF replied that he could get the money.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH CLAYTON J. BARBER. Special Agent [redacted] interviewed CLAYTON J. BARBER, attorney, 10th Floor, First National Bank Building, Springfield, Illinois, on September 7, 1943. Mr. BARBER advised that he has been attorney for the Panther Creek Coal Company over a long period of time; that in this capacity he knew of negotiations between the Panther Creek Mines and CARL H. ELSHOFF, which began, to the best of his recollection, sometime during May of 1942. He stated that on June 11, 1942 a meeting was held in his office between ROBERT SOLOMON, President of the Panther Creek Mines, PEFFERLE, another attorney for Panther Creek Mines, CARL H. ELSHOFF and himself. He refreshed his recollection in connection with this date by a copy of a letter addressed to CARL H. ELSHOFF, dated June 11, 1942, and beginning, "This is to confirm our discussion this morning, wherein it was indicated that Panther Creek Mines, Inc., is willing to lease to you all of its coal mining properties ***".

During the conversation Mr. BARBER recalled that when the proposition was made to ELSHOFF he stated, to the best of BARBER's recollection, "I will have to go to Washington to see my people about it," that as a matter of fact the offer to ELSHOFF was written at ELSHOFF's request as ELSHOFF stated that he wanted a sales talk "for Washington". Mr. BARBER stated that during the conference he kidded ELSHOFF about "the man with the big eyebrows", as being the real purchaser. ELSHOFF neither admitted nor denied this and at no time during the conference did ELSHOFF actually indicate who would furnish the money. Mr. BARBER understood from ELSHOFF's financial status that ELSHOFF would not be able to finance the deal himself. During the conversation it was suggested that ELSHOFF obtain control of Panther Creek Mines by purchasing the capital stock. ELSHOFF stated that he was not interested in this because to obtain control of the company in that manner would retain the name, identity, assets, liabilities and contracts of the corporation and ELSHOFF plainly stated that he did not desire to take over the PMA labor contract of the Panther Creek Mines, Inc.

In connection with the proposition a document entitled "Savings to Lessee as Compared with an Immediate Purchase" was prepared in Mr. BARBER's office. This was at the request of ELSHOFF and was to be part of his sales talk for his people in Washington. Mr. BARBER's file in this connection reveals the original and a copy of this document so that he is unable to state whether the information contained therein was ever furnished to CARL ELSHOFF. The information which is contained in this document is information showing a savings to the lessee by entering into the proposed lease agreement previously mentioned and copies of which have been furnished to this office by ROBERT SOLOMON.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH CLAYTON J. BARBER. (Continued)

Mr. BARBER states that thereafter he received a signed copy of a letter dated July 6, 1943, addressed to ROBERT C. SOLOMON, President, Panther Creek Mines, Inc., and signed by CARL H. ELSHOFF. This letter, on the letterhead of Mine B Coal Company, states that the agreement suggested is not satisfactory. Mr. BARBER calls attention to the editorial "we" used in the letter, namely,

> "We decline to accept it ***. I am still interested. *** First we hope in a discussion ***"

Mr. BARBER states that Mr. ELSHOFF at no time ever mentioned who was actually meant by the "we" used in the letter. A copy of this letter is retained in Mr. BARBER's files.

Mr. BARBER pointed out that ELSHOFF purchased his home on the corner of Bates and South Grand Avenue in cash; that after he purchased this home he stationed an armed guard in the alley in the rear of his home.

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Mr. BARBER stated that shortly after the negotiations for Panther Creek Mine fell through an injunction was brought by the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor in the Federal District Court at Springfield, Illinois. Mr. BARBER advised that the legal method of bringing this injunction by the Wage and Hour Division was extremely unusual and he believes is the only type of case of its kind in the country. He pointed out that it was brought by the Wage and Hour Division without that division talking over the matter with the company or its attorneys. The company was never able to find out what complainant brought the matter to the attention of the Wage and Hour Division and the company had never received any complaints in connection with this Wage and Hour matter from its employees. He felt that this complaint originated with JOHN L. LEWIS or the UMW for the purpose of causing financial embarrassment to Panther Creek Mines, Inc., thus perhaps forcing a sale, knowing that Panther Creek Mines at the time was indebted in the sum of approximately $400,000. The title in Federal District Court in Springfield for this matter was heard under Civil Docket #191, PHILIP B. FLEMING, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor. IRVING J. LEVY, ALEX ELSON and HERMAN GRANT of 222 West North Bank Drive, Chicago, Illinois, represented the Department of Labor. The complaint was filed November 6, 1941 and was dismissed July 1, 1942.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
CLAYTON J. BARBER.
(Continued)

Mr. BARBER recalled that one JOHN CARROLL, General Freight Agent for the B & O and Alton Railroad in Chicago, Illinois, was intersted in this negotiation for the purchase of Panther Creek Mine, probably in order that these railroads might secure additional business.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH FRED SCHAEFFER

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Mr. FRED SCHAEFFER, who is Secretary of the Coal Producers Association of Illinois located at Pana, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] of the Springfield Office relative to the membership of CARL ELSHOFF in the Mine "B" Coal Company during the years that this company was dealing with the Progressive Miners of America as a labor organization. It should be noted that the Coal Producers Association is composed of officials of operating mines who are organized by the Progressives.

Mr. SCHAEFFER produced his file on CARL ELSHOFF, which reflected that ELSHOFF became a member of the Coal Producers Association in the Fall of 1932 and was considered a member until August, 1935. During this entire period, numerous letters were written to ELSHOFF requesting him to pay his dues to the association. It was noted that he was delinquent on several occasions and at the time when he was dropped from the association he had not paid dues for February, March, April, May, June and July of 1935. Mr. SCHAEFFER advised that, according to the rules of this organization, any member could be dropped from the association if he was delinquent in his dues for two months or more. Upon the evidence obtained in the file, Mr. SCHAEFFER stated that ELSHOFF was dropped because of his delinquency in dues payments. He had no information relative to ELSHOFF and his ceasing to be a member of the association which would be pertinent to this case.

Mr. SCHAEFFER stated that for a number of years he was on the Board of the Illinois Coal Operators Association, which deals with the United Mine Workers of America. He advised that any operator could become a member of this association through formal application after it had been approved by the Board of the Operators Association. A prerequisite for membership was not that the individual operator's mine should be absolutely free of any labor trouble at the time of the application. Admission to membership rested solely with the Board, who simply decided whether or not the operator was reliable and would meet his obligations as a member of the association. Mr. SCHAEFFER had no information as to whether or not ELSHOFF applied for membership in the Coal Operators Association or, if so, why he was refused.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN W. HINDMARSH.

JOHN W. HINDMARSH was interviewed at his residence in Riverton, Illinois, on September 5, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Mr. HINDMARSH is presently CIO representative in the Springfield district of Illinois. He travels extensively and can best be located through Mr. FULLERTON FULTON of the CIO Regional Office in Chicago, Illinois.

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Mr. HINDMARSH was active in the UMW organization up until 1930 or 1931, when he became inactive, and as a matter of fact let his membership lapse because of extremely poor health. He did not again engage in union activity of any kind until about October 1940, when he applied to RAY EDMUNDSON and had his membership reinstated. Thereafter for five weeks he worked for UMW as an organizer in small, independent mines around Springfield, commonly known as "trucking" mines. During this time he expressed himself strongly against JOHN L. LEWIS' failure to come out in support of President ROOSEVELT prior to the national election. As a result of this HINDMARSH was advised by District 12 that his application for the renewal of his membership had been disapproved, notwithstanding the fact that he had already been on the payroll for some five weeks and had a certificate from the union as a paid organizer.

In view of HINDMARSH's inactivity in connection with union matters during the pertinent period he was unable to furnish any probative information, other than the signed statement hereinafter quoted. As a matter of record, MR. HINDMARSH makes a good appearance, is forceful and it is believed that he would make a better than average witness. He is very cooperative in connection with instant matter.

"September 5, 1943

"I, John W. Hindmarsh, make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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"Some time during January 1941 I went to The Mine 'B' Coal Co. for the purpose of attempting to secure a job for a good friend of mine. At the mine I saw Oscar Falcetti and asked him if he could give my friend, whom Falcetti conceeded would be a good miner, a job. Falcetti said confidentially: 'Jack, it is not all together up to me. The other party has to be consulted.'

"Falcetti did not say who the other party was but I understood he meant officials of U.M.W. of A. I later went to see [redacted] of the U.M.W. of A. and asked him for a job for my friend. [redacted] answered that he could not do anything about it then.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN W. HINDMARSH. (Continued).

"Just previous to this time I had been employed by District 12 U.M.W. of A in organizational work, Ray Edmundson signing the certificate as representative of District 12, U.M.W. In a meeting with Edmundson I requested that men who might be thrown out of employment at the mines I was engaged in organizing, through their activities for the union, would be given transfer cards so that they could be employed in mines under the jurisdiction of U.M.W. of A. This man was one of several that were thrown out of employment because of their activities in assisting in organizing a mine.

"The above statement consisting of two pages in the handwriting of [redacted] is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

"Signed JOHN W. HINDMARSH

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"Witnessed

/S [redacted]
Special Agents
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

STATUS OF MINE "A" LEASE

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Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] personally, and with the assistance of the Clerk of the Recorder's Office, Sangamon County Building, Springfield, Illinois, checked the records of that office for the purpose of locating the transfer of the lease hold estate from the Mine "A" Coal Company, owned by WILLIAM RYAN to the Mine "B" Coal Company and CARL ELSHOFF or EDMUND BURKE. A thorough search of the records revealed that the transaction was not a matter of record.

For a further check the same Agents interviewed Mr. G. A. OSTERMEIER of the Abstract and Title Company, 411 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois. A search of the records of that company failed to reveal instant transaction was made a matter of record. This search did reveal, however, that the lease in connection with Mine "B" was made a matter of record by CARL H. ELSHOFF.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH R. M. MEDILL. R. M. MEDILL, Director of the Department of Mines and Minerals, State of Illinois,

was interviewed at his office in the Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 3, 1943 by Special Agent [redacted]

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Mr. MEDILL advised that under the laws of the State of Illinois a mine is required to have a mine examiner examine the mine daily before the men are permitted to enter the mine. This is done, therefore, at night, usually after midnight. The person making his inspection must be certified by the State as a mine examiner. He further advised that a company would be permitted to make such examinations during the daytime, and if the law were complied with at night, the daytime inspector need not be a licensed mine examiner, although they usually were, due to the fact that the unions required the same wage scale as if he were certified. Mr. MEDILL stated that in the Southern Illinois fields, where the mines were gaseous, the mines often employed examiners in the daytime to check on air conditions at the fringes, and in the new workings, and so forth. He advised, however, that in the fields surrounding Springfield, there is no necessity of this as these mines are usually considered non-gaseous.

Mr. MEDILL stated also that the records of his office reflecting mine examinations have been destroyed for the years prior to 1941, the beginning of his administration. He said his records did show that [redacted] was issued a certificate of a mine examiner on March 31, 1925. At that time [redacted] was [redacted] years of age and had [redacted] years experience in the mines. Mr. MEDILL advised that the requirements for a certificate of mine examiner were fixed by statute, and were that a person must be 21, a citizen, and have four years experience in a mine, together with passing an examination. The examination, according to Mr. MEDILL, would not be too complicated, and the information necessary could be learned in a very few lessions under an experienced mine examiner.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] On September 8, 1943, Special Agent [redacted] and the writer contacted [redacted] at his residence, [redacted], Illinois.

[redacted] was questioned in regard to instant case but failed to answer any questions directly and generally "beat around the bush". [redacted] did admit working in the Mine "B" from about July to December of 1940, at which time, he informed, he was fired. He stated he had been framed by the PMA Pit Committee. [redacted] stated that after being laid off for approximately two months he was rehired at Mine "B" and worked until approximately the Fall of 1941. [redacted] stated that his job while working in the mine was that of driver, and he informed that because there was so much coal to haul and because feeding his mules took so much time he had no opportunity to observe any organizing, if any had been going on at Mine "B". [redacted] stated he had seen no organizing attempts at Mine "B", that he was not hired as an organizer and that he never organized at Mine "B". [redacted] informed that he would talk up the UMW at every opportunity because he believes the UMW to be a great organization and respects JOHN L. LEWIS very much.

Further attempts to commit [redacted] to definite statements met with negative results. [redacted] was asked if he would sign a statement containing the information which he furnished but [redacted] informed that he would sign no such statement until he had consulted with his attorney, JAMES BURKE, Attorney for the United Mine Workers Union, and if BURKE stated it was all right for him to sign the statement, he would then sign such statement.

[redacted] advised that he is presently employed as an organizer for the United Mine Workers and is operating out of the Chicago area, upon occasion going up into Wisconsin.

In answer to most all questions put to [redacted] by the writer and Agent [redacted] method of evasion would be to start talking about [redacted] and his life career. Most of LANSKY's conversation dealt with the incident concerning the time his house was bombed back around 1935 when there was trouble between the UMW and PMA in Springfield. [redacted] claims that the PMA Union was responsible for the dynamiting of his home.

[redacted] was advised that if he desired to furnish any information to the FBI, he should call at the Springfield Office.

The original notes of Special Agents [redacted] prepared immediately after the interview, are being retained in the file of this case.

PENDING

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION

At Springfield, Illinois:

Will continue the investigation of this matter in accordance with the various instructions and suggestions which have been received from the Department of Justice through the Bureau.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN L. LEWIS

PART 8 OF 13

FILE NUMBER: 44-845

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT JOHN L. LEWIS

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 9

SERIALS 106

thru

114

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

[redacted]
12:10
12:15

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
September 11, 1943

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: John L. Lewis et al
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

At the above time SAC Hallford called and talked to [redacted] Mr. Hallford stated that Mr. Frank Coleman from the Department had arrived at Springfield and he had conferred with him on occasions since his arrival there Thursday night last. Mr. Hallford stated that the investigation was rounding out in good shape and at present the Agents were interviewing miners with regard to Mine "A" which adjoins Mine "B", the latter being involved in instant investigation.

You will recall Elshoff was the operator of Mine "B" at the time the miners working therein elected the Progressive Mine Workers Union as the bargaining agent, resulting in the closing down of Mine "B" on the part of the operator Elshoff and subsequent, of course, to the payments of $225,000 made by Lewis and the UMW to Elshoff, until finally the UMW in 1941 felt confident enough to hold another election resulting in the UMW being named as bargaining agent.

It appears that there might have been some irregularity about the operation of Mine "A" - that is - the mine was being operated or attempting to be operated through driving a connecting tunnel between Mine "A" and Mine "B". At any rate, Mr. Hallford stated that even with this new development, things looked bright and it still appears that the Springfield Office will meet the deadline.

REFERENCE RECORDED

A report has been submitted which should reach the Bureau sometime today or Monday, September 13, which is principally concerned with the accounting investigation conducted to date. [redacted] 44-845-106

Of particular interest was the [redacted] Frank Coleman to SAC Hallford that prior to leaving Washington on Thursday, September [illegible] Mr. Coleman conferred with the Attorney General, apparently before the Attorney General left on his vacation on Tuesday last. According to [redacted] Coleman, the Attorney General indicated that he had just talked [redacted] President, who had indicated that the Attorney General should go ahead with the investigation, having definitely in mind the holding of a grand jury and eventually prosecution of any indicted subjects. This would appear to include John L. Lewis in the event he is indicted.

2 SEP 21 1943

Mr. Hallford is forwarding a letter to the Bureau containing information relative to the various attempts which have been cropping up looking toward counseling the miners to refuse to give statements on advice of counsel.

[redacted] pointed out to Mr. Hallford that any additional investigation or unusual requests emanating from Mr. Coleman while he is at Springfield should be cleared through Washington and Mr. Coleman should be so advised unless in the considered opinion of Mr. Hallford the request could be said to be logical and not unrelated to the investigation already being conducted.

ACTION: As soon as the current report is received it will be summarized and a memorandum prepared bringing the matter up to date for the Director. The case is being followed closely so that it will be completed on schedule.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

F. L. Welch

[redacted]
Typed 9-13-43

dg

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOM C. CLARK

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

b7c

Reference is made to our previous correspondence in the above captioned matter. There are transmitted herewith four copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 9, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois. There are also transmitted herewith four copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 10, 1943, at San Francisco, California, captioned as above and four copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 12, 1943, at Indianapolis, Indiana, captioned as above. In reviewing the report of Special Agent [redacted] you will note that the information prepared therein was based on the photostatic copies of material furnished by you [redacted]

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With further reference to my memorandum to you dated August 28, 1943, in accordance with the information furnished by Mr. Frank C. Coleman of the Criminal Division, Agents of this Bureau have not made an examination of the original records in this case. [redacted] it will be presumed that an additional examination of the original records by an Agent of this Bureau will not be made in the absence of a specific request from you.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nasse
Miss Gandy

Reference is also made to my memorandum to you dated September 7, 1943, advising that the three individuals who were interviewed by Agents of the Springfield Office of this Bureau have requested copies of the signed statements which they executed. In regard to this matter, the Special Agent in Charge of the Springfield Office has now submitted the following data which is forwarded for your information.

"The following information obtained in investigation of this case indicates that persons interviewed have been advised to guard their statements to Bureau Agents on the following occasions.

44-845

INDEXED RECORDED

On the morning of September 4, 1943, ANTHONY J. PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, JR., and JOSEPH ALBANESE, went to the office of the United Mine Workers and had a conversation with RAY EDMUNDSON, who called Attorney ARTHUR FITZGERALD, who then came to the office and advised

[redacted]

13 SEP 22 1943

these men not to make any statements to agents of the Bureau unless he was present.

Sometime during Labor Day, September 6, 1943, ANDREW SCHRELEVICUS was approached on the street in Springfield and given a typewritten note by a person whose name he did not know, but whom he knew to be employed at Mine B. This person told SCHRELEVICUS that if he was approached by Bureau Agents, to tell them nothing and tell them to see Attorney FITZGERALD. This note contained FITZGERALD's name and address.

On the morning of September 7, 1943, a meeting was held at the shaft at Mine B, and a lawyer, whose identity is not now known, reportedly made a stump speech and advised men not to talk to the FBI representatives when they called. A different interpretation of this statement was that the Attorney advised that they did not need to talk to the FBI Agents if they didn't want to. CHARLES BOHANNON and LEE OMER "CUDGE" BAUMGARNER were at the shaft and evidently arranged this impromptu meeting. b7c

In the afternoon of September 7, 1943, at the end of the day shift, BAUMGARNER and BOHANNON were at the shaft of Mine A and advised former Mine B employees not to talk to Bureau Agents and to give them the name of Attorney ARTHUR FITZGERALD if they were asked why.

On September 7, 1943, Mr. WALTER T. DAY, Attorney-at-law, called at the Springfield Office, accompanied by FRANK AUSTIN, JAMES HALE and one BAUMGARTNER, who had previously been interviewed by Agents of this office in connection with this case. I conferred with Mr. DAY in the presence of Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] and Mr. DAY requested that he be furnished with copies of the statements executed by AUSTIN, HALE and BAUMGARTNER to Special Agents of this Bureau.

I specifically asked Mr. DAY who he was representing and he said he could not answer this question and I asked him if he was representing Messrs. AUSTIN, HALE and BAUMGARTNER, and he said he was not but that he was representing and assisting Mr. ARTHUR FITZGERALD, Attorney-at-law in Springfield who was counseling UMW miners who were sent to his, FITZGERALD's office. Mr. DAY stated that he knew of a number of persons who had executed statements to Agents of this Bureau and that eventually he would know the identity of most of the miners who had executed a statement to this Bureau and probably a request would be directed to this office to receive copies of all the signed statements executed by miners to Agents of this Bureau. I suggested to Mr. DAY that if Mr. FITZGERALD desired copies of all these statements that Mr. FITZGERALD should set forth such a request in a letter to this office but at the present time no assurance could be given him, Mr. DAY or Mr. FITZGERALD, that copies of such statements could be furnished.

b7c

Nothing else was discussed with Mr. DAY at the time he called at this office and Messrs. AUSTIN, HALE and BAUMGARTNER were not interviewed or present when this conversation transpired between Mr. DAY and myself.

I advised Attorney DAY today, September 10, 1943, that it would be necessary for him to communicate with the Attorney General in reference to obtaining copies of statements executed by his clients. Mr. DAY was satisfied with this statement.

The following persons, upon being contacted by Agents, refused to give any information concerning matters involved in this case, saying that they had been advised to do so by Attorney FITZGERALD:

CHARLES BORANNON, 131 Fitzgerald.
JOSEPH ALBANESE, 912 E. Carpenter.
ANDREW BIRELEVICUS, 1731 E. Carpenter.
DOMINIO PASQUALE, 926 N. Daniel.
ANTHONY J. PLOTCH, 113 S. Paul.
JOHN "COTTON" ANANIAS, JR., 1200½ N. 14th.
[redacted]

[redacted] Springfield, refused to give any information until he had conversed with his Attorney, BURKE, Attorney for the United Mine Workers.

[redacted] Springfield, refused to advise who had counseled him against giving any statements.

The following persons requested copies of their signed statements at the time they were first interviewed but gave statements even though their request had been refused:

FRANK AUSTIN, 3020 Woodward.
GEORGE KIRTOUT, 3520 E. Enos.
[redacted]

The following persons advised that they had been counseled to give no statements but gave statements to Agents nevertheless:

[redacted]

No persons other than AUSTIN, HALE and BAUMGARNER, who executed

statements previously have requested copies be furnished to them after the completion of the interview."

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois
September 16, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
(Bureau File No. 44-845)

[redacted]

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are five copies consisting of eight photostats each representing all pertinent information contained in the 13th Region National Labor Relations Board File at Chicago, Illinois. This file was reviewed by Special Agent [redacted] of the Springfield Division on September 15, 1943, at Chicago, Illinois. The NLRB case file number is XIII-C-1665.

Two copies of these photostats are being retained by the Springfield Office. Sufficient copies are transmitted with this letter to allow the Bureau to furnish the Department the necessary copies.

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD
Special Agent in Charge

44-845-108

4 SEP 21 1943

[redacted]

CIF

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

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Encl. (5) 5-ENCL 3
AMED

~~ENCL DEL~~ 9/1943 memo dark 2 sets of photos

[redacted]

b7c

COPIES DESTROYED
Op. 10
R42 4 JAN 16 1942

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

WILLIAM KECK PRESIDENT
PHONE [illegible]

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Progressive Mine Workers of America

DISTRICT NO. 1

AFFILIATED WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Springfield, Illinois

508 RIDGELY-FARMERS BANK BUILDING
FIFTH AND MONROE STS

December 13, 1941

Mr. Martin Wagner, Field Examiner
National Labor Relations Board
Thirteenth Region
Midland Building
Chicago, Illinois

Re: Carl H. Elshoff
XIII-C-1605

Dear Mr. Wagner:

Acknowledgement is made to your letter of December 11 with respect to the meeting you contemplate in Springfield December 17 to gather evidence in the above entitled cause.

On behalf of the Progressive Mine Workers of America we wish to withdraw it in charge and you are hereby so advised.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. Keck

William Keck
President

WITHDRAWAL APPROVED: [illegible]

Approved
12/22/41

[illegible]

N.L.R.B. Chicago
RECEIVED
DEC 15 1941

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

TO File DATE December 18, 1941

FROM Martin Wagner

SUBJECT Carl H. Elshoff - XIII-C-1665

The examiner this morning conferred with Mr. Carl Elshoff about the above entitled matter.

Elshoff repeated the story he told the examiner when they met in Chicago. He then permitted the examiner to read a certified copy of the minutes of the last meeting of Progressive Mine Workers Local Union Number 51, which were presented to him by Mr. Ray Edmundson, president of District 17, when the latter made his claim on Elshoff for bargaining rights for the employees of Mine A. (Elshoff refused to ~~xxxxxxx~~ turn over a copy of these minutes to the examiner. Later in the day, in a conference with Edmundson, the examiner obtained a copy from him. They are attached and marked Exhibit A.) Elshoff also permitted the examiner to inspect a list containing ~~approximately~~ 189 names. All the individuals listed had signed notarized statements designating the United Mine Workers as their bargaining representative. Elshoff inspected the statements and requested a list of the signers before recognizing the UMWA as the bargaining agent for the employees of Mine A. Since the 189 constituted the overwhelming majority of the employees who last worked in Mine A when it operated in March, 1941, Elshoff recognized the United as the bargaining agent. Elshoff further contended that as the new owner of the mine he was not obligated to rehire any of the employees of the former company, and further, he was not obliged to bargain with the union which was designated as the bargaining representative of the employees at the time the mine closed, since it was now a new company. However, to forestall any possible charges of unfair labor practices, all employees who last worked for the company were given notice to report for work within ten days. A majority of these in the special meeting held on September 14 changed their affiliation from the Progressive Mine Workers to the United Mine Workers, and upon proof of this change Elshoff recognized the United as the bargaining representative for the employees. Elshoff showed the examiner a contract signed on September 15, 1941 between Mine A and the United Mine Workers, whereby the parties agreed to accept all the provisions and clauses of the conta

in existence between the Illinois Coal Operators Association and District 12 of the United Mine Workers of America. I was informed by Mr. Edmundson that the contract Kleshoff signed is the standard contract for those employers who do not belong to the Association.

Later in the afternoon the examiner conferred with Ray Edmundson, president of District 12, United Mine Workers of America. Edmundson showed the examiner the authorization slips (copy of which is attached and marked Exhibit B) signed by 1 9 individuals on Sunday, September 14, 1941, when Local Union Number 51 of the Progressive Mine Workers of America disbanded and became Local Union 7640, United Mine Workers of America.

Later, additional employees signed similar cards. However, from the time of the first meeting, a majority of the old employees of Mine A had designated the UMWA as their bargaining representative.

On December 13 William Zeck, president of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, requested the examiner by letter to withdraw the charge in the matter.

M. W.

MW/jac

Exhibit "B"

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

LOCAL UNION #7840, UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

_____, 1941

The undersigned hereby applies for membership in the UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA and designates and selects it his exclusive representative for the purposes of collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, or other conditions of employment.

_____

Check number _____

Street _____

Town _____

Last employed at _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 1941.

_____

Notary Public

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF LOCAL UNION #51,
Progressive Mine Workers of America.

Elks Club, Springfield, Illinois
Convening 8:30 P.M., September 14, 1941

Motion properly made and seconded that Tom Moughan be elected to serve as temporary chairman of meeting. Mr. Moughan elected by acclamation.

Motion properly made and seconded that we hear the report of the committee elected at the special meeting held at the Progressive Mine Workers of America Hall, 8th & Washington Streets, Springfield, Illinois, on Thursday night, September 11, 1941, convening at 7:30 P.M. that date.

Motion made and seconded that we accept the report of the committee who had conferred with Oscar Falletti, Superintendent Mine B of the Mine B Coal Company, and with Ray Edmundson, President District #12, United Mine Workers of America. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made and properly seconded that we withdraw affiliation from the Progressive Mine Workers of America and affiliate with the United Mine Workers of America. Motion unanimously carried by standing vote.

Motion made and seconded that we take a collection to pay for the use of the Elks Club for this meeting. Motion unanimously carried. Collection amounted to $17.10.

Meeting addressed by Ray Edmundson, President District #12, United Mine Workers of America.

Motion made and seconded that we elect permanent officers to serve for the ensuing term ending June 30, 1942. Motion unanimously carried.

Nominations for President—George Derry. Nominations closed. George Derry elected President by acclamation.

Nominations for Vice President—Joseph Carlove. Nominations closed. Joseph Carlove elected Vice President by acclamation.

Nominations for Recording Secretary—Alfred Tallÿ, Jr. Nominations closed. Alfred Tallÿ, Jr., elected Recording Secretary by a

Nominations for Financial Secretary---John Tracy. Nomin tions closed. John Tracy elected Financial Secretary by acclamation.

Nominations for Treasurer---William Talley. Nominations closed. William Talley elected Treasurer by acclamation.

Nominations for three members of Pit Committee---John Joyce, Frank Petrakis and Philip Sisti. Nominations closed. John Joyce, Frank Petrakis and Philip Sisti elected members of the Pit Committee by acclamation.

Nominations for Doorkeeper---Joe Marsaro. Nominations closed. Joe Marsaro elected Doorkeeper by acclamation.

Motion made and seconded we hold in abeyance election of Trustees until next meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made and seconded we hold in abeyance election of CIO delegates until the next meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Properly moved and seconded that the officers and committee be authorized to meet with the officers of District #12, United Mine Workers of America for the purpose of petitioning Thomas Kennedy, Secretary Treasurer International Union, United Mine Workers of America, for a charter to have jurisdiction over Mine A. Motion unanimously carried.

Properly moved and seconded that the officers and committee of the local union be authorized and instructed to meet with the officers of District #12, United Mine Workers of America, and if possible the owners of Mine A in order that a contract might be negotiated and the mine reopened at the earliest possible date. Motion unanimously carried.

Regularly moved and seconded that each individual in attendance at this meeting sign an individual application for membership in the United Mine Workers of America and thereby designating them as the agency for the purposes of collective bargaining. Motion unanimously carried. 199 individual applications properly signed by employees of Mine A constituting an overwhelming majority of the employees at this property.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the special meeting of Local Union #51, Progressive Mine Workers of America, convening at the Elks Club, Springfield, Illinois, Sunday September 14, 1941 at 2:30 P.M.

George Derry

George Derry, President Local Union #7040, United Mine Workers of America.

Alfred Tally Jr.

Alfred Tally, Jr., Recording Secretary Local Union #7040, United Mine Workers of America.

State of Illinois }
County of Sangamon }

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of September, 1941, A.D.

Gene Smothers

Gene Smothers, Notary Public

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

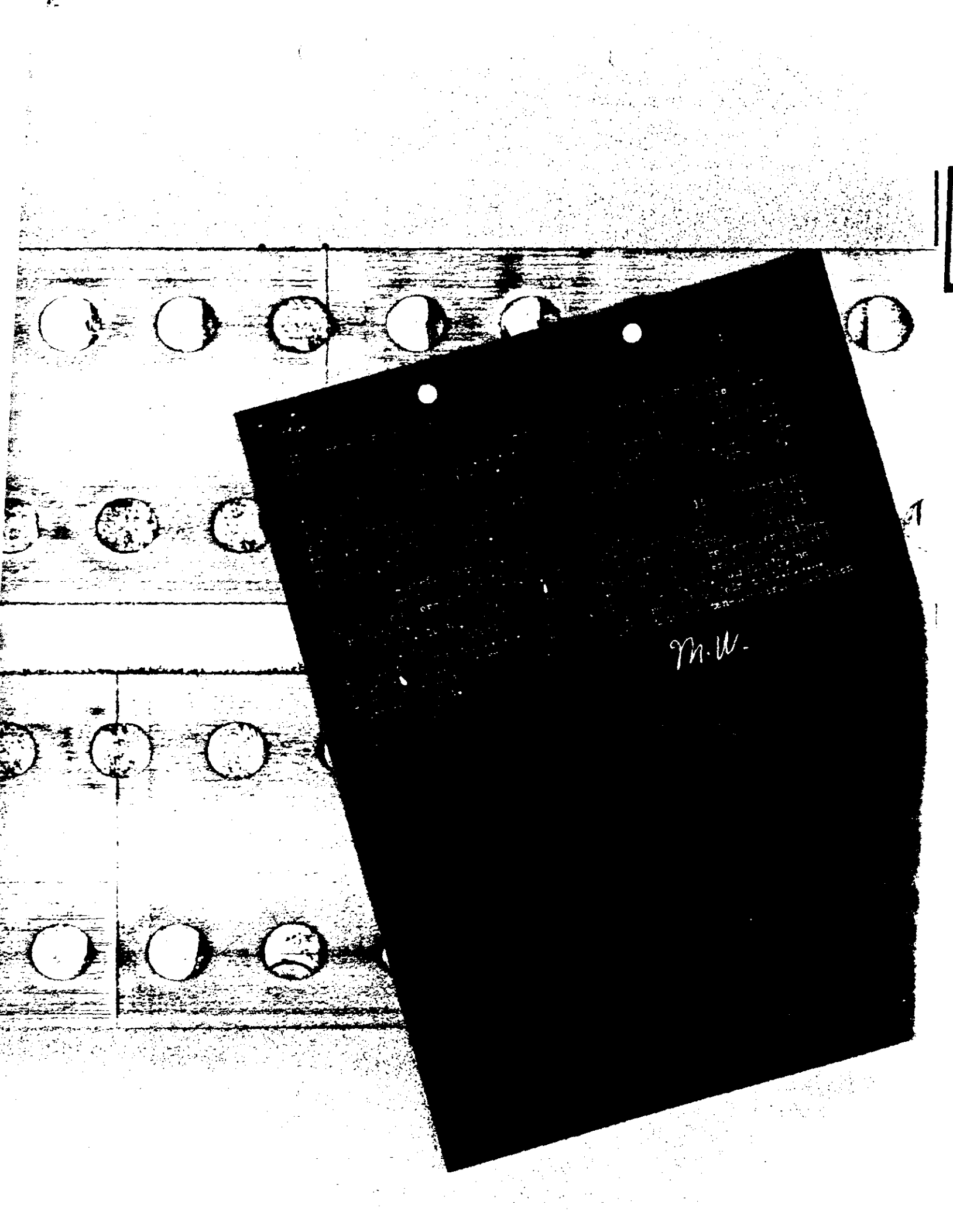
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

DATE

TO

FROM

SUBJECT


M.W.

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

TO

DATE

FROM

SUBJECT

WILLIAM KECK, PRESIDENT
PHONE 3-5881

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Progressive Mine Workers of America

DISTRICT NO. 1

AFFILIATED WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Springfield, Illinois

508 RIDGELY FARMERS BANK BUILDING
FIFTH AND MONROE STS

[illegible], 1941

Regional Director
National Labor Relations Board
[illegible]
Chicago, Illinois

In Re: Carl [illegible]

Attention: [illegible] Regional Director

Dear Sir:

Enclosed [illegible] find complaint [illegible] the Progressive Mine Workers of America, District [illegible], affiliated with the [illegible] Labor, [illegible] Carl [illegible], [illegible], Illinois, [illegible] Mine "A", formerly [illegible] the General Illinois Mining Company and [illegible] William [illegible] Springfield, Illinois.

[illegible] in the [illegible] complaint.

[illegible],

Wm. Keck

[illegible]

[illegible]

SEP 23 1941

N.L.R.B.
Revised 8-2-37

United States of America

BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

[illegible] REGION

In the Matter of

CARL [illegible]

and

P[illegible] OF AMERICA,
[illegible] I, affiliated with A.L.

Case No. XIII C 1665

Date filed September 25, 1941

DOCKETED: 9-27-41

CHARGE

Pursuant to Section 10 (b) of the National Labor Relations Act, the undersigned hereby charges that

Carl H. Elshoff of Springfield, Illinois

has engaged in and is engaging in unfair labor practices within the meaning of Section 8, subsections (1) and (5) of said Act, in that on or about September 15, 1941, and various dates thereafter, he refused to bargain collectively with the authorized representatives of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, District No. I, a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2, Subsection (5) of said Act, previously chosen by a majority of the production and maintenance employees, excluding supervisory employees, at his mine near Springfield, Illinois, said mine being commonly known and designated as "Mine A", and formerly operated by one, William Ryan, and owned by Central Illinois Coal Mining Company, to represent them for the purpose of collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment and other conditions of employment.

By the acts set forth in the paragraph above, and by other acts and conduct, he has interfered with, restrained and coerced and is interfering with, restraining, and coercing his employees in the exercise of their rights guaranteed in Section 7 of said Act.

The undersigned further charges that said unfair labor practices are unfair labor practices affecting commerce within the meaning of said Act.

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 22 day of Sept.

1941 at Springfield, Ill.

[illegible]

Name and address of person or labor organization making the charge (if made by a labor organization, give also the name and official position of the person acting for the organization)

PROGRESSIVE MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA, DIST. [illegible]
Affiliated with the A.L.

BY [illegible] PRESIDENT

500 Ridgely-Farmers Bank Building
Springfield, Illinois - Phone 2-8891

[redacted] b7c

9/18/43

REFERENCE 845-108

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to the memorandum from this Bureau dated September 15, 1943, captioned as above, which referred to National Labor Relations Board file #13-C-1665 at Chicago, Illinois.

For your information there are transmitted herewith two groups of photostats consisting of eight copies each, representing the pertinent information contained in the 13th Regional National Labor Relations Board file at Chicago, Illinois. The National Labor Relations Board case file number is XIII-C-1665.

Enclosure

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Acers
Carson
Harbo
Hendon
Mumford
Starke
Quinn Tamm
Nease

OCT 1 1943

[redacted]

SEP 18 12 04 PM '43

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gan[redacted]

[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE September 18, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

b7c

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Reference is made to my memoranda to you dated September 8, 1943, and September 13, 1943, respectively, setting forth brief resume[redacted] of the investigation in the captioned case to date. You will recall that [redacted] the Bureau is conducting an extensive investigation in this case at the request of the Attorney General to determine if John L. Lewis and certain other officers of the United Mine Workers of America and Carl H. Elshoff, owner of Mine B. Coal Company, Springfield, Illinois, conspired during the years 1937 to 1941 in violation of the civil rights statutes to injure and oppress Elshoff's employees in the free exercise of the rights secured to them under the National Labor Relations Act. It is alleged that Lewis paid the sum of $225,000 to Elshoff during the years 1937 to 1941 with the intent to induce Elshoff to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, who were at that time members of the rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

INVESTIGATION AND INTERVIEWS WITH MINERS

To date the Springfield Office has submitted reports reflecting the interviews of approximately 270 individuals who were employees of subject Elshoff during the pertinent period of the investigation of this case. These individuals, for the most part, did not participate actively in the labor difficulties as they related to negotiations and union organizational work. A review of the signed statements taken from these 270 miners indicates that approximately 163 gave information that could be considered very favorable to the Government's case and all might well be considered potential witnesses in this matter. It also appears that all of these individuals favored and still are partial to the Progressive Mine Workers Union. However, a large number of them necessarily joined the United Mine Workers Union in order to preserve their jobs or avoid physical violence. This would indicate that these individuals were aware of the fact that there might have been a deprivation of their rights. The 270 individuals mentioned, of course, do not include the 14 alleged spies and certain other individuals connected with the UMW at the present time.

RECORDED & INDEXED 169

44-845-102

16 SEP 28 1943

Seventy-eight of the 270 miners interviewed gave information that could be considered of little value, being vague and hesitant in their comments. It should be noted that a number of these individuals were unable to speak, read or write English, and therefore possessed little information of value to this investigation. Others indicated a desire to stay out of any controversy.

Twenty-three of the 270 miners interviewed gave no information of value, although it was not apparent from the signed statements given by these [redacted]

60 SEP 29 1943

(INFORMATIVE MEMORANDUM - NOT TO BE SENT TO FILES SECTION)

individuals that they were hostile to the Government's case. It may be that some of these individuals purposely withheld giving information.

Only six of the miners interviewed were openly hostile and refused to give any information to Agents of this Bureau or refused to give any information that might be derogatory to John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers Union.

It is interesting to note that on September 6, 1943, Charles Bohannon, President of the UMW Local, Springfield, Illinois, and an attorney for the UMW Union, began some activity attempting to advise the miners not to give the Government any information in this case; however, at this date most of the miners have been interviewed and it does not appear that this activity has materially affected the investigation.

PAYMENT OF $225,000 TO CARL H. ELSHOFF BY LEWIS

The principal subjects in this case have not been interviewed by Agents of this Bureau to date, and it is not contemplated that this will be done until a specific request for such action is received from the Department.

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§6103

[redacted]

An accounting report submitted by the Springfield Office indicates that during the period the mine was closed, the actual mining and maintenance costs amounted to $115,586.34, exclusive of salaries and benefits to Carl H. Elshoff and family in the amount of $34,824.25. [redacted] The investigation to date has shown that there was no large fire at Mine B during the time it was not in operation.

ALLEGED PLACEMENT OF 14 SPIES IN THE PROGRESSIVE MINE WORKERS UNION BY SUBJECT LEWIS

Prior to the strike which closed Mine B on May 12, 1937, Mine B was a closed shop mine under Progressive Mine Workers contract. Investigation

to date has definitely proven that 12 individuals were members of the UMW Union and at the same time held membership in the Progressive Mine Workers Union prior to May 11, 1937. On this date 5 of these individuals were expelled from the Progressive Mine Workers Union by its members. Investigation shows that Elshoff refused to acquiese to the Progressive Mine Workers' demands and fire these five individuals which brought on the general strike. The investigation shows that Elshoff thereafter refused to negotiate or sign a contract with the Progressive Mine Workers Union and apparently did all in his power to favor the United Mine Workers Union. In August, 1937, he signed a collective bargaining agency contract with the UMW although they apparently had only about a score of members at that time. Elshoff then attempted to reopen Mine B, using only UMW members, apparently believing that the Progressives would change membership, which they failed to do, however.

The National Labor Relations Board ordered an election held on December 15, 1937, which was won by the Progressive Mine Workers Union by a vote of 404 to 25. The NLRB certified the Progressive Mine Workers Union as the bargaining agent on January 4, 1938, and Elshoff thereafter shut down the mine completely. Elshoff reopened Mine B on November 6, 1939, as an open shop, at which time he permitted the UMW to organize on company property although the Mine Superintendent refused the same privilege to the Progressive Mine Workers Union. Under these circumstances the UMW finally gained a majority and won an election held by the NLRB in February, 1941, by a vote of 259 to 108.

MINE A TRANSACTION

In the fall of 1941, the UMW Union advanced $60,000 to Elshoff, with which he purchased Mine A, which is adjacent to and connected with Mine B. Mine A at that time was organized by the Progressive Mine Workers Union and was so recognized by the NLRB. Elshoff and the United Mine Workers, through certain mancuvers, succeeded in getting the miners at Mine A to dissolve the Progressive Union and affiliate with the UMW. Many of these individuals, upon interview, stated that they changed their membership to the UMW, believing that they had to do so in order to protect their jobs. In this connection, it is interesting to note that Mr. William H. Ryan, owner of Mine A, stated upon interview that early in 1937 subject Ray Edmundson, President of the UMW Local at Springfield, Illinois, approached him with a proposition to freeze the Progressive Mine Workers out of Mine A, but that he turned the proposition down flatly. In this connection, Mr. Robert C. Solomon, President of the Panther Creek Coal Mines, Springfield, Illinois, stated that in the early part of 1942, Elshoff attempted to purchase the Panther Creek Mines for $400,000 cash. The Panther Creek Mines were also organized by the Progressive Mine Workers Union. Mr. Solomon stated that although the deal fell through, it was a matter of common knowledge that Elshoff had no money of his own and would be financed by the UMW of America.

MISCELLANEOUS INTERVIEWS

Many other individuals who were connected with the captioned matter or who were officials of the Progressive Mine Workers Union, have been interviewed to date, the majority of them giving information of value to this matter bearing on the numerous alleged unfair practices indulged in by Elshoff against the Progressive Mine Workers. The investigation has also uncovered a number of witnesses who will be able to testify that Elshoff has stated that he did not like the Progressive Mine Workers Union and would not do business with them.

Present Status

The Springfield Office has advised that the majority of the investigation in this case will be completed by the evening of September 19, 1943, leaving only smaller and incidental leads to be covered subsequent to that date.

The Department has been promptly furnished with copies of all reports in this matter and Mr. Frank Coleman of the Criminal Division has recently stated that he is well satisfied with the investigation and feels that it has been handled in an excellent manner.

You will be promptly informed of all developments in this case.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

Press to an early conclusion so far as our part in it is concerned.

H.

Note Director's comment on last page.

[redacted]
9/25/43

b7c

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith for your information four copies of the investigative report of Special Agen[redacted] (A), dated September 21, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois, in the captioned case.

Investigation in this matter is continuing and as subsequent reports are received they will be made available to you immediately.

Enclosure [redacted]

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44-845-110

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTIC[redacted]

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
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AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

TCC:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" -- Alleged Violation of Section 51.

Your memorandum of September 18, 1943, transmits two copies of photostats, consisting of eight pages each, representing the pertinent information contained in the 13th Regional National Labor Relations Board file No. XIII-C-1665, at Chicago, Illinois.

It is requested that Martin Wagner be re-interviewed and asked to confirm the facts which are set forth in his several memoranda to the Board covering his negotiations with subjects Elshoff and Edmundson. Special reference should be made to Wagner's statement in his memorandum of November 1, 1941, that "When Elshoff first purchased the assets of Mine 'A', he hoped to mine the seam of coal in Mine 'A' from Mine 'B'", and the statement in the same memorandum at page 2 that "Elshoff stated that he did not believe he was obligated under any circumstances to hire any of the former employees of Mine 'A' since he had not taken over a corporation but had merely purchased some of the assets of that corporation." Also of significance is the statement made by Wagner in his memorandum of October 4, 1941, that "Edmundson stated that these employees undoubtedly were afraid that Elshoff would mine this newly acquired property through Mine 'B'", and that "To avoid this they came to him and signed applications for membership in the U.M.W.A." It is apparent that Edmundson's contentions in this regard were hypocritical in view of his knowledge that he and Lewis were advancing $60,000 to enable Elshoff to purchase the mine. It is hoped that Mr. Wagner's recollection of exact conversations can be refreshed by his reading of his memoranda.

RECORDED & INDEXED 105 44-875-111

Respectfully,

Tom C. Clark

TOM C. CLARK,
Assistant Attorney General.

[redacted]

b7c

61 OCT 7 1943

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

TCC:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" -- Alleged Violation of Section 51.

Your memorandum of September 15, 1943, transmits a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] -100-225453 dated August 12, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois. You call attention to the possible connection between the case which that report involves, captioned [redacted] et al., Internal Security, Sabotage", and the above case.

It is requested that you have your Springfield office ascertain from their sources of information in the leadership of the Progressive Mine Workers of America whether there is any basis for the belief that [redacted] and the other agitators mentioned in the report have been in any way influenced by U.M.W. or their officials to instigate trouble in order to bring public discredit on the Progressive union.

Respectfully,

Tom C. Clark

TOM C. CLARK
Assistant Attorney General.

9/24/43. Ad Springfield

[redacted]

RECORDED & INDEXED

D'B

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44-845-112

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8 SEP 23 1943

[redacted]

81 OCT 7 1943

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

TCC:FC:MLB

144-10

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" -- Alleged Violation of Section 51.

The report of Special Agent [redacted] at Buffalo, New York, dated September 9, 1943, informs that the subject of the interview, [redacted] states that [redacted] who had been employed as a mine inspector by The Mine "B" Coal Company and who has been charged by various witnesses with intimidating Progressives, left the mine immediately after the election and became a personal aide of John L. Lewis.

It is requested that this circumstance be investigated and that the character of [redacted] employment after he left Mine "B" be ascertained.

Respectfully,

b7c

Tom C. Clark

TOM C. CLARK,
Assistant Attorney General.

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&
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44-84 11B

9/24/43
cc Springfield
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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44-845 -113

September 24, 1943

SAC, Springfield

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith for your information copies of three memoranda dated September 23, 1943, and captioned "Mine 'B' — Alleged Violation of Section 51," which were received from the Criminal Division of the Department. It is desired that the investigative suggestions set forth in these memoranda be covered unless a specific reason exists why this should not be done.

With reference to the enclosed memorandum requesting a reinterview of Martin Wagner, it is noted that Mr. Wagner was interviewed and the results of the interview had with him set forth in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 10, 1943, at San Francisco, California, in the above entitled matter.

It is desired that your office forward to the San Francisco Office photostatic copies of the eight pages representing the pertinent information contained in the 13th Regional National Labor Relations Board file XIII-C-1665, at Chicago, Illinois, together with appropriate instructions in order that the San Francisco Office may reinterview Wagner pursuant to the Department's desires. It is noted that the material referred to in the National Labor Relations Board file XIII-C-1665, at Chicago, Illinois, is in the possession of your office.

You will observe that the Criminal Division of the Department has requested certain investigation with regard to the information set forth in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 12, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois, in the matter entitled [redacted] et al; Internal Security; Sabotage." For your information, a copy of this report was made available to the Criminal Division of the Department, and as you will note in the attached memorandum pertaining to this matter, the Department has requested that certain of the leadership of the Progressive Mine Workers of America be interviewed to determine whether there is any basis for the belief that [redacted] and the other agitators mentioned in the report of Special Agent [redacted] have been in any way influenced by the United Mine Workers or their officials to instigate trouble in order to bring public discredit on the Progressive Union. It is desired that the investigation in [redacted]

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[redacted]

61

this regard be limited to interviews conducted with logical leaders of the Progressive Mine Workers of America and such other sources that might be desirable.

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Prior to instituting an active investigation of the actual facts as reported in the report of Special Agent [redacted] the matter should be re-submitted to the Criminal Division for an opinion as to the desirability of this procedure.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

SPECIAL DELIVERY

[redacted]
44-845
9/27/43

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith for your information four copies of each of the following reports concerning the captioned matter:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 23, 1943, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 24, 1943, at Little Rock, Arkansas,

Please be advised that investigation is continuing in this c and as subsequent reports are received, they will be made available to y immediately.

Enclosure

RECORDED

44-845 114

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 29 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Clegg
Coffey
Glavin
Ladd
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FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT John L. Lewis

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 10

SERIALS 115 p. 1

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115 p. 230

1553

[redacted]

JANUARY 1, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NICHOLS

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
BUREAU FILE # 44-845-115

The attached copy of a report dated September 23, 1943, by Special Agent [redacted] was forwarded to the Bureau by the Springfield, Illinois Field Office.

It does not appear that the Bureau would have need for the six (6) copies on hand of this report, and inasmuch as they are occupying valuable space in the Records Section, it is requested that the file in this matter be reviewed by Division Five for an expression as to the disposition of this material.

RECOMMENDATION:

All but two copies of the report be destroyed here at the Seat of Government.

Respectfully,

R. F. Cartwright

b7c

44-845-115

54 JAN 5 1945

~~THIS MEMORANDUM IS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES TO BE DESTROYED AFTER ACTION IS TAKEN AND NOT SENT TO FIL~~

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS,
SEPTEMBER 23, 1943.

1554

Director,
F.B.I.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL,
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the Bureau's copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Springfield, Illinois September 23, 1943.

It is noted that nine copies of this report are designated for the Bureau. However, in compliance with the request of Mr. FRANK COLEMAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, three of the Bureau's copies are being retained in this office to be handed over to Mr. COLEMAN upon his appearance in Springfield. It is understood that Mr. COLEMAN will be in Springfield on or about September 25, 1943.

Very truly yours,

Fred Hallford

FRED HALLFORD,
SAC.

[redacted]
44-16
Encls.

44-845-115

[redacted]

Encl. rec'd in Routing Unit
other Encl. retained
in [redacted] off.
9-30-43 par [redacted]

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Sp Messenger 9/24/43
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44-845-115

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VICTORY
BUY
UNITED STATES DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS

Springfield, Illinois
November 16, 1943

b7c [redacted]

Director, FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Dear Sir: 1557

Inasmuch as the above entitled case has been placed in "closed" status in this office, we are forwarding under separate cover one copy of Special Agent [redacted]'s report dated September 23, 1943, which was being held for Mr. FRANK COLEMAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD
SAC

h

cc package

44 742-115

1558

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Origin: Springfield, Illinois | File No. 44-18

Report made at:	Date when made:	Period for which made:	Report made by:-
Springfield, Ill.	9/23/43	9/11-19/43	[redacted]

Title:	Character of Case:
JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.	CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SYNOPSIS:

Statements set forth of sixty-five additional men who were PMA miners at Mine B in May 1937. Numerous persons contacted who either applied for work at Mine B after November 1939 and were refused employment, or who were employed at Mine B for the first time after November 1939. These interviews, which produced a minimum of significant information, were pertinent to the proposition that after November 1939 Mine B hired UMW men but refused to hire PMA men. Names of approximately 310 PMA miners at Mine A in April 1941 obtained from Mine A records. Of these, approximately 260 have been contacted and signed statements obtained are set forth herein. These statements indicate that the miners changed from PMA to UMA because of the belief that ELSHOFF would not operate Mine A except with UMW personnel. Summaries of reviews of Springfield, Illinois newspapers set forth. JOHN BERTHA, formerly an examiner of NLRB states election of 12-15-37 was a fair and impartial election. JOHN R. KANE, former PMA Attorney, [redacted] former PMA Officials, interviewed concerning the Mine B matter. [redacted] interviewed with negative results. [redacted]

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b7D

COPIES DESTROYED

32 [illegible] 16 1974

ENCLOSURE

Approved and Forwarded: [signature] | Special Agent In Charge: [illegible]

COPIES:

9 - Bureau

5 - Springfield

[redacted]

RECORDED

8 SEP 30 1943

[redacted]

SI. #44-18
RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

SYNOPSIS: (Cont'd.) concerning pressure allegedly brought to bear by EDMUNDSON to force the Leland Hotel to buy part of its coal from ELSHOFF after November 1939. [redacted] Illinois, and [redacted], who allegedly knew of other cases similar to the Mine B matter, interviewed with negative results. JOHN W. DOHERTY, United Steel Workers of America, Chicago, Illinois, states EDMUNDSON did not discuss the details of the Mine B matter with him. JOHN H. CARROLL, Jr., B & O Railroad, Chicago, furnished no information of value concerning the Panther Creek matter. Records of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Sangamon County, Illinois, reviewed concerning injunction suit filed 10-11-29 by HARRY FISHWICK, et al, against JOHN L. LEWIS, et al.

b7c

- P -

REFERENCES: Bureau File #44-845.
Report of Special Agent [redacted], dated 9-13-43 at Springfield, Illinois.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEWS WITH PMA MINERS WHO WERE
EMPLOYED AT MINE B IN MAY 1937

4-750 (2-7-79)

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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FBI/DOJ

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed in [redacted] on September 9, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This man cannot speak English well enough to be understood and he does not understand English well enough to converse in it. Information was obtained from him during the interview, through [redacted] who acted as interpreter [redacted] claimed to have no interest in union activities. He said he has never been arrested. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.
September 9, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live in [redacted] Ill. and employed at the Denkert mine. I was born in [redacted] In [redacted] I came to the United States, and became a citizen of the United States in [redacted] at Springfield, Ill.

"I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] when I was working in the [redacted] Ill. mine. I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932 when I was working in the [redacted] mine. I had no part in the organization of the P.M.A. In 1934 I started to work at Mine B. I never was an officer in any union.

"In 1934 when I started at Mine B, there was no trouble at Mine B. The trouble started in Mine B in 1937. At that time some men were trying to pull some of the miners away from P.M.A. Some of these men were: Bowling Green (Charlie Bohannon), Dominic Pasquale, Andy (Skrelevicus), Tony Plotch, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, and Emory Jacaway. These men were talking to some of the miners, but they never talked to me at any time.

"I don't know why the strike started, but I think that the activities of the men named above had something to do with it. I don't remember if I signed a petition for P.M.A. in 1937. No one asked me to join the U.M.W. in the summer of 1937.

"I went on the picket line in 1937 of my own accord because the whole local of the P.M.A. went to the picket line. I think that the men were picketing to keep the U.M.W. men out of Mine B. I don't know anything about the injunction that stopped the strike picket.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"In the election in December in the State Armory I voted for the P.M.A. because I wanted to. No one forced me to vote for that union.

"From that time until the mine reopened in 1939 no one talked to me about joining the U.M.W. I received a letter from the mine company telling me that the mine was going to reopen, and that I could come back to work. I went back about two days after I received my notice.

"Shortly before I quit working at Mine B, some started to talk to me about joining U.M.W. I don't know their names. They talked to me in my room at the mine. They did not threaten me, and merely asked me to join the U.M.". However, these men did say that there would be trouble at Mine B if the miners did not join the U.M.W. Shortly before the 1941 election some person cut up my clothes when they were hanging in the mine wash house. I don't know who did it. On another day when I was in the mine going to my room from the washhouse, I was hit on the head. I did not see who hit me because I was hit from the rear. On the last day that I worked at Mine B, I loaded three full cars of coal, but I did not get paid for them. I don't know what happened to my checks.

"It makes no difference to me in which union I am a member. One union is as good as another.

"This statement consisting of this and one other typewritten page has been read to be by [redacted] and I state it is true to the best of my recollection.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnesses:

/S/ [redacted], Special Agent, FBI, Springfield, Ill.
[redacted], Special Agent F.B.I., Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the Springfield [redacted] Field Office by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] was friendly and cooperative and indicated his willingness to testify, if necessary. His memory appears good [redacted] and it is felt that he would make a favorable witness. He furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 12, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and presently reside at [redacted] I moved to [redacted] when I was young and when I was [redacted] years old I started working in the coal mines in that state.

"In [redacted] I became a member of the United Mine Workers, having previously joined the Knights of Labor, an organization that preceded U.M.W. and which turned over to U.M.W. In the years that followed I held several offices in the U.M.W. [redacted] and served on various committees. The last office I held was [redacted] After that time I worked in the management of mines as [redacted] and other supervisory positions. I have held every position in a coal mine that exists, from trapper to manger.

"In [redacted] went to work at Mine B as a minor. At that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers. In 1932 the members of U.M.W. revolted against John L. Lewis because of the alleged theft of ballots, these ballots being voted by the miners in an election held to see if the miners would accept a lower wage. The members would not accept the lower wage and when the second ballots were supposed to be stolen the men revolted and formed the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I had nothing to do with the formation of this Union, but I joined it when the rest of the men did. For a year or more I was not active in it but then I saw that P.M.A. appeared to be all right and getting along well with the members and Elshoff, so I took more interest in its activities. [redacted] and at the time of the strike I was a member of the pit committee.

"I recall that the contract which P.M.A. had with Elshoff expired on March 31, 1937. [redacted] had signed an agreement with Elshoff, extending the terms of the old agreement or contract, and it was generally

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

understood that this extension carried a clause providing for retroactive pay back to April 1, 1937 in the event a wage increase was granted. All men who later returned to Mine B under U.M.W. received this back pay, but those who did not return to work did not get it.

"The state officers of P.M.A. and [redacted] assured our committee that the extension which had been signed with Elshoff, carried a clause providing for retroactive pay back to April 1, 1937 and this information was passed on to the members of Local 54, both by our committee and at meetings. I feel sure that the members of Local 54 felt that the new contract would be negotiated, and would be as favorable as any other contract secured by any other local or by U.M.W.

"At about this time there was a small group of men at Mine B, members of P.M.A., who were causing some trouble by stating that we would not get a new contract nor our retroactive pay. These men, as I recall their names, were Bohannon who we called Bowling Green, Frank Austin, Dominic Pasquale and Sammy Albanese. There was also a fellow named Andy, Tony Plotch and perhaps one or two others whose names I don't recall. These men were constantly coming to me saying that we wouldn't get retroactive pay, and that we should not work without a contract. They were telling the miners the same thing but did not appear to have much success in disturbing the rest of the men.

"I do not recall any strikes, lock-outs or shut downs of the mine between April 1, 1937 and May 12, 1937.

"I recall that a meeting of the men was called, this meeting being held at the mine as I remember, at which time [redacted] advised the men that when the new contract was signed, retroactive wages would be paid back to April 1, 1937.

"There was a lot of meetings held at about this time and I do not recall the dates and purpose of all of these meetings.

"I recall that Oscar Falcetti told our committee that he did not know of any retroactive clause in the extension which had been signed.

"At about this time four or five of the agitators I have previously mentioned were expelled from P.M.A. I do not recall being at that meeting, probably wasn't. At any rate, I was not in the meeting when the action was taken. As I remember, it was at a regular meeting although I can not be sure. At any rate, I was advised that these men had been expelled, and the following morning which was the day of the strike, the miners refused to go to work with the men who had been expelled.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I came to work that morning as usual and saw that the men were not going down into the mine. The real issue that morning was the refusal of the men to work with the fellows who had been expelled. There was also some discussion about wages and I personally told the men to go to work, that we would take care of the trouble.

"Our committee then asked Falcetti to discharge the men who had been expelled from the Union. He refused, saying that it would be a violation of the Wagner Act. In the meantime the men had gone to work. Falcetti told us that the expelled men would work.

"Elshoff showed up at the mine later and we held a meeting with him. I was there, also [redacted] and [redacted] We asked Elshoff to discharge those men and he refused. I do not remember if he stated why he wouldn't. At any rate, we talked with Elshoff until about noon and got nowhere with him. [redacted] then told me to call the men out and I issued the orders bringing the men out. There were short loads coming out of the pit that day, but such action was not authorized by the union. When the men were called out it was our intention to keep the men out on strike until we had reached an agreement with Elshoff. His mind appeared to be firmly made up that he would not discharge those men.

"Following this, there was a picket line at Mine B for about two weeks. This was a small line and was on the highway. There was no violence as far as I know and it didn't last long. After the strike, the matter was then placed in the hands of the state officers.

"I remember being present at several meetings held between our officers and Elshoff. These meetings were held at Hotels, at the mine and at many other places. I am not sure of the date nor what happened at all of the meetings.

"I recall that a petition was circulated among the men by P.M.A. and it was signed by most of the men. This petition was taken to the men, at their homes or wherever they might be. I signed this petition at the mine while the first picket line was there. I do not recall any other petitions that summer although I heard that some petitions were passed out.

"During the meetings held with Elshoff during the summer we were unable to get anywhere with him. He would give us no satisfaction at all.

"I know nothing about the formation of the new U.M.W. local that summer.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I recall being present when our officers met with Elshoff and assured him of our willingness to go back to work. At that time we told him that we did not want the expelled men to return, but that if it was later decided that they had a right to work P.M.A. would reimburse Elshoff for any expense he might have been put to as a result of keeping these men from working.

"I recall that Elshoff put an ad in the paper, sometime in September, 1937, stating that Mine B would open. When we went there, ready to go to work, Falcetti said that he needed some men that morning to go to work, but that they would have to be members of the United Mine Workers. When we had gone there that morning we all expected to go to work. However, in view of what Falcetti said we knew that they intended to open the mine under U.M.W. if possible.

"A picket line was started by P.M.A. at that time in order to prevent the opening of Mine B by U.M.W., the men stayed there on the picket line to protect their jobs. I stayed on the picket line as long as it lasted, coming home on week ends. The only men on the line were members of P.M.A. Sometime in December, 1937 we were served with an injunction issued by the Federal Court, making us get off of the property. Some of the men didn't want to leave but I urged them to leave. I don't believe there was any bad feeling about this for anyone except Elshoff. This was the last time I was at Mine B and this was the last thing I had to do with the entire affair. I voted in the NLRB election at the Armory in December, 1937 and the election was quiet, with no trouble. Everyone voted as they felt and P.M.A. won the election. I went directly from my home to the polling place and voted. At this time I made up my mind to leave the mines and not go back unless it was to manage a mine of my own.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

"X

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed)
[redacted] (signed)
"Special Agents, F.B.I.,
U. S. Dep't. of Justice"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 12, 1943. It was noted that [redacted] is not an illiterate person and he seemed to give the impression that he did not care at all for any union but had to belong to them to work and as noted in the statement he dislikes both unions. He would make a rather impressive witness. He advised that he had never been arrested in his life. [redacted] executed the following signed statement but declined to sign it.

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 12, 1943.

"I, [redacted] give the following information to [redacted] & [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No promises or threats have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted]. I first joined U.M.W. in [redacted] in Ill. I started at Mine B about 10 or 11 years ago & I still am a [redacted] there. I joined P.M.A. at Mine B when I started. I never have held any union office. I never cared for P.M.A. or U.M.W. as they never did me any good. P.M.A. first attempted to stop me from working there. I couldn't say if there was difficulties at Mine B between P.M.A. & management before it closed. No one ever said a thing to me about going back to U.M.W. I always worked on top in the shop from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. I never attended one P.M.A. meeting. I never liked the P.M.A. officials as they would not give me a card but the P.M.A. executive officials handed down a decision they had to give me a card so naturally I never liked them. Regarding the men sent to jail for the bombing I don't know a thing of it as I never associated with the miners. Before Mine B closed P.M.A. dues were about __same as other unions. That P.M.A. union was about ___ same as any other union as you never get any benefits from them but just pay into them. U.M.W. never picketed Mine B as far as I know before it closed or give out literature. I never heard of any parties Elshoff gave for U.M.W. or they gave for Elshoff. Before Mine B closed in 1937 we worked without a contract as it always was that way each year. I heard Elshoff was an independent operator but he did what others did and it was same again as before to work without a contract. I heard that the men were not pleased because a contract formed for others had allowed an increase but Mine B contract wasn't signed yet. I also heard the back pay was to be retroactive. Before Mine B closed I don't recall of any stoppages or sit down strikes. I never heard any PMA officials say anything about the contracts to me. I did not attend the meeting before Mine B closed as I never went to any. I worked day Mine B closed & I did not know it was going to strike. I came all of a sudden to me. I was in the wash-house & the men came in at 2:15 P.M. & said mine was on strike. They said it was because of the back-pay &

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

because they had no contract. Some time later on I heard too about the men being expelled. I don't care to say which was the real reason of the strike as it would just be my opinion as I really don't know the real reason. On day it closed practically all the cars came up with short loads & I don't know why it was done then. In __ summer of 1937 & later I worked on the W.P.A. for 8 months & around town. I never signed any petition for P.M.A. & U.M.W. as both of them knew I didn't like either of them at all. I have been shown an affidavit dated 8-25-37 & I recognize my signature on it but I never read it then but just signed it & I never heard [redacted] tell me to go to a U.M.W. meeting. That affidavit is not true as I never heard that man say it. I was not forced to sign it. [redacted] asked me to sign it & I just signed it to get away from him & to get on to work. I never heard of U.M.W. forming a local in Springfield & no one bothered me about the strike during the summer of 1937. I was at ___ sit-down strike one night but I was not there on ___ first day. I was asked several times to go out but I never was threatened or beaten up if I wouldn't go out. While there it was quiet & peaceful & there was no trouble out there. I don't know half of ___ men so don't know if outsiders were there or not and I was not there when the U. S. Marshall came out. Between then & 11-5-39 I had not been out to Mine B at all & I heard they tried to reopen it but I never went out as I felt they would not re-open. I voted in N.L.R.B. election in Sprin field, Ill. It looked like an honest election to me & I voted __ way I felt & no one forced me to vote. In Nov. 1939 I received a letter on Sat. to report to work & I went out to work on Sun. It was an open shop & I did not pay dues to either union. I saw quite a few new men around but I don't know if they were P.M.A. or U.M.W. men. Nothing was said to me about what wages I was to receive & after being out for several years I just wanted to work. I never heard of attempts to join either U.M.W. or P.M.A. after Mine B reopened. In the summer of 1940 I did not sign __ card for either P.M.A. or U.M.W. I never saw any men get beat up but I heard of it. P.M.A. did not ask me why I didn't pay dues to them. I voted at ___ next N.L.R.B. election & it looked about the same to me & I voted just the opposite from before. No one forced me to vote & it was by secret ballot. When I first went to work in Nov. 1939 I never went down into the mine. I started on Sunday & coal started to come out Tues. They were taking care of Mine B while it was closed & I don't think it was in such bad shape. I never heard of any fire at Mine B when it was closed down. I did not attend any U.M.W. meeting in my life. I joined U.M.W. as it looked like that was the only solution__ Otherwise it might be closed down again & that was my opinion. I never was bothered at all & it didn't matter to me which union was there & I always felt it would have been better to have had no union at all there.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read this (5) five page statement to me & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge and as I gave it to Agents [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted]

(Continued) [redacted] stated he would sign the statement if it was necessary, otherwise he preferred not to sign. He was advised that the matter was entirely up to his discretion. He stated that in such case he would not sign but that it was all true & correct and as he had told it to agents.

[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI (Milw.)
[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI
St. Paul, Minn.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. He was very cooperative and besides furnishing agents with a signed statement submitted a copy of a notice to Local #54, showing the misstatement by ELSHOFF concerning the temporary agreement signed April 2, 1937; also, a copy of a mimeographed letter dated May 25, 1937 and addressed to employees of Mine "B" and signed by ELSHOFF. These papers are being retained in the files of the Springfield Field Division.

[redacted] was born [redacted] and is a naturalized citizen. It is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to speak English very well [redacted] He has no known criminal record.

The following is the signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 8, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing that it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted] I came to United States in July [redacted] I became a naturalized citizen of U. S. [redacted] at Springfield, Ill.

"I began working in the coal mines in [redacted] and in [redacted] I began working in the mines [redacted] at which time I joined United Mine Workers union. I began working at Mine "B" in [redacted]

"Before Progressives was formed there was no trouble at Mine "B" that I know of. I was never an officer of any union. I joined P.M.A. in 1932 because the majority of the men changed from U.M.W. because the ballots were stolen at a U.M.W. election.

"As far as I recall the mine worked OK and there was no trouble with the officials and the union after P.M.A. was formed until the strike in 1937.

"I attended most of the P.M.A. meetings. Before the strike in 1937, I knew of several men who were spying at the mine for Falsetti.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

They put me on their 'black list'. These men were Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale, Andy Schrelevicus, Tony Plotch, Geo. Jacaway, Chas. Bohannon, [redacted]

"The day of the strike there were several cars loaded short but I loaded mine full because I did not know about them being loaded short until I came out on top.

"I think I signed a petition shortly after the strike for P.M.A.

"I remember P.M.A. had a meeting in Washington Park to see what we were going to do about working in the mine but I don't recall the day. I was on picket duty at the mine for about 2 months and was present when an injunction was served against us.

"After the picketing I [redacted] worked on W.P.A.

"I recall voting in a government election at the Arsenal in which P.M.A. won by 404 to 25.

"I went back to work at Mine "B" in Nov. 1939 as a P.M.A. member. I had received a letter telling me the mine would reopen and later a man came to my house to tell me to come to work. After I went back to work Charles Bohannon and one other person whose name I can't recall came to me in the mine and told me that P.M.A. was going down and that I should join U.M.W. I told them that I would wait until everyone changed before I would join U.M.W.

"I went to [redacted] and because I saw two men point me out one morning and I knew they intended to beat me up. [redacted] when the second election was held and did not vote in it. When I came back they wouldn't give me my job.

"I haven't worked in the mine since [redacted]

"I have had this three page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I, /S/
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I." /S/

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with [redacted] Springfield, Ill., was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He appeared cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of pertinent facts in this case and the fact that he never returned to the mine after May 12, 1937. [redacted] denied any criminal record and furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 9, 1943.

"I, [redacted], do make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have made themselves known to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born on [redacted] I am presently residing [redacted], Springfield, Ill. and am no longer working. I first started working at [redacted] about [redacted] or [redacted] joining the United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started at Mine B [redacted] and continued there until the trouble in 1937. Between [redacted] and 1932 the U.M.W.A. got along alright with the Mine B officials.

"The Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed in 1932 because of trouble over a wage cut and the theft of the referendum votes. I took no active part in the formation of the P.M.A. but I joined P.M.A. along with all of my local. As far as unions go the new P.M.A. was about the same as the U.M.W.A. as for officers, and settlement of grievances, however, there was more special assessments under P.M.A. I never attended very many P.M.A. meetings as I wasn't in a habit of going to any union meetings. Between [redacted] and during that period I attended nearly all of the meetings.

"The new Progressive union seemed to get along harmoniously with the Mine B officials. Between 1932 and 1937 the P.M.A. and Mine B officials got along fine.

"The trouble in May of 1937 started over an argument about a new contract. I recall some argument over a temporary contract concerning retroactive wages from April 1. On about April 3 or 4 I heard a rumor at the mine that there were five or six men at the mine who were U.M.W.A. organizers. These men were PETE CARTER, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, CHARLES BOHANNAN, FRANK AUSTIN and one or two others. Some time later I heard at the mines that these men had been suspended for 99 years. ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS told me personally that he had been suspended. The P.M.A. then tried to get Mr. ELSHOFF to fire these suspended men, he refused, and the men went out on strike. I'm not sure whether

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with [redacted]
(continued)

[redacted] called the strike or whether Mr. ELSHOFF locked the men out. I remember on the day of the strike when the men were going down they were whispering about loading coal short. I loaded some coal short myself. I think that the main reason for the strike was the argument over the wage contract. I was never approached by any of the U.M.W.A. organizers, nor did I ever see them approach anyone. I came up out of the mine about 2 P.M. on May 12, 1937 and went on home. I went back to Mine B on May 27, 1937 to get my check. We never did get the retroactive wage back to April 1st.

"From May 27, 1937 I never went to the mine again until they reopened in Nov. of 1939, on this latter date I went out to the mine and looked the situation over and didn't like it so I quit for good. It was "open shop" and I heard that there were two committees, two check weighmen, and feeling against the opposite sides so I quit.

"I do recall signing two petitions for the Progressives and voting in one N.L.R.B. election. This election seemed fair and square to me and the Progressives won out practically unanimous.

"Once I quit at Mine B no one from either union ever came to see me and tried to get me to sign up or pay dues. Since 1939 I haven't been working.

"Because of JOHN L. LEWIS' attitude since the last Presidential election and his actions in the war crisis I would choose the Progressive Union at this time.

"I have read the above statement consisting of three and one quarter pages. The same is true and correct and I do hereby sign my name.

(signed) [redacted]

Witnessed:
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] and advised he is presently unemployed. He speaks and understands English well and would make a satisfactory witness. He advised he has never been arrested. His telephone number is [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 16, 1943

"I, [redacted], also known as [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force, or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] I am presently unemployed. I started working in coal mines [redacted] and I joined the United Mine Workers of America Union in [redacted] I started working at Mine 'B', Springfield, in about [redacted] In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America because I did not like the actions of U.M.W. They stole ballots and faced a reduction in wage scale on us. No one in any way faced me to join P.M.A.

"Between 1932 and Spring of 1937 I was satisfied with the P.M.A. union. I thought it was an honest union being operated for its members, and I thought the officials were honest. I noticed no unusual assessments. During this time I never noticed any clos-downs, strikes or picket lines. I noticed no attempts made by U.M.W. to organize in any way at Mine 'B'. The company at no time indicated they wanted the men to change to U.M.W.

"I remember that about May of 1937 the P.M.A. expelled FRANK AUSTIN, JOE ALBANESE, BOWLING GREEN BOHANNAN, PETE CARTER, BILL SURTOCK, EMORY JACAWAY, JAMES HALE, TONY PLOTCH, COTTON ANNANIAS and ANDY SCHRELIVIOUS were the men expelled. They were expelled because they were trying to turn our P.M.A. local over to U.M.W. Some of these men I believe were expelled at a P.M.A. meeting May 11, 1937. But I donot remember how many. I believe the others were expelled before that. I attended this meeting May 11, 1937 but I cannot remember what went on.

"I know there was a wage scale trouble between the company and P.M.A. about this time. On May 12, 1937 I went to work as usual as a digger. About 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon we were pulled out of the mines by our local P.M.A. officials. I thought the reason was because of this wage scale trouble, and after I got up on top, I also heard a reason was because the company refused to fire these men who had been expelled from P.M.A. I do not know which of

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

these was the reason for the strike. When I came out of the Mine 'B' on May 12, 1937, I changed clothes and went home. On May 12, 1937, I loaded my cars short. No one told me to load short, but I saw the other men loading short and so I did also.

"I went back to Mine 'B' on May 13, 1937, but none of the men were working and I went back home. After May 13, 1937 I only went back to Mine 'B' after a picket line had been formed there by P.M.A. I heard about it being formed, and I went out there the day after they started, in about Sept. 1937. I was in the picket line for 51 days. This reason we had this picket line was to protect our jobs so the company would not try to put U.M.W. men in Mine 'B'. The day this picket line was formed about six U.M.W. men tried to go down, and that was the reason the picket line was formed. I voluntarily went in the picket line and was free to come and go as I wanted to. No one in any way forced me to be in this picket line.

"About 55 days after this picket line was formed, the U.S. Marshal came out and served notice of a Federal injunction and told us we would have to get out. I was not surprised because we felt something like that would come, but I was disappointed when it came late at night and I had to get out of bed. After that, and until Nov. 7, 1939, I never went back to Mine 'B' and I was never notified to come to work there.

"I do not remember signing any petition during the summer of 1937. I may have signed a P.M.A. petition, because if I had been asked to I would have. I am certain I did not sign a U.M.W. petition, because if I had been asked to I would have refused. I remember hearing that a U.M.W. local had been formed in Springfield during the summer of 1937, but I was not asked to join it.

"I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Board election in about Dec. of 1937 when P.M.A. beat U.M.W. I was not forced or threatened in any way to vote in this election and I thought it was an honest election.

"In about November of 1939 I received a letter from the company telling that Mine 'B' was going to re-open and I was to come back within ten days to get my job back. At the end of the ten days I went to work at Mine 'B' as a member of P.M.A. and got my same room back. They had been fixing up the mine for about ten days, and I did not notice there had been any cave-ins by fires.

"Between Nov. of 1939 and Feb. of 1941 no one ever attempted in any way to get me to join U.M.W. I was not forced or threatened in any way during this time. During this time however, I noticed the U.M.W. tried to organize the men at Mine 'B'. These men were those who had been expelled from P.M.A. and also sluggers who had been imported. I knew that [redacted] were organizing for U.M.W. at Mine 'B'. I heard

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

there were many fights and that men were being beat by U.M.W. men, but I saw none of this. The only thing I saw was one time [redacted] was in the wash house changing clothes and I saw him run out in his bare feet and underwear (it was a cold day and sleety) and I heard [redacted] threatening [redacted] to beat him up. I did not see anyone get cut.

"I remember voting in another N.L.R.B. election in about Feb. of 1941. No one threatened or forced me in any way and I thought the election was fair. I voted for P.M.A, but U.M.W. won.

"The U.M.W. then set a date which I think was March 15, 1941, that anyone who did not join U.M.W. on that day could not work in the Mine 'B'. The U.M.W. men told us this, and no one from the company ever told us. On the last day [redacted] came to my room with some slips and told me it was the last day to sign for U.M.W. and if I wanted to keep my job at the Mine 'B' I would have to join U.M.W. I did not want to join U.M.W., but [redacted] I also did not want to lose my job, so I signed up with U.M.W. I would have preferred to stay P.M.A.

"I worked at Mine 'B' from then until July of 1941 under U.M.W. I did not like it at Mine 'B' under U.M.W. because the U.M.W. men would inconvenience me at every opportunity and steal tools.

"In March of 1941, shortly after I joined U.M.W., I received a letter with JOHN L. LEWIS' signature, saying I had been disloyal to U.M.W. and they were sending a Special Investigator from Kentucky to investigate my case. I never knew of any investigating. On about July 12, 1941, the Sup't. of Mine 'B' got a letter from U.M.W. Dist. Hdqtrs., telling the company to discharge me and two other men, one whose name was [redacted] and the other an Italian whose name I do not know.

"The Company fired me, and I have not worked since that time. I know of no reason why the U.M.W. said I was disloyal.

[redacted] I have never held an office in any union at any time other than this.

"This statement of six pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

WITNESSES: (signed) [redacted]
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Ill., was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. He was cooperative but it is not believed he will make a good witness inasmuch as he has difficulty speaking and understanding English. He is a naturalized U. S. Citizen with [redacted] birth. He has no known criminal record and he supplied the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 12, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] I came to America in [redacted] I became a naturalized citizen of U. S. by reason of my father obtaining his citizenship in U. S. I served in the U. S. Army during World War #1.

"I began working in coal mines when I was [redacted] yrs. old and at Dawson, Ill. I joined U.M.W. at that time. I started working at Mine "B" about [redacted] or [redacted]. I know of no trouble at Mine "B" until PMA. was formed in 1932. I changed from U.M.W. to P.M.A. in 1932 because the whole local to which I belonged changed to P.M.A. and P.M.A. had the contract with Mine "B". P.M.A. seemed to get along as well at Mine "B" as U.M.W. did and there was no trouble up until the time of the strike in 1937. There was very little difference in U.M.W. and P.M.A. that I could see during that time.

"Im spring of 1937 I remember the mine went on strike and I was driving entry. The men all walked out because P.M.A. and Elshoff could not agree on the wage scale and because Elshoff and Falsetti refused to fire some men who had been expelled from P.M.A. but I don't know why they were expelled. I did not attend any meetings when they were expelled.

"I signed a petition for P.M.A. shortly after the mine shut down to show that P.M.A. had a majority of the workers at the mine.

"About a week after the mine "B" shut down I got a job at Old West mine and worked there until Mine "B" reopened. I got a transfer to the P.M.A. local at Old West at that time. I did not picket at Mine "B" because I was working at Old West.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Dec. 1937 which P.M.A. won by a large majority. This was a fair and square election as far as I know.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"When Mine "B" opened up in 1939, Old West Mine was not working and when I got a letter from Elshoff telling me that Mine "B" would open and that I could belong to either P.M.A. or U.M.W. I went back to work as P.M.A. After I started back to work at Mine "B", Joe Albanese, Andrew Skrelevicus, Pete Carter, Dominic Pasquale, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George & Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and Jim Hale were attempting to organize for U.M.W. at Mine "B". Tony Plotch and Joe Albanese came to my house and tried get me to join U.M.W. I said I was satisfied with P.M.A. and intended to stay as long as I could. Tony Plotch told me if I didn't join U.M.W., Elshoff might close the mine down altogether. A few days later they came back and told me I better join U.M.W. while I could and I wouldn't have to pay any initiation fee. I told them "no" and that I was still satisfied with P.M.A.

"After several men got beat up at the mine, I got scared and when Tony Plotch and Joe Albanese came out to my house the third time, I signed up with U.M.W. because I was afraid I would get beat up too. If I hadn't been scared, I would still belong to P.M.A. After I signed up with U.M.W. I worked about eight months and quit because they were putting two men in a room and I had a bad room and couldn't make any money. I voted in the second N.L.R.B. election which U.M.W. won by a pretty close majority. The reason that U.M.W. won this election was because they had hired a lot of men from out of the state and in other parts of the state who were U.M.W.

"After I quit at Mine "B", I was out of work for about a year and then I went back to Mine "B" and worked for two or three months. I quit again because I had a bad room and couldn't make any money. I had to pay a new initiation fee when I went back.

"I have not been at Mine "B" since and am now working at Old West Mine.

"If I had my free choice of a union I would choose P.M.A.

"I have had this 3½ page statement read to me by Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:
[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] would not make a good witness inasmuch as all information obtained from him was negative. He has no known criminal record. [redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 12, 1943

"I [redacted] Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily give the following statement to Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind were made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born [redacted]. I first started working in the mines in Kansas about [redacted] joining the United Mine Workers of America at that time. I began at Mine B in 1934 changing over to Progressive Mine Workers of America at that time. So far as I was concerned PMA and the Mine B officials seemed to be getting along alright.

"At the time of the strike in 1937 I was driving entry in Box [redacted] at Mine B, with [redacted] We didn't even know about the strike until we came out on top at quitting time. I don't know what caused the strike and never saw or heard of any trouble at the mine leading up to the strike. I have no knowledge of any UMWA spies or organizers being at the mine before the strike and don't recall any trouble over wages or anything about a temporary wage contract and an argument about retroactive back pay. After the strike occurred I only returned to the mine once and that was to get my pay. I don't recall signing any petitions for any union after the strike and never took part either in the picketing or the set down strike out at Mine B.

"I don't remember voting in the N.L.R.B. election.

"After the strike I started working on my farm and have been so employed ever since, with the exception of a few months in the winter of 1942 when I was employed at Mine A.

"When Mine B opened up again I never went back and I have never been back there since.

"I never attended any PMA union meetings and didn't know very many of the miners. I don't remember or know JOE ALBANESE, ANDREW

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS AT AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEORGE and EMORY JACAWAY, CHARLES BOHANON (BOWLING GREEN) or JAMES HALE.

"I have had agent [redacted] read the above one and three quarters pages of statement to me. The same is true and correct and I do hereby sign my name.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] A preliminary interview was had with [redacted] on Labor Day by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at the Springfield Office. On September 15, 1943 another interview was had with [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois by Special Agent [redacted], at which time a signed statement was obtained from him. [redacted] He is willing to testify as to the facts set out in the statement. At present he is working at [redacted] Illinois, and living at th[redacted] there. However in event his work takes him elsewhere he may be located through the people at his legal residence at [redacted] Springfield.

[redacted] is intelligent, cooperative, and should make a good witness. He has advised that he has never been arrested, and was not connected in any way with the mine bombing case. He was named in the Federal injunction obtained by ELSHOFF in November of 1937, but was never cited for contempt in connection with this injunction. It was noted during the interview that he had some difficulty in establishing the exact dates of some of the conferences with ELSHOFF. [redacted] statement is as follows:

[redacted] Illinois,
September 15, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to Special Agent [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I reside at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, and was born [redacted] I started working in coal mines when I was [redacted] years of age, and continued this occupation until about three years ago. I started working for the Mine B Coal Company, Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] at that time the mine was being run by CARL H. ELSHOFF. At that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America hereafter referred to as the UMWA; however I never held any official position in this union. In the summer and fall of 1932, I joined with the movement which resulted in the organization of the Progressive Mine Workers of America hereafter referred to as the PMWA. I did not take an active part in the organization of the PMWA, but when local number 54 of the PMWA which was formed and which had jurisdiction over the Mine B, Coal Co., I joined it. Local number 54 voted unanimously to go Progressive with

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

one exception--a man by the name of [redacted] voted UMWA. [redacted] During this time ELSHOFF seemed to get along very well with the Progressives; there were grievances of course, but these were settled in the due course of negotiations, without any interruption of work. Most of our dealings were with OSCAR FALCETTI, the superintendant of the Mine.

"One day early in April 1937, TONY PLOTCH came up to me in the wash house at the mine and said 'do you know that we are not going to get any back pay for the time that we have worked from April 1.' I said, 'who told you were not going to get any retroactive pay.' He said that OSCAR FALCETTI the superintendant told him that. I then said we will go over and see that superintendant. I went over with PLOTCH and a bunch of other fellows. I asked FALCETTI if he told PLOTCH that we were not going to get any retroactive pay. FALCETTI said that he did not tell him in those words that he was not going to get it, but told PLOTCH that he did not see how the miners were going to get the back pay under the agreement that ELSHOFF had signed. Then Falcetti showed me the contract, and asked me if I saw anything in the agreement that said the miners were going to get back pay. I said that I did not know anything about that; that it was up to the officials of the Union to decide things like that. After that conference I went with the Pit Committee composed of [redacted] to see [redacted] the board member for our PMA district. [redacted] told us that contract he signed with ELSHOFF was binding and called for retroactive back pay. Arrangements were made for [redacted] to come out and talk to the men the next morning. [redacted] came out to the mine the next morning and told the men that they were going to get retroactive pay, and that ELSHOFF would have to live up to his contract. On this morning FALCETTI and the bosses refused to let the men go down into the mine saying that it was too late to go to work. The time to begin work work was 8 AM, and the time that the bosses refused to let us work was before 8 o'clock. On the following day [redacted] came out and saw to it was the men went down into the mine to operate. After I had worked a while this day I received word that I and the Pit Committe were wanted on top. We went up and found a group of men, TONY PLOTCH, ANDY SKRELEVIEUS, JOE ALBANESE, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, and a few other people. On this day these men who were later tried and found to be active the UMWA, again stated that we were not going to get any retroactive pay, and this time they had yellow pieces of paper which they had to support their story which they said they got from the coal company. I again went to FALCETTI'S office with these men. Falcetti continued to say that he did not tell

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

them they were not going to get retroactive pay, but again produced the contract and asked if any provisions could be found in it regarding retroactive pay. These fellows were trying to strike the mine. From then on until the strike on May 12, 1937, these men did not work much. They would hang around the top of the mine trying to talk to any one who would listen to them, and some days they did not even go down.

"Later in April or the first of May 1937, we expelled five of these men who were trying to strike the mine; they were FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, ANDREW SKRELEVEVEIUS, JOE ALBANESE, and PETE CARTER. At this time we were working under a closed shop contract with Mine B which provided that no one except those who belong to the PMA could work at the mine. On the morning of May 12, 1937, after these men had been expelled from the union, I and and the Pit Committee went to OSCAR FALCETTI and stated that these men were no longer progressive miners, and under the contract were no longer entitled to work at Mine B. FALCETTI said [redacted] according to the labor board or the Wagner act, I cannot stop those men from going to work. If I do I will get in bad.' I said that I did not think that that had anything to do with the closed shop contract. He said that it was not for me to do any thinking about it. He said that he was not going to stop those five men from going to work if they wanted to. I later brought this home to FALCETTI when he had signed a contract with the UMWA and refused to put PMA men to work because he had such a contract. At that time he would not even answer me. I then called [redacted] up and told him what had happened. [redacted] came out and also CARL ELSHOFF. ELSHOFF supported his superintendant FALCETTI relative to putting the men back to work without the five spies. He would not agree with us at all; [redacted] then wanted him to write up the case in accordance with previous procedure, and ELSHOFF refused. He was contending that it would be a violation of the Wagner Act to discharge the five men. He agreed however to see his lawyer and give a definite answer at 2 PM that afternoon. When we met him that afternoon, he started raising cain about the short count of coal coming up out of the mine, and refused to deal with us at all. [redacted] then went out and told the check weighman and engineer that ELSHOFF had refused to negotiate any further with him. The check weighman sent a note down to notify the men as to what had happened. The men came out of the mine.

"After this there was some picketing at the mine for a period of about three weeks. It was during this time that a petition was circulated among the employees of the mine to see if they wanted to be represented by PMA. Approximately 412 men signed the petition out of a possible 450 or 460. The next time that I recall

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

seeing ELSHOFF was around the 23, 24 or 25th of May 1937, when I went down with the others to get my pay check. At this time ELSHOFF was also handing out hand bills which purported to see out the contractual agreement with the PMA, but left out an important part of that agreement. Around the middle of July 1937 I, [redacted] and the pit committee went to see ELSHOFF. We took the petition which had been signed by the men. I told ELSHOFF that I had a petition which had been signed by the employees of that mine stating that they desired to be represented by the PMA as a collective bargaining agency. ELSHOFF said that he did not doubt our word that all the signatures were legitimate. FALCETTI took it, looked at the pages, and said that some of the names on the petition were on UMWA cards. ELSHOFF asked if he could keep the petition for a few days. I said that would be all right if he gave me a receipt for it. He and FALCETTI went out of the room for a few minutes and then came back with a letter typed out acknowledging the receipt of the petition but not the authenticity of the signatures. [redacted] spoke to ELSHOFF about a contract, but ELSHOFF would not signed any.

"I also recall a meeting with ELSHOFF early in June 1937 at which time [redacted] and [redacted] represented the PMA and ELSHOFF, FALCETTI [redacted] for the Company. We told him that there was no strike and that we were ready to go to work at any time. ELSHOFF contended that we were striking. I also recall that [redacted] told ELSHOFF that the case of the five men could be taken up before the labor board, and if the board decided against the PMA, the Union would stand any expense for back salary and the like for which the company might be liable for discharging the five men. During all this time ELSHOFF and FALCETTI did not seem to be particularly disturbed over the fact that the mine was not working; in fact they seemed to be pleased. We tried time and time again to meet with them but ELSHOFF would be out of town, or he could not be located. After this meeting in June I was out of the mine and saw some of the top bosses taking the mules out of the mine. I told FALCETTI that the work belong to our men, but he said that it did not amount to much.

"Sometime between June 1 and September 27, 1937, [redacted] and I went into [redacted] OSCAR FALCETTI, [redacted] and others were there. I went back to the wash room, and OSCAR FALCETTI followed me back there, saying that I had better get on the band wagon, that the mine was going UMWA. I told FALCETTI that the men had elected me and that I was going to stick with them in the progressives.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

I went back and got [redacted] and said 'Let's get out of here.

"Early in August 1937, I went out to the mine with [redacted] and [redacted] to talk to ELSHOFF about signing a contract. [redacted] was the spokesman. ELSHOFF refused to sign a contract, and said that if he decided to sign a contract he would get in touch with us. We, later in August, went back to get the petition that had been given to ELSHOFF in July 1937. [redacted] again talked to ELSHOFF about signing contract, but he again refused. He said that when he signed a contract it would be with a union, but did not say what union.

"In the early part of September 1937 I went to Chicago, Illinois with [redacted] to see Mr. L. C. BAJORK of the NLRB. We met [redacted] state president there, RAY EDMUNDSON represented the UMWA at this meeting; we were asking for an election at Mine B to determine who the men wanted to represent them, PMWA or UMWA. EDMUNDSON did not want an election, saying that he had a contract and would put the mine to work. We produced our evidence in the form of petitions and the like, and asked EDMUNDSON to do the same. EDMUNDSON refused to present any evidence to show that the men desired UMWA to represent them, saying that he would do it at the right time.

"Late in September 1937, it was announced in the papers that the mine was going to open and that they would need about 50 men to open the mine. I led about 200 employees, members of PMWA, out to the mine that morning, and approached Falcetti. I asked Falcetti how many men he wanted; he said he needed around 50. I said 'I got them out here in all classifications.' Falcetti said that he was not going to put any body to work but United Mine Workers. I reminded him about his previous contention about the labor board when we wanted him to put the mine back to work without the men who had been expelled from PMWA in May 37. Falcetti said that it was different now. Falcetti said 'how do I know that all the men out there are all progressive; there may be some United Mine Workers among them.' I said 'I will prove that to you Oscar' and then I called men through the office and asked them who they wanted to work under. They all said progressive. Falcetti then wanted to stop this procession, and I said that I was doing this to prove to him that the men wanted to work at PMWA; he said all right, let them come on through. He refused to let any of them work however unless he was a United Mine Worker. About 10 or 12 men went down into the mine that day. Later FALCETTI came out and asked me to clear the way; that he wanted to put some men to work. I said ' all right bring them on out, no one will bother them.' He took the twelve men who had been expelled down to work.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"On the next morning, I again went out with them, and told him that we were ready to go to work. The twelve men were there but no attempt was made to put them to work. From that time on until we were enjoined in Federal Court late in November 1937 we stayed out there at the mine night and day to protect our jobs. It was rumored about this time that UMWA was going to bring some strike breakers to put the mine to work.

"Early in October 1937, I with [redacted] and the Pit Committee had a meeting with Elshoff relative to putting the mine back to work. This was during the time when negotiations were being carried on to put the mine to work for a certain number of days, and then hold an election. We felt that some progress was made on this date, but nothing ever came of it.

"I was [redacted] at the time of the election. I voted however [redacted] This was around the middle of December 1937.

"We won the election, and were certified on January 4, 1937. The mine tried to open on this morning. I went out with [redacted] and others. The United States Marshal [redacted] would not let [redacted] go on down to the mine. I went on down I went in with the pit committee to see FALCETTI, saying that we had the men to go to work and that we had been recognized by the NLRB as the bargaining union. FALCETTI said that he was not recognizing any one but United Mine Workers. Then CHARLES BOHANNON, and said 'By God I am president of local 7469 UMWA.' and I said [redacted] FALCETTI said let's not have any argument. I said 'There isn't going to be any argument. OSCAR, do you refuse to recognize my men and let them go to work here?' He said 'Yes, [redacted] I am not recognizing anyone but United Mine Workers.' Among those present that morning were the expelled men, [redacted] I said 'Well I guess that is about all that I can do.' I got in the car and left. The mine shut down and did not operate any more until November of 1939.

"About the middle of March 1938, I with [redacted] and [redacted] went out to the mine to see ELSHOFF. We had heard that the mine was working. ELSHOFF met us and said 'What are you doing out here; don't you know there's an injunction against you.' I said 'not when you come out on business.' ELSHOFF said ' you have not got any business out here with me.' I said no, but I have some with your superintendant. I asked FALCETTI who had loaded the props on the cars, stating that if there was any work at the mine we were entitled to it under the NLRB ruling. FALCETTI said that was right, but that the top

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

bosses had loaded the props. We notified [redacted] of the result of our talks with FALCETTI.

"I do not recall any other meetings with officials of the mine after that date. [redacted] but I left before my term expired, taking my card out of the local, and getting a job elsewhere.

"I have read this statement which consists of 9 pages and to the best of my memory it is true.

"Signed [redacted]

"Witnessed

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 5, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is native born and speaks very good English. However, he stated that he does not want to testify in court because he does not want to get into trouble. He said that were it not for the war and his feeling that he has a patriotic duty to work in a mine, he would be living in a home for World War Veterans. Throughout the interview [redacted] was quite nervous. He said that on several occasions he has been in jail because of [redacted]

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"September 5, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I am presently living at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine B. I was born [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois, and remained a member until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, at Mine B, where I had been employed since [redacted] I have never held an office in any union. In 1932, John L. Lewis agreed to a wage cut for the miners, 10% at first, later 50%. The men became dissatisfied, and started the P.M.A. I felt as the rest of the miners did, and joined the P.M.A. voluntarily. From 1932 until 1937, there were no strikes at the mine, no trouble of any kind with the management, and the men seemed to be satisfied with the way the P.M.A. was being run. I didn't go to very many P.M.A. meetings, but I never heard of any trouble between the officers and members of the union. As far as I know, the men were free to get up at the meetings and speak their mind, and there were no railroading methods used to try to get the men to do what the officers of P.M.A. wanted them to do. During the period from 1932 until 1937, I don't remember anything happening which would show favoritism for U.M.W. on the part of the management.

"I heard that some men at Mine B were trying to pull P.M.A. men over to U.M.W. before the strike. None of these men talked to me, and I know they talked to others. I heard that there were 27 men doing this, some of them being an Italian called Sammy, a Cotton, Bohannon, Hale, Plotch, Carter, Austin, the Sirtout boy, and one of the Jacaways. I would see them

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

talking with men around the mine, and knew they were trying to get men for the U. M. W., but I never heard what they were saying, and, as I said, none of them ever contacted me, because they knew that I would do what ever the majority of the men would do. I was satisfied with the P.M.A., the men were treated squarely by the officers, and the officers were trying to do their best for the miners.

"I didn't go to the P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike, don't know what went on at the meeting, and had no advance notice of the strike. I first heard of the strike in the wash house on the day of the strike. I heard that the strike was called because Elshoff refused to fire the twenty seven men who had been trying to pull men away from the P.M.A. into the U.M.W. The P.M.A. wanted him to fire the men, and he refused. The wage scale dispute had nothing to do with the strike. I went back home that day, and stayed home the next day.

"A little bit after the strike started, two P.M.A. men, [redacted] came to my house, and asked me which union I wanted. I was satisfied with P.M.A., and signed a paper they had with them That summer I heard that a U.M.W. local had been organized, but no one tried to get me to join it.

"I don't remember getting any notice of the mine opening up in September of 1937. I heard about the picket line, and went out voluntarily. I heard that the reason for the picketing was that the mine tried to reopen with U.M.W. men. I was on the picket line for some time and fired the boilers to keep the wash house warm. Nobody told me to fire the boilers but I did it to have something to do. I think that the federal injunction was gotten so the P.M.A. men would have to get out, and U.M.W. men could get into the mine. I have no facts to back this up.

"I don't remember any attempts to open the mine in December 1937, or January, 1938. In December of 1937 there was a union election. I got word of it from a P.M.A. man, and saw a notice of it in the paper. There was no pressure put on me to vote a certain way. I voted for P.M.A. because I knew it was the majority, and was satisfied with it.

"From the fall of 1937 until the mine opened in 1939, I worked on W.P.A., and had no interest in Mine B or the unions. No one saw me during this time about either union. In the fall of 1939 I got a notice through the mail about the mine opening, and telling me when to report back to work. I went back some time after the mine opened, as it was in pretty bad shape when it opened. I was still a member of the P.M.A. when I went back to work. I changed over to the U.M.W. just before the election in 1941. I could see that they were going to get the majority, and signed to keep them off my shoulders. I didn't have any preference either way. Jimmy Hale

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] came up to me while I was working, asked me if I didn't want to sign up, and I did. I didn't want to have any trouble, and I had seen one fellow, [redacted], after he was supposed to have been beaten up over union trouble.
(continued)

"In February of 1941, at the election, I voted for the U.M.W., because I felt the majority of the men went U.M.W. Many of the old P.M.A. men were gone, and the U.M.W. had pushed a lot of new men in. Sometime after the mine reopened, I saw [redacted] give some checks, yellow ones, the same color as those used by Elshoff to [redacted] and two others, whose names I don't know. I believe these checks were given on a regular mine pay day, but I don't know what they were for. It might have been that he had just picked up their checks for them, and was giving them to the men. I had an idea that some of the men were being paid for their authorities, but I don't have anything to back it up.

"During the picketing, at first, Elshoff would let P.M.A. go to the bottom of the shaft for coal to heat the boilers, but after a short time he stopped that, and the men brought their own coal.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of approximately five pages, read to me, and state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ "[redacted]

"Witnesses:

[redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] of [redacted] Illinois, was [redacted] interviewed at [redacted] where he is employed [redacted] Department, on September 11, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was bor[redacted] came to the United States in [redacted] and became a U. S. citizen in [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois. He speaks and understands English well and would make a satisfactory witness for what information he can furnish. He advised he has no criminal record.

[redacted] gave the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 11, 1943

"I, [redacted] of [redacted] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a U. S. Citizen in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted]

"I first started working in mines in the U. S. in [redacted] Ill. I was then a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union. I started working in the Mine "B" in about [redacted] In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union because I did not like the activities of John L. Lewis, especially when he refused to abide by the referrendum vote. No one in any way forced or threatened me to join PMA. I took no active part in the organizing of PMA and I have never held an office in any union.

"During the time from 1932 to May of 1937 I never noticed any strikes or close downs due to labor trouble at Mine "B". I noticed no attempts by any company officials to discredit the PMA or in any way show favor to either PMA or UMW. No effort was made to get me to join UMW. During this time between 1932 and May 1937 I thought the PMA was a good and honest union. I thought the PMA officials were honest and I noticed no special assessments of an unusual nature. There were no efforts by PMA to keep the men in line because they all seemed satisfied. I remember reading of some bombing cases during this time but I knew nothing about them, therefore I cannot say whether or not the trial's were fair.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"During this same time I never noticed any attempts by UMW to organize at Mine "B". I never saw any UMW picket lines and I never saw any UMW literature.

"I never heard anything about any UMW spies in PMA. I did not attend a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the night before the strike.

"On May 12, 1937, I went to work as usual as a digger. In the early afternoon the driver told us we were to come out. I did not know why we were called out but I heard later that the President of our PMA local called us out because the company refused to fire some men who had organized a UMW local. These men were: Joe Albanese, Andy Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, a Jacaway, Bowling green Bohannon and Jim Hale. I went right home on May 12, 1937 and came back to work the next day, but we never went down into the mine and I heard we would not until these men were either fired or went back to PMA. I heard there was also some retroactive wage trouble at this time, but I did not think that was the reason for the strike.

"At no time after May 12, 1937 was I ever notified to come to work at Mine "B" until in Nov. of 1939. I know there was a picket line at Mine "B" by PMA in about Sept. of 1937, but I was not out there the day it started, and I was in it only about two days.

"During the summer of 1937 I remember I signed either two or three PMA petitions. I never signed any UMW petition. I never attended many union meetings because I lived so far away, and I do not remember attending any meetings while the Mine "B" was closed.

"In Nov. of 1939, I got notice from the Company that the Mine "B" was going to reopen, and so I went back to work there. I got my old room back. I was still a member of PMA and nothing was said to me about unions.

"From the time I went back to work in Nov. of 1939 until I joined UMW after Feb. of 1941, no one at any time ever tried to get me to join UMW in any way. I was never forced or threatened in any way and I did not see any organizing going on out there. I heard [redacted] and [redacted] were organizing, but I never saw them organizing.

"I never saw any fights but one, when [redacted] and [redacted] fought one day. But I do not know why they were fighting. I heard some men were beat up but I never saw any of this.

"I voted in a National Labor Relations Board Election in about Dec. of 1937 when PMA beat UMW. I thought it was a fair election and no one forced or threatened me in any way. I also voted in the NLRB election in about Feb. of 1941 when UMW won. I was not forced or threatened in any

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

way and I thought it was a fair election. I voted PMA at that time, but when I saw after the election that UMW had the majority, I joined the UMW. I had no trouble at all.

"When the Mine "B" re-opened in 1939 I did not notice that there had been any fires, but I did notice there had been many cave ins. In fact the section known as the 'Main South' had all caved in.

"I prefer PMA over UMW, but I believe in majority rule and that was the reason I went UMW.

"This statement of four pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"WITNESS.

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. (signed)
[redacted] Special Agent F.B.I." (signed)

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 12, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] cannot speak or understand English, and speaks his native tongue poorly. He said he was never arrested. [redacted] had to act as interpreter during the interview. [redacted] executed the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 12, 1943.

"I, [redacted], make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [redacted], Springfield, Ill. [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and have not yet been naturalized.

"I don't remember when I first joined the United Mine Workers. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I started to work at Mine B about [redacted] I don't remember when I rejoined the U.M.W. at Mine B.

"I quit working at Mine B because some persons, unknown to me, stole my tools and powder so often that I had to quit. I couldn't make a living at Mine B. Also, I would load my cars and would send it to be weighed, but I would never get credit for some of these cars. I think that some one was stealing my checks off my cars, and then put a different check on the car. I don't know who was doing this to me. I wasn't making any money at Mine B so I had to quit.

"Several times some men whose names I don't know told me that I would get beaten up if I did not join U.M.W. They also said that if I didn't join U.M.W., I would lose my job. I signed up with U.M.W. after Mine B reopened only because of these threats.

"After the U.M.A. obtained the right to bargain for the miners at Mine B in 1941, my cars would weigh the same, but I would not get credit for all the cars I loaded.

"I liked the P.M.A. better than U.M.W. because P.M.A. never cheated me, and always treated me better than U.M.W.

"At present I am employed in the Old West Mine, and am a member of P.M.A. there.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(Continued)

"This statement consising of this and one other hand-written pages has been explained to me by [redacted] and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was cooperative, but it is not believed he would make a good witness inasmuch as he has only a very limited knowledge of the Mine B situation. [redacted] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 17, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily give the following statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] No threats or promises of any kind were made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] I first started working in the mines about [redacted] joing up with UMWA about [redacted] as best I can remember. I began to work at Mine B about [redacted] and quit May 12, 1937. I am presently unemployed.

"The trouble in 1932 and the start of the Progressive Union was caused by John L. Lewis trying to lower our wages and dictate to us. I am still a Progressive, and have been since it started. The PMA union was fine and dandy and got along swell at Mine B until the trouble in 1937.

"I don't know what caused the strike at Mine B on May 12, 1937 but do recall that we didn't load full cars that day.

"I remember signing a PMA petition at PMA Hall showing that I favored PMA shortly after the strike.

"I don't know what started the picketing and Sit Down strike out at Mine B but I was there most of the time and was there when we were put off by injunction.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election which PMA won 404-25.

"While the mine was on strike I was on WPA, and was working there when I got a letter to come back to work. However I had the flu and wasn't able to go back to work. As soon as I was able I went to Mine B but Mr. Falcetti said that there wasn't any job for me. I tried again to get my job back two or three weeks later but Mr. Falcetti told me 'nothing doing' - and I have never been back since.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]. (Continued)

"I'm a Progressive and like it because it is a rank and file organization and I don't like a dictator like John L. Lewis.

"I have had the above statement consisting of 1½ pages read to me by Agent [redacted] The same is true and correct.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] was cooperative and might make a good witness as to the dismissal of the alleged spies inasmuch as he was a trial board member at that time. His scope as a witness is limited, however, since he never returned to Mine B after May 12, 1937. [redacted] denied any criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 9, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily give the following statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] I first started working in the mines in [redacted] and joined the United Mine Workers of America in [redacted]. I began out at Mine B about [redacted] From that date until 1932 the U.M.W.A. got along alright with the Mine B officials.

"As I understand it the U.M.W.A. split up in 1932 because the second referendum vote on the wage scale was stolen and JOHN L. LEWIS came in and signed a contract anyway. I attended a meeting at Reservoir Park at Gillespie and was on the way to West Frankfort when we were turned back by the Sheriff. After the Progressives was formed I joined up along with all of the other men at Mine B. I liked the new Progressives better. It was a cleaner cut organization, altogether. I was in favor of its officers and democratic policies. Between 1932 and 1937 the Progressives got along just fine until some paid "bugs" came in to cause trouble.

"The trouble in 1937 started because the Progressives kicked out some men for trying to organize for U.M.W.A. The ones that I recall being suspended were: CHARLES BOHANNAN, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, GEORGE JACAWAY and one other that I believe was PETE CARTER. I was on the Trial Board at the time along with [redacted], and a man whose first name was [redacted] The men mentioned above said that they wouldn't be tried by us but would be tried only at U.M.W.A. hall. These men had been going around in the mine trying to get the miners to join U.M.W.A. The local then suspended these men for 99 years. Mr. ELSHOFF was asked to dismiss these men but he refused, and the men went out on strike ordered by [redacted] The failure of Mr. ELSHOFF to fire the suspended P.M.A. men was the real cause of the strike. I have no knowledge of any short loads on the day of the strike. The strike occurred about 2:30 p.m. on May 12, 1937.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with [redacted]
(continued)

"I don't recall ever signing any P.M.A. petitions after the strike. I remember getting word at P.M.A. headquarters that the mine was going to open. When we got out to Mine B that morning OSCAR FALCETTI said that he wanted only U.M.W.A. men. There was a small group of U.M.W.A. men there who went down into the mine. I remember 'Bowling Green' (CHARLES BOHANNAN) PETE CARTER, TONY PLOTCH, FRANK AUSTIN, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, JOHN (COTTON) ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTOUT, & BILL SIRTOUT, GEORGE and EMARY JACAWAY, & JAMES HALE. These men were all U.M.W.A. organizers who had been causing trouble at Mine B. Starting that evening about 300 P.M.A. men started picketing at the mine. I was at the mine day & night for almost two months. Since we were run off the Mine B property by the injunction I have never been back since.

"I remember voting in the first N.L.R.B. election which the Progressives won by a large majority.

"I got a letter to go back to work in Nov. 1939 but I [redacted] didn't fool with it.

"I also remember the second N.L.R.B. election, but couldn't vote because only those who were working could vote. The U.M.W.A. won that election.

"Since May of 1937 no one has ever been to see me to get me to sign up with U.M.W.A. or to sign a petition showing that I favored U.M.W.A. I never saw anyone get beat up out at Mine B because I never went back after it opened up but [redacted] who was a good friend of mine was badly beaten by 'CUDGE' BAUMGARNER with a pick handle because he wouldn't join U.M.W.A. [redacted] told me about this.

"If I had a free and voluntary choice of unions I would chose P.M.A.

"I have had the above statement consisting of three and one-fourth (3¼) pages read to me by Agent [redacted] The same is true & correct and I do hereby sign my name.

(signed) [redacted]

WITNESSED:
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 12, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks and understands English quite well, and can express himself coherently. He does not read English well, but is able to engage in question and answer conversation. [redacted] said he has never been arrested for a crime. If necessary, he will testify. It is noted that [redacted] stated he has not been naturalized and is not a citizen of this country. The following signed statement was furnished by [redacted]

"September 12, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I am living at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and am working at Panther Creek No. 2. I was born [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] returned to [redacted] in [redacted] and came back to this country permanently in [redacted] I have never been naturalized. I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] in [redacted]. In 1932, I joined the P.M.A. I was not working at that time. I am a member of the P.M.A. now.

"I began working at Mine B in 1934. As far as I was concerned, I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A., and conditions at the mine seemed to be pretty good. Before the strike in May, 1937, I heard that there were some men in the mine trying to get the miners to sign petitions and cards for the U.M.W. One was an Italian, now dead, whose name I can't remember. I don't know who the others were, but no one approached me on it.

"I think that the company really caused the strike in May of 1937. I went out to work one morning, and was changing clothes in the wash house before going down into the mine, when Dominic Pasquale, Andy Schrelevious, George Jacaway and Tony Plotch tried to stop me from going down. They told me that Mine B wouldn't pay the wages the other mines were paying, that the mine wouldn't pay the back pay of the men to April 1. Dominic Pasquale told me to sit down - I told him no, that I wanted to work, and went down into the mine. The next day, the P.M.A. officers asked the management to fire these men, and the management refused. The men then quit work about two o'clock, because they didn't want to work with the U.M.W. men. The company had

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

refused to pay the back pay to April 1, which was probably also a reason for the strike. The officials of P.M.A. acted only with the authority of a referendum vote of the members, and the members had faith in the leadership of the P.M.A. officers, and knew they could get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. could.

"A short time after the strike started, I signed a petition for the P.M.A. The purpose was to find out how many men were in favor of the P.M.A., to show to Elshoff, and perhaps to send to Washington. I signed this petition because I wanted to, and no one made me sign it. I heard that a U.M.W. local was begun in the summer of 1937, because I heard of some men who had been asked to join it. No one asked me to join.

"In the fall of 1937, I saw a notice in the paper that the mine was going to open up. I went out to the mine the day it was to open, but when we got there, Falcetti came out to talk to us. He said that no one could go down into the mine unless he belonged to the U.M.W. He said this next to the shaft, where we were waiting to go down. I had heard from some of the men that Elshoff had signed a contract with the U.M.W., but I didn't know anything more about it. The first day about ten or twelve men went down, all U.M.W. sympathisers. I don't know who they were. On the second day, no one went down. The management wouldn't let any P.M.A. men go down. Falcetti didn't show up at the tipple that day. Later that day, I saw Falcetti in the office with Plotch, Schrelevious, Sirtout, Carter, Austin, Bohannon, Hale the Jacaways, Albanese, and Pasquale. They were in the office for two or three hours, and didn't try to go down into the mine. After the U.M.W. men left the mine, and went home, the P.M.A. men began to picket the mine. I went on the picket line to protect myself, and my job, because I wanted to. No one made me. I didn't see any men on the picket line who weren't Mine B men.

"In December of 1937, I voted for P.M.A. at the election because I wanted that union. I went of my own accord, and voted the way I wanted to. No one told me how to vote. No one contacted me about joining the U.M.W. before going back to work in November 1939.

"In November of 1939, I got a notice by mail that the mine was going to open up. My name was put on the waiting list until my room was ready, and I went back to work at Mine B about a month later.

"In the summer of 1940, Bohannon and Joe Albanese came to my house one day and asked me why I didn't sign up with the U.M.W. so the U.M.W. could get the contract with Mine B. They didn't threaten me, and I told them I didn't want to join up with U.M.W. On the day before Labor Day, 1940, Bohannon and Sirtout came to my house again. I wasn't home, but they told my wife that she should get me to join the U.M.W. or get out of the mine. They cursed me to my wife and said 'Get him out of Mine B or we'll get rid of him.'

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"In January of 1941, [redacted] came into my room several times to get me to sign up with U.M.W. He said I couldn't work at the mine if I didn't sign up. One time he shook his fist in my face and told me not to get smart, when I refused to join. He told me that if the men didn't sign up with U.M.W. by Jan. 17, 1941, none of the P.M.A. men could work after that. A day or two later, at quitting time, [redacted] followed me from my room, but didn't do anything.

"On January 25, 1941, I went to work, and, while changing clothes in the wash house, I heard men screaming in the next room. I finished changing my clothes, picked up my bucket, and started out of the wash house. Bill Sirtout was changing clothes next to me, and, as I tried to walk past him, he threw me to the floor. Another man, who I didn't recognize, hit me on the head. I got a cut on my nose, and another one above my eye.

"I quit the mine that day, and didn't go back around the mine. I haven't had any contact with the mine, or the unions, since that time, except for voting in the election of February 1941. At that election I voted for P.M.A., because I wanted that union. Before I left the mine, on several occasions, [redacted] while walking behind me, would step on my heels, as if trying to start a fight.

"After I left the mine, I swore out a complaint against Bill Sirtout, but the case was dismissed without my knowledge. I went to the States' Attorney office, and he asked me if I had any proof. [redacted], and a couple of others were there. The attorney, Greening, said we didn't have any evidence, and offered us a drink. I refused to take it. I had been called, and did testify before the Grand Jury, but nothing ever came of it. The day I was beat up, the sheriff and his deputies were at Mine B, but did nothing to stop the trouble. It seemed to me that the U.M.W. men led the sheriff and his men away, so they wouldn't see anything that was going on.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of slightly more that 5 pages, read to me, and state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnesses:
/S/ [redacted]

Special Agent , F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, Ill., was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted]. [redacted] was cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness inasmuch as he is a habitual drunkard by his own admission and had to be contacted twice before he w as in a condition to talk to the Agents. [redacted] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"

Springfield, Ill.
September 16, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., do voluntarily give the following statement to Special Agents [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind were made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] emigrating to America in [redacted] I claim citizenship through my [redacted] who was naturalized at [redacted]

"I started working in Mine B about [redacted] years ago, joining U.M.W. at that time. I never held an office in any union. I was working at Mine B when the Union split up and Progressives started. I don't know the cause of the split and didn't have anything to do with starting PMA. I joined PMA along with all the other miners. I don't favor any union.

"I don't know what caused the strike at Mine B in 1937 and can't remember whether I w orked there the day the strike started or not.

"I don't recall signing any petitions for either PMA or UMWA.

"I don't know how the picketing started at Mine B and I only went over there to get something to eat.

"I recall voting in one NLRB election and remember that I voted for my sympathy the UMWA.

"During the period that Mine B was closed on strike I was on WPA for 13 months. I got a letter from Mr. ELSHOFF to come back to work and when I went back I didn't pay dues to either union, but later I joined UMWA.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(CONTINUED)

"I was never threatened or beat at Mine B after I went back to work and I never saw or heard of any of the men getting beat up.

"I have read the above statement consisting of 1½ pages and the same is true and correct.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:
[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with

[redacted], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]

He is a [redacted]naturalized citizen of the United States and speaks English well but it is not believed he would make a good witness due to his lack of knowledge of the occurrences at Mine "B" incident to this case, inasmuch as he was not present at the mine during the controversial period.

He was cooperative and submitted the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 9, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to get me to make a statement.

"I was born in [redacted] I came to U.S. in [redacted] I became a naturalized citizen of U. S. [redacted]

"I began working at Old North Mine near Springfield, Ill. in [redacted] and joined U.M.W. in [redacted] I have never held an office in any union.

"As far as I know, relations were good at Mine 'B' prior to the formation of P.M.A. It was my understanding that LEWIS had bargained for a lower wage scale and the miners voted for an increase and then the ballots were stolen. This caused the men to form a new union called P.M.A. Mine 'B' was idle at that time and Mr. ELSHOFF signed an agreement with P.M.A. so he could open the mine. I had joined P.M.A. because the majority of the men changed over from U.M.W. to P.M.A. and I could go back to work.

"I know of no strikes or closed doors or any attempts by ELSHOFF or the Mine officials to discredit P.M.A. or show any partiality toward U.M.W.

"I thought the officers of P.M.A. were honest and did a good job. I had no difficulty while I was a member of P.M.A. while I worked at Mine 'B'. No one attempted to get me to join U.M.W. at that time and I did not know of any spies at Mine 'B'.

[redacted]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with "[redacted]

(continued) [redacted] I have not returned to Mine 'B' since I quit in 1937. I lost all my tools at Mine 'B' because I never went back for them.

"I am now working at [redacted] in Springfield but do not belong to any union. I have no preference for any union, and if I had my own free will and choice I would not choose any union.

"I have had this 2 page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(signed) [redacted]

Witnessed:
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois [redacted] was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his inability to speak English and his lack of knowledge of pertinent facts in the Mine B situation. [redacted] has no criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September, 15, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily give the following statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] emigrating to America in [redacted] I was naturalized in [redacted] I started working in the mines as soon as I came to America joining the UMWA at that time. I have never held an office in any union. I now work at [redacted]

"I started at Mine B in [redacted] belonging to UMWA at that time. I was satisfied with UMWA at that time. In 1932 the miners revolted against John L. Louis and started the PMA. I joined the PMA and liked it better than UMWA, because you couldn't vote under John L. Lewis.

"I don't know what caused the strike at Mine B in 1937. I just worked and minded my own business. I never attended any meetings because I don't understand English very well.

"I took part in the picketing and sit down strike out at Mine B and was there off an_ on all the time it was going on.

"I voted in the 1st NLRB election which the Progressives won.

"During the time that Mine B was closed down by strike I didn't work.

"In 1939 I got a letter from Mr. Elshoff to go back to work. I went back to Mine B and did company work. I still belonged to PMA at that time. I hurt my leg and asked Oscar Falcetti to give me a room. After I got a room and was digging coal a Big Fellow who was UMWA came into my room and wanted me to take a UMWA Button, but I told him no and threw it away. Shortly after that I couldn't breathe and I found out that someone had shut off my air. Later I saw two or three men beat up in the wash house. I'm not good on names and can't tell the names

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

of these men or the ones who beat them up, except that "Bowling Green" was one of the men who beat up on one PMA miner.

"When I finally joined UMWA there were only about 10 PMA men left at Mine B and I was afraid of getting beat up. I didn't join UMWA by choice but because I was scared being an old man.

"I voted in the 2nd NLRB election and again I voted for PMA again. I wouldn't ever vote for UMWA. I could have a free and voluntary choice of unions I would choose Progressives.

"I have had the above 2 1/4 pages of voluntary statements made by me read to me, in the presence of my daughter, by Agent [redacted] The same is true and correct.

(Signed) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agents F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

Re. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] opened in 1939 and was in a position to have a good knowledge of the situation, but he had a very poor memory and was unable to recall many pertinent facts. For this reason it is not believed that he would make a good witness. [redacted] denied having any criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 10, 1943.

"I, [redacted] do make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born a [redacted] I am presently employed out at [redacted]. I first started working in the mines around Springfield, Ill. about [redacted] joining United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started working at Mine B about [redacted] continuing my UMWA membership. Between [redacted] and 1932 UMWA and the Mine B Officials got along alright.

"John L. Lewis was the cause of the split in 1932. He went against our vote and made us take a reduction in wages. I was a delegate to the convention at Gillespie in September 1932 when we decided to form the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I never held any offices in this union until [redacted]. After the formation of PMA I joing it as a body with all the other men at Mine B. At first the PMA got along fine with the Mine B officials, but about a year before the strike Oscar Falcetti came to me on two separate occassions and asked me if I didn't think the PMA was slipping. I just walked away.

"In the Spring of 1937 our contract ran out on March 31, and a temporary agreement was signed. There was an argument between PMA and Elshoff as to whether this contract contained a retroactive clause. There were a number of men at Mine B who made an issue out of this, and wanted to form a new UMWA local. These men as I can recall were: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrolevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George & Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Falc, and Cudge Baumgarner. The PMA then held trials for these men and suspended some an expelled others. There were at least two meetings where these men were tried. I attended these meetings and recall that we suspended the men by a rising vote. I recall that written charges were made

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

to our Trial Board, who made a recommendation to the local and we voted as stated above. Some of the organizers refused to come to the meetings unless they were suspended or expelled. There was a rumor that each one of these organizers got $2,000.00 apiece for they work. The Co. was notified that the suspended men were no longer PMA member and asked to dismiss the expelled members. This the Co. refused to do.

"The men were dissatisfied because the Co. wouldn't fire the expelled members, and because of the back pay situation s on the day of the strike May 12, 1937 lots of the men loaded short cars of coal. I was down in the mine digging and the first I knew of the strike was when we were called out on top about 2 p m by the PMA Board Member. No orders were given to load coal short, the men just did that by themselves.

"I recall going to the Board Members Office about two weeks after the strike and signing a slip showing that I wanted PMA as my bargaining agent.

"I don't recall when the picketing or set down strike started but I participated in both for most of the time that they went on. I was at the mine when we were put off by the injunction. I didn't like it and figured that we were whipped then.

"Soon after the set down strike I voted in the NLRB election which the Progressives won 404-25. This election was fair and square. I recall a pamplet being passed out but don't recall what it said or who passed it out.

"I have no knowledge of anyone trying to reopen the mine either before or after the NLRB election.

"During the period we were out on strike I worked on WPA and was working there when I got a letter to come back to Mine B. The letter gave us 10 days to go back to work or lose our jobs.

"When I returned to Mine B in 1939 I still retained my PMA membership [redacted] At the time I was elected I believe that about 300 miners were paying dues [redacted] About August 1940 Charles Bohannon came to my home at [redacted] and asked me to join UMWA. When I wouldn't he said that [redacted] he said that he would feel sorry for my wife and children one of these nights when my house was bombed. All of this occurred after I was fired in June of 1940 for asking [redacted], "What do you mean by sitting by that scab son-of-a-bitch referring to an outside check weighman who had been brought in by UMWA.

"I never witnessed any violence or beatings out at Mine B as most of it occurred after I was fired.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I remember voting in the second NLRB election but my vote was contested because I was on WPA again.

"I recall that early in 1937 [redacted] came to my house at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. and began to talk against PMA. [redacted] was a regular UMWA organizer and not working at Mine B at the time. [redacted] said that UMWA was going to take Mine B over and already had a lot of the men signed up. He promised me the job of check weighman if I'd go along with UMWA. I asked him how he could promise me that when the men have to vote on it and he said if you don't believe me I'll take you to Roy Edmundson who will see to it that you get it. Shortly after that I met [redacted] again on the street downtown and he asked me if I'd made up my mind yet. I told him no. This was all before the strike in May of 1937.

"If I had a free and voluntary choice of unions I would choose Progressives.

"I have read the above statement consisting of five pages. The same if true and correct and I do hereby sign my name.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed) Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted] (signed) Special Agent - F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 13, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is presently employed at Mine B. He was co-operative and willingly answered all questions asked. He is alert but was unable to express himself well. He stated he was forced to join the UMW to keep his job. He executed the following statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 13, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born in [redacted] entered the United States in [redacted] naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] live at [redacted], Springfield, Ill., and I am presently employed as a digger at Mine B.

"The first union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union in [redacted]

"I worked at two mines, both at Springfield, Ill., before I started working in Mine B in [redacted] as a member of the UMW.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"As far as I know relations between Elshoff and the UMW were satisfactory before 1932.

"I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, voluntarily in September, 1932 when they organized at Mine B. I took no active part in the formation of this union, but wanted to join because I thought it would be a better union to work under than the UMW.

"It was my idea that Elshoff favored the UMW over the PMA. I cannot say what it was, but everyone felt that there was something secret between the UMW and Elshoff to try to get rid of the PMA at Mine B.

"I liked the PMA and I think everyone was satisfied with that union and its' leaders.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I know the following men: Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Cotton, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, James Hale and Bowlinggreen. Prior to May , 1937 I did not know if the above mentioned men were UMW organizers at Mine B.

"I returned to Mine B on November, 1939 as a PMA member. Sometime after I had returned to work Andrew Schrelevious came to my house which at that time was [redacted], Springfield, Ill. and asked me to join UMW. I told him I would not. He said if I did not, I would lose my job at the mine. A week later, Tony Plotch and John Cotton came to my house on [redacted] and Plotch said if I did not join the UMW it would be very bad for me. I knew that he meant I would be beaten up or something like that would happen to me if I did not join. That same night Tony Plotch gave me a membership card and I signed up with the UMW because I was afraid what might happen to me if I did not sign up with the UMW.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, but I knew there was going to be a meeting from talking with the other miners. I heard the next day by word of mouth from the other miners that some miners included in the list of names set out in this statement were expelled from the PMA at that meeting.

"The only thing I know about the wage scale trouble in the Spring of 1937 was that Elshoff did not recognize the retroactive clause in the contract which meant I was supposed to get back pay, dating back to April 1, 1937. I never got this back pay.

"The day of the strike, in May, 1937, I was digging coal in Box [redacted] the South section of the mine. On this day I loaded my coal cars short because the PMA Pit Committee told me to. I understand that trouble had started on that morning with Elshoff because he would not discharge the miners who had been thrown out of the PMA.

"I went out to the mine to help picket about about three months in the PMA picket line after the strike started.

"I always wanted to keep on working under the PMA. I never wanted to go back again under the UMW. I was forced to return to the UMW by Plotch and John Cotton or lose my job.

"I do not remember signing any petitions in the summer of 1937.

"In September, 1937 I went out to the mine when the mine tried to open. The PMA leaders told us we would not be able to go down into the mine to work that day because we were Progressives and because the Mine B

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

operators would not let the PMA work. Only the UMW men could work. I did not go to the mine again until the mine opened-up in 1939.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election. It was a fair election.

"At the time of the second N.L.R.B. election everyone I talked to knew the UMW had a majority and the UMW fined us if we did not vote. The PMA men also were fined if they did not vote. The men who still wanted to work under the PMA, but who were forced to join UMW, were tired of being out of work and that's why so many voted for the United Mine Workers.

"I can speak the English language and so can my wife, but we can not read English. This statement consisting of three and one half pages was read to me by [redacted] in the presence of [redacted] and it is true and correct.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] He is [redacted] years of age and is a naturalized citizen of the United States with [redacted] heritage. It is not believed he will make a good witness due to his lack of pertinent details of the facts incident to this case.

[redacted] has no known criminal record except his admission of arrests for drunkenness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 9, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted]. I came to U.S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen of U.S. in [redacted]

"I began working at Mine "B" in [redacted] and have worked there practically ever since except when the mine was shut down. I joined U.M.W., when I began working in Mine "B". I know of no difficulty between U.M.W. and Mine "B" officials while I worked there.

"In 1932 P.M.A. was formed and obtained a contract at Mine "B". I joined P.M.A. then because I wanted to work at Mine "B". I didn't notice any difference in the way P.M.A. or U.M.W. got along with the Mine "B" officials until the trouble in 1937.

"I remember I was driving entry on May 12, 1937 and I was called out shortly before quitting time along with all the other men. I went to the wash house and changed clothes and came home.

"I think one of the men told me there was no work the next day so I did not go back to work. I went out to the Mine the next day to get $5 I had left in a pocket of my clothes in the wash house. I had to go through a picket line to get it and when I got it I did not go back to the mine for about 5 years.

"Before the shutdown I did not see any labor spies and I don't know why the strike was called. I don't like trouble so I didn't go back until

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

after it was settled. I did not picket the mine at anytime and don't believe in picketing.

"I voted in the Government held election at the Arsenal around Dec. 1937. P.M.A. won the election by a large majority.

"I went back to work at Mine "B" in Dec. 1942 and worked until June 1943. I joined U.M.W. when I went back to work. I never saw anyone get beat up while I worked at Mine "B".

"I did odd jobs during the 5 yrs. I was not at Mine "B" and the reason I did not go back until last year is [redacted] and I was undecided what to do.

"I think that U.M.W. is a better Union than P.M.A. but I would join whichever one was working at the mine.

"I am now working at [redacted] having started three days ago.

"I have had this three page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 14, 1943:

At the Springfield Field Division, agents interviewed [redacted] who lives [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. He advised he has never been arrested in his life.

[redacted] readily understood the questions asked him and gave intelligent replies indicating that he is not illiterate, and it is felt that he would make a fair witness if his testimony were necessary.

Agents obtained from [redacted] the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 14, 1943

"I [redacted] Springfield, Ill. give the following information to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me and I give this information of my own free will.

"I am now working as a digger at Panther Creek #5 I will have been there [redacted] I worked at Mine "B" about 9 years up to the strike in 1937, I never went back there after that time. I was born [redacted] I came to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a citizen in Springfield in [redacted] or [redacted] I first joined a union in [redacted] this was U.M.W. I have never been a union officer.

"From the time I went to work at Mine B up until 1932 there was no trouble between Elshoff and the U.M.W. union. When they had the union split I liked the Progressives and went along to that Union with the rest at Mine "B", I did no organizing for them. From 1932 until the strike Elshoff got along fine with P.M.A. there was no trouble of any kind. I never heard Elshoff or Falsetti say they had any preferance for U.M.W. over P.M.A. I was always satisfied with the P.M.A. local there was no trouble there at all. I attended a few P.M.A. meetings at that time. At every meeting they told us how much money had been spent and how much taken in. I never felt any money was being stolen from the union. It was my opinion that the P.M.A. men sent to prison for bombings had been framed up. I dont know who did it. From 1932 until the mine closed I never saw any U.M.W. men picket Mine "B" or give out any literature there. I did not know of any group in the P.M.A. that was U.M.W. though belonging to P.M.A. I never heard of any parties given by Elshoff for U.M.W. officials or they for him.

"I remember when the contract ran out in 1937 we kept on working under a temporary agreement, I may have only heard this through the other

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

miners or through the P.M.A. officers. No one was mad over this and we all thought that P.M.A. would got a contract. I did not go to and dont remember any meeting the night before the mine closed down. I worked the last day the mine operated and went home that night, the next day I went to go to work and some of the men met me on the road and told me the mine was not going to operate. I did not know there had been any trouble until then. I heard that the strike was called because someone over in the Mine office said if we did not go over to U.M.W. the mine was not going to operate. On the last day the mine worked I heard something about cars being loaded short, but nobody said anything to me and I did not load any cars that way. I was working in Box[redacted] at that time. After the mine closed I helped picket the mine a couple of days. I signed a petition on the road by the mine, no one made me sign and it was just to show I was for the P.M.A. I did not sign any other petitions that summer for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. I heard the U.M.W. had a petition but I dont know anything else about it. I also heard about the U.M.W. forming a new local, I heard this from the men and also from the papers. No one contacted me to join this union. I know of no other troubles happening this summer 1937.

"I remember the sit-down strike at Mine "B", I went out to it for about 3 weeks and then got sick. I was not there the first day the strike started. I went out because the other men men did no one told me to go. There was no trouble, we were there to protect our job and gaurd the property. There were no outsiders brought in, just local 54 men. I was not there when the U. S. Marshall came and chased the men out.

"After the sit-down strike I only went to mine "B" once that was to get a slip showing my expenses while working there, this was for income tax purposes.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election, I voted the way I wanted and no one told me how to vote, I voted P.M.A. I saw some U.M.W. men there but they did not bother me or give me anything. I guess they just went there to vote. I went direct to the Armory from my home.

"I dont know why Elshoff would not sign a contract with P.M.A. after they won the election. I heard something about some mine B men and Falsetti being over at the Jefferson Mine but I dont know anything about it.

"When the mine reopened in Sept. 1939, I got a letter telling me to come back. I was working at Taylor Mine #12 and did not go back as I did not like the way things were there. I am still a member of P.M.A. I did not vote in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have had Agent [redacted] read to me this statement, written on this page and four others so far as I can recall it is all true and correct and is as I have told it to the F.B.I. agents. I am signing this of my own will as it is all true.

"SIGNED: _ _ [redacted] (signed) _ _ _ _ _ _

"Witnesses:

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 14, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 12, 1943. As he noted in his statement he had been told about the Federal agents making instant investigation but he said he wanted to tell his story anyway and he appeaed very cooperative. He really is not illiterate but has difficulty in understanding and answering some questions. However, it is felt he would make a fair witness if his testimony is needed.

The following is the unsigned statement obtained from [redacted]

[redacted], Ill.,
Sept. 12, 1943.

"I, [redacted] give the following information to [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No promises or threats have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] & I came in U.S. in [redacted] & became a citizen [redacted] years ago. I first joined U.M.W. in [redacted] in Ill. & I never have held any union office. I started at Mine B in 1936 as digger & extra driver and I was member of P.M.A. before then. Till Mine B closed P.M.A. was good union & they were same as all others as they give you nothing & you have to work for everything. There was no trouble there before Mine B closed. There were some men there before Mine B closed who wanted to form new U.M.W. local but I kept on working. We were satisfied before mine closed with P.M.A. local #54. I go once in awhile to meetings as I lived so far from Springfield, Ill. P.M.A. charged just about __same dues as other & U.M.W. there now charges more. There was just check-off & no special assessments. I was pleased with P.M.A. officials & I never nosed around much but Committee protected our rights then O.K. Before Mine B closed U.M.W. never picketed us but there were some men who favored U.M.W. & I never got any literature from them. I never heard of any parties given by Elshoff or Falcetti for U.M.W. Before Mine B closed we worked without a contract & Falcetti told us at Mine B with the Committee at the timber pile he told us that we should go to work & that they would fix up the contract & we would get back pay if __ contract was fixed that way. Some of the men didn't like working without a contract & it was about time ___ contract ran out. About 100 men stayed in washhouse then but [redacted] told us to go to work & ___ next day all went to work again. I believed what Falcetti said then to us & kept on working. Falcetti said that the company would stand good on the contract. After this we all went to work & no trouble started over the pay. A few were saying we would not get a contract but I heard it but didn't believe them as I felt company would keep their word. I don't remember if P.M.A. had a meeting or not before

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

Mine B closed. I did not know there was to be a strike on ___ day ___ mine closed in ___ spring of 1937 & I worked till just before quitting time that day. I did not load any short cars that day & no one said a thing to me about it. When I came out on top some men said in ___ wash house ___ mine was on strike & I went home. I loaded 5 or 6 cars that day. The men said we would not work till they got an agreement. I did not hear then about any men getting expelled from P.M.A. For a week or so we picketed Mine B on Jacksonville Road so no U.M.W. men could get it. I never signed any Petition for P.M.A. or U.M.W. in ___ summer of 1937. I heard that a few Mine B men worked at Jefferson Mine. One was Tony, an uncle of Tony Plotch. I was at ___ sit down strike every day but two days so I stayed there & watched that no one would damage the property. No oneforced us to go but while there the P.M.A. men told us to stay there but it was all quiet & peaceful. About 10 men were supposed to go to work on ___first day but I don't know if they went down or not. No outsiders were brot in, just the local men. We had visitors there too. I was there when ___ Marshall came & he told us to leave & we all went home & no trouble was there. He said no one else would come in & work & we were all glad to go home then. I never went back to Mine B until it re-opened for good. I never heard if they tried to reopen it later or not after ___sit-down strike & before Mine B re-opened for good I was in a saloon in Auburn, Ill. & Frank Austin & Bowling Green came to me & asked me when I was going to join up with U.M.W. & they said all were going over to U.M.W. & I told them I would sign over when the rest did. They did not threaten me at all & no one bothered me later on. I voted at N.L.R.B. election in Armory in Springfield, Ill. & I voted P.M.A. both times. No one forced me to vote & it was a secret ballot. It was an honest election. We went to union P.M.A. hall first & went over to ___ Armory in groups, of 25 or 50 at a time. I don't know why Elshoff did not sign a contract with P.M.A. I got a letter from Elshoff telling me to return to work in ___ fall of 1939 & I think I had to go back in 10 days. I went out & returned to work same day in box[redacted] & it is now shut down. I paid dues to P.M.A. myself as there was no check-off. Some men talked to me at Mine B of going over to U.M.W. but I never was threatened or beaten up. I heard some were beaten up & threatened. I think I joined over to U.M.W. after ___ second N.L.R.B. election. They knew I was P.M.A. when Mine B reopened. I never signed any cards for U.M.W. or P.M.A. in ___ summer of 1940. The other day at Mine B Tony Plotch & several Committee men asked a bunch of us who had been seen by Federal men & some put up their hands. Some man who I don't know was with them & he was fat & had gray hair & he said to us that the Federal men had no business to talk to us but I still want to talk to you men as I have nothing to be afraid of. Second N.L.R.B. election was just same as before. I think U.M.W. men won because they got more men there. I didn't see new men at Mine B as I was at first cage & did not see all ___ men there. There was some falls in the mine but it wasn't so bad when Mine B re-opened. I never heard about a fire at Mine B in 1939. I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

did, I think, attend a meeting when [redacted] was kicked out but I don't recall much about it.

"I have had agent [redacted] read this five (5) page statement to me & it is true & correct & I have given this information because I want too & it is true as far as I know. If I don't have to sign it I won't but it is true and all correct but I want to tell ___ whole truth.

Witnesses:

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI (Milw.)
[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 12, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 11, 1943.

At his residence, [redacted] Springfield, agents interviewed [redacted] who advised he never has been arrested. He is somewhat illiterate but understood the questions asked and his answers were not readily understandable at times and it is felt he would make a poor witness unless his testimony is necessary. However, he was very cooperative and wished to cooperate in all ways possible.

[redacted] advised [redacted] would be unable to understand the statement if it was read to him in English. [redacted] confirmed this and also stated that he could not sign his name but that he would be willing to swear that everything he had told agents was true.

He furnished the following unsigned statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 11, 1943.

"I, [redacted], give this free & voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted], who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No force or threats have been used against me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] & came to U.S. in [redacted] & became a citizen in [redacted] At one time I worked at the [redacted]. as a digger. I first joined U.M.W. in [redacted] in Illinois & I never held a union office. I went to work at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted] & am still there. Between [redacted] & 1932 U.M.W. was alright as far as I know. I joined over to P.M.A. in 1932 because of trouble with John Lewis as he stole the ballots I think. I helped organize over to P.M.A. then. Between 1932 & the time Mine B closed P.M.A. never had any trouble with Carl Elshoff & things went along fine. The P.M.A. miners felt it was a good union & we were happy to be under them & I attended most of their meetings. Regarding those P.M.A. sent to jail for bombings I never thot the P.M.A. men did it & others felt like I did about it. Dues were cheaper under P.M.A. & once in a while there were special assessments, just the check-off. U.M.W. had some men out at Mine B before it closed & who would talk for U.M.W. but they never picketed the Mine B & never gave out literature to me. I don't know of any parties Elshoff gave for U.M.W. but I did hear something of it once. When contract ran out in Spring of 1937 there was some agreement made about getting back pay but we never got it. The thot P.M.A. would get a contract

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

with Elshoff and we were satisfied. The Miners never complained of their wages -- except a few now & then. I attended a meeting the night before Mine B closed down & they kicked out 'Bowling Green' and some one else I guess. The P.M.A. decided they would not work with some certain men I believe. I did not know Mine B was going to close down when I did & some-one told us to load small cars & some one said that management would not fire some men. I did not load any short cars then. The Mine B shut down because of those men who kept on working. Just before quitting time we were told to shut down & I left my tools there I never got all of them back. I guess I signed some paper for P.M.A. & no one forced me to sign it & I signed it at the mine. I also signed another one later on & no one forced me to sign it. I never signed a U.M.W. petition. Tony Flotch; Andy Schevelvious; Dominic Pasquale; Peter Carter; Frank Austin; 'Cotton Ananias; John & Geo. Sirtout; Geo. & Emory Jacaway; Chas. Bohannon & Jim Hale & Bill Sirtout were the ones who formed a new U.M.W. local in summer of 1937. Fellow named ------ came to see me at home about joining up with U.M.W. & I told him I would do what the rest did. I heard that Oscar Falcotti & others went to work at Jefferson Mine. I went to Mine B in fall of 1937 & they would not let us go to work unless we signed up with U.M.W. & I would not sign up. Some did go down I believe that morning. I was out at sit-down strike most of the time & no outsiders were brot in -- just local 54 men. We did not want U.M.W. to take our jobs away & we were watching our jobs. No fights or trouble went on & it was quiet & peaceful. No one forced me to go out. I was there when U. S. Marshall came out & we all left & no trouble was made at all. I don't remember if the reopened Mine B short time later on. I voted at Armory twice in town. It was a good election & P.M.A. won. No one made me vote - it was by secret ballot too. I voted P.M.A. I heard Mine B tried to reopen later too but I didn't go out. I heard Elshoff did not want P.M.A. out there even the P.M.A. won the election. I got a letter in fall of 1939 telling me to come out to work & I went to work 2 days later in a good place but it wasn't my old box. One morning old man named [redacted] was changing shoes in wash room & he was asked by 3 men when he was going to join over to U.M.W. & those 3 beat him up in my presence. [redacted] were two of the 3 men. I also was asked in Mines when I was going to join up & I was told if I didn't join up I would not get any cars & I told them I didn't care. I also had some tools stolen too. I heard of others getting beat up & once saw 3 P.M.A. with bloody noses there. I saw a lot of new men then but now they are all gone from Mine B. I joined U.M.W. before the second N.L.R.B. election took place. I never signed any cards for U.M.W. or P.M.A. I got to sign with U.M.W. otherwise I felt I would get beat up & I did not join them because I liked them as I still like P.M.A. better than U.M.W. For 18 months too I got bad rooms there at Mine B. I heard of men getting 'docks' but I never got any myself. A fellow named [redacted] got beat up at a U.M.W. meeting because he would not buy some bonds. [redacted] also worked at Mine B for a couple of

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

months in 1939 as a P.M.A. but never joined over to U.M.W. & nobody ever threatened him or beat him up. I voted at second N.L.R.B. election & it was just like the first one & I voted the same way I felt & no one forced me to vote. It was by secret ballot. Mine B had lot of cave-ins when it reopened & I never heard of any fire there in 1939. I did not attend a meeting where [redacted] got kicked out. What I have told is true & correct to the best of my knowledge. I can't read English very well and can't write so won't sign this but it is all true.

"Witnesses:

[redacted] (signed) Special Agent, F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted] (signed) Spec. Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 11, 1943"

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 9, 1943.

At his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised that the day before yesterday he was going down into the mine with many other miners and that some unknown man told all of them that they did not have to talk to the FBI men if they did not want to. However, he said he was in the rear and did not hear all what this man said but he advised Agents he would nevertheless answer the questions asked him.

He said he never has been arrested in his life and it was noted that he is more intelligent than the average miner. He understood the questions and readily answered them. It is felt he would make a good witness if his testimony were necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 9, 1943

"I, [redacted] give this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the F.B.I. and no force or threats have been made me to give this statement. I was told by a man not to talk to you men but I don't know who he was. He told me at Mine B day before yesterday. He just said I don't have to talk but I want to tell you men the truth.

"I am employed at Mine B as a coal digger and have been there about [redacted] years or more. I was born [redacted] and I came to U.S. in [redacted] and became a citizen about [redacted] years ago. I belonged to union in [redacted] and brot my card along and it was with U.M.W. Before 1932 there was no trouble between Elshoff and U.M.W. that I know of and things got along ok. I never held a union office. In 1932 I went over to P.M.A. as majority went over and I never helped organize it. P.M.A. union was about same as the U.M.W. I don't reall of any trouble between Elshoff and P.M.A. before Mine B closed and I never heard of anyone wanting to change back to U.M.W. and no one came to me about it. P.M.A. was just an ordinary union like others. I did not attend many P.M.A. meetings at all and was not very active. While P.M.A. union was there it seemed just like the old U.M.W. There was no difference to me. Regarding the local of the P.M.A. men for the bombings I don't know how the miners felt about it.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

P.M.A. raised the dues a little more than before but I think they used the money for good purposes and never was suspicious of anyone taking money. Before Mine B closed U.M.W. never picketed the mine and I did not see any literature and no one talked to me about going back to U.M.W. Before the mine closed I heard there were some men at Mine B who favored U.M.W. but they never spoke to me. Some I recall were Sammy, the committeeman, and others. I don't kow of any parties given by Elshoff or U.M.W. I don't know why we worked after contract ran out - I can't remember that. There was no trouble at Mine B because of this contract in 1937 and I thot P.M.A. could get as good a contract as U.M.W. could. No one talked to me of it at all. Night before Mine B closed down I don't know if I went to a meeting or not. When Mine B closed in 1937 that morning there was talk on top about these men who were for U.M.W. but I don't know anything more about it. We were told to load our cars light and I loaded one good one and some one stole the check on it so I never got paid for it. One man talking to another started this gossip about the cars. I think I worked till quitting time and came on top and don't remember of being told mine was closed. I don't know for sure if I went to work next day and then came home or what as I don't recall just what took place then. I forget what the reason was why Mine B closed. I never signed any petitions for P.M.A. or U.M.W. in summer or fall of 1937. I don't heard a thing about U.M.W. forming a new local. In summer of 1937 no one bothered me at all. I heard that some Mine B men and Falcetti were at Jefferson Mine too. I was at Mine B in fall of 1937 and heard P.M.A. men could not go back to work but I heard that some U.M.W. men went down and I went home again. Saw in the papers it was going to open I think. I was at sit down strike for a few days and nights only. Just local 54 men were there but no outsiders. No one forced me to go out and I went out of my own free will. All things were nice there and there was no trouble and we were protecting our jobs. I was not there when U.S. Marshall came out. In Dec. 1937 I don't know for sure if I heard of Mine B reopening but I did not go out I know. I remember of voting once at Armory and I think the P.M.A. won that. We went to vote from P.M.A. hall. I voted for P.M.A. and it was by secret ballot and no one forced me to vote and it was a good election as far as I know. I think I went out to Mine B. later on but did not go to work and I think I read of it in the papers. I don't know why Elshoff would not sign a contract with P.M.A. In fall of 1939 I got a registered letter telling me to go to work in certain time and I went out and saw Falcetti I think. No one asked me what union I belonged to. I went to work at once. I think we got same wages as under old contract but nothing was said about it to me. Later on I heard men at Mine B talking that they were sigining over and I worked as P.M.A. for some time before I joined U.M.W. I paid dues to P.M.A. Some asked me at

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

Mine B to join over and finally I did sign up with Tony Ploth. No one forced me to join and I joined as others were going to U.M.W. In summer of 1940 I don't recall of signing any cards for P.M.A. or U.M.W. There were a lot of new men at Mine B but there was talk some were from outside and I don't know if they were U.M.W. or not. I saw [redacted] get beat up in the coal mine and heard of others too and I don't know why [redacted] got beat up. I can't remember if I voted second time at Armory or not and I just can't recall that one. In fall of 1939 Mine had some falls but Box [redacted] was in pretty good shape and I loaded coal the first day back. I never heard of a fire at Mine B while it was closed. I attend some meetings of U.M.W.. now but I was not there when Glasco got kicked out.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read this (six) 6 page statement to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I have signed it of my own free will.

Witnesses: Signed: [redacted]

Witnesses:
[redacted] Special Agt. FBI (Milw.)
[redacted], Special Agents, F.B.I. (St.Paul)
Springfield, Ill
Sept. 9, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted]

[redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on September 8, 1943. [redacted] speaks broken English and it is difficult to follow his conversation. He appears to be definite in his statements and would make a willing witness. He [redacted] retains facial marks of the beating he received at Mine "B". He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 8, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born in [redacted] entered the United States at [redacted] was naturalized at [redacted] At the present time I live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and I am employed as a miner at [redacted] Mine, Springfield Illinois as a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as PMA.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union about [redacted] at a small mine near [redacted] Illinois. I worked at four other mines before I started working at Mine B in [redacted] I voluntarily joined PMA in 1930 or 1931. I voluntarily joined PMA in September, 1932.

"I never held a union office at any time.

"Before September, 1932 Carl Elshoff got along alright with UMW miners.

"When the PMA first organized in Mine B. Carl Elshoff seemed to get along with the miners, but later he seemed to favor the UMW.

"My job in Mine B was a coal digger.

"The PMA leaders were good. All of the miners liked to work under the PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I do not know anything about the PMA taking assessments out of my wages when it was first organized, and I was always satisfied working under the PMA.

"I knew the following men were UMW agitators and organizers at Mine B before the strike in 1937: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Bowlinggreen, and James Hale.

"On two days after working hours between 1932 and April, 1937 I saw Carl Elshoff and Oscar Falcetti go into a saloon with four or five of these above mentioned men. I remember that Bowlinggreen and Heckelbeck were in this group. This saloon is located on the East side of Sixth Street, between Jefferson and Washington Streets in Springfield, Ill. I think it was called Logans Bar.

"I remember seeing some of these UMW agitators whose names I mentioned, in Elshoff's office. They seemed to be friendly with Elshoff.

"I know nothing about the wage scale troubles between Elshoff and the PMA. I was satisfied with my wages and I never talked to anyone about getting more money.

"I went to some of the UMW meetings before 1932 and some of the PMA meetings later. I took no interest in the union business, either UMW or PMA.

"I did not know about the miners who were thrown out of the PMA, at the PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937. I did not know that some miners were thrown out of the union at this meeting.

"I did not load any coal cars short at anytime. I saw some cars loaded short on May 12, 1937, but I did not know whey they were loaded short. I figured the miners did not have time to load full cars.

"I found out about the strike the next day which was May 13, 1937 when I was told by the men I road to work with that there was a strike at Mine B.

"I helped picket at Mine B for about three months after the strike started.

"I never signed any petitions in 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"When the operator tried to open the mine in September, 1937 I went out to the mine but the PMA miners would not work because the UMW miners, about twenty five in all, went down in the mine to work. I knew the mine was going to try to open that day from the notice in the newspapers.

"When the mine did open in November, 1939 I went back to work at Mine B. A week or two after I started working [redacted] came to my room in the mine where I was digging coal. He asked me if I wanted to join the UMW. I said no. I was working on the open shop basis and I did not have to pay dues and I did not want to pay dues to any union. [redacted] said I had to pay dues to one of the unions. He said that when there was a vote I had better sign for UMW and not the PMA because the UMW has a lot of money.

"A day or two later, Big George, whose name I do not know, came to my room in the mine and asked me if I wanted to join UMW. I said no. Big George said I'd better join UMW or some day I would 'get something good.'

"On January 16, 1941, Big George came to me and asked me again if I wanted to join UMW. I said no. He said, 'suit yourself, some of these days you will get it.'

"The next morning I went to the mine wash house to put on my work clothes. [redacted] and Bowlinggreen were hiding in a small hallway in connection with the wash house and when I went into this hallway [redacted] was on one side and Bowlinggreen was on the other. When I went in between them they both hit me with their fists I think they had brass knuckles on their hands as it felt like that, but I did not see the brass knuckles. I started yelling and a deputy sheriff who was the step-brother of the man who was sheriff at that time stopped these men and I believe he put them in jail under a bond.

"Falcetti told me to go to the company doctor whose name was Deal and the company would pay the bill. After three days the doctor told me the company would not pay the bill so I did not go again. The doctor sent me three bills.

[redacted] and Bowlinggreen had cut my lip, and had kicked me. The doctor put four stitches in my lip.

"About a month after I was beaten I went back to the mine to get my tools. [redacted] told me I could not go down into the mine unless I signed with the UMW. I did not tell him I was

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

going down in the mine just to get my tools. I signed a UMW card and went into the mine, but could not find my tools. I then went to see Falcetti about going back to work and he told the boss to show me where I would work and I was taken to a room where there was about a hundred cars of slate due to a cave in. I do not know the name of the boss. Someone else was working in my old room.

"The company men had to clean out the slate and I would have to wait until the slate was cleaned out.

"Falcetti said the company would call me when the slate was cleaned out so I could go back to work, but I never got the call and I know they did not want me to work there anymore.

"I voted in both N.L.R.B. elections though at the time of the second N.L.R.B. election I was not working at the mine. No one tried to get me to vote one way or the other at either election.

"I am able to speak English, but I can not read English well so I have had [redacted] read this statement to me which consists of five and one quarter pages and it is true and correct.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 11, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] has little understanding of the matter under inquiry. He joined the UMW in order to retain his job at the mine. He was hesitant to talk to Agents as he stated he had been advised it was necessary for him to have a counsel before talking to government investigators. He executed the following statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 11, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born in [redacted] entered the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in Springfield, Illinois in [redacted]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America hereinafter referred to as the UMW. I joined this union about [redacted] at the Peabody Mine #6 near Springfield, Ill. I worked at six mines before 1932 when I started working at mine B under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I joined the PMA in 1933, voluntarily. I liked the PMA and the PMA leaders. The miners felt they were being treated fairly by the PMA.

"I have worked at Mine B as a digger continuously from 1933 until the present time except during the strike period from 1937 to 1939.

"I have never held a union office. I only attended a few UMA and PMA meetings. I do not attend many UMW meetings now.

"Elshoff got along wellwith the PMA as far as I know to 1937.

"I know the following miners: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, Charles Bohannon and James Hale.

"I was satisfied with the PMA dues and assessments and I never complained because of dues taken from my wages by the PMA.

"In November, 1939, after the strike, I went back to work at Mine B, and two or three months later Joe Albanese of the UMW Pit Committee came up to me and asked me to join the UMW. I refused, but the next day I talked to other miners and observed that most of them had joined and I knew I would have to join or get out of the mine. It was my idea that if I did not join the UMW I would not be able to work there.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 and I know nothing about any miners who were expelled from the PMA.

"I helped picket Mine B for about thirty days.

"I believe I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937. I do not remember exactly what it was meant for.

"Relative to the mine trying to re-open; I remember going to Mine B on one ocassion when only a handful of men went down into the mine. I did not go to work. I was a PMA member. The men that I named in this statement were included in the few men that did go to work on this ocassion. There were not enough men to work the mine at this time. I believe that was in September, 1937.

"I do not remember the mine trying to open on any other occassion.

"I returned to work in 1939 at Mine B as a member of PMA. I received a registered letter from Elshoff giving me ten days to report for work.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in December, 1937. As far as I know it was a fair election. It presented a true picture of how the miner felt at that mine.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in February, 1941. It was also fair.

"At Mine B. during the past week I have been approached by some miners who told me that I would have to have a councel present before I could talk to any F.B.I. or Government Investigators. I am permitting this interview because I want to speak my mind and this statement has been given of my own free will.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 9, 1943.

At the residence of [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, agents interviewed him and he said he never has been arrested in his life. He also advised that he had not been told by anyone not to talk to agents of the FBI and he said he was willing to answer any questions asked him.

It was noted that [redacted] is rather illiterate and he said he could not read the English language. He could understand questions alright and answered them in good English. However, it is felt he would make a poor witness unless his testimony is absolutely necessary.

Agents obtained from him a statement and it was read over to him and he said it was true and correct as he had given it to agents but that he would not sign it as he could not sign his name anyway.

This unsigned statement is as follows;

"Springfield, Ill
Sept. 9, 1943
[redacted]

"I [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] Spec. Agts. of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me at any time to procure this statement and I give it of my own free will.

"I started at Mine B in the Summer of 1936 and I am still there. I was born [redacted] I came to U.S. in [redacted] and became a citzen in 1937. I first joined a mine union in [redacted] in Spring., Ill. this was U.M.W. I have never been a union officer. I joined the Progressives in 1932 at [redacted]

"During the year I was at Mine B before the strike I never saw any trouble or heard that anyone wanted us to go back to U.M.W. I dont even know Elshoff.

"As far as I know the progressives got along ok with their officials, the men ran the local not just a few. I went to meetings about once a month. I was alway satisfied with the way the P.M.A. men handled the money, I never favored either P.M.A. or U.M.W. I heard of the P.M.A. men being sent to jail for bombing, I dont know whether they were guilty or not. I never saw any U.M.W. men picket Mine B,

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

distribute literature there or attempt to organize at the mine before the strike. I know nothing about any parties given by Elshoff or U.M.W.

"I knew the contract ran out in the spring of 1937 but I did not know about any agreement that had been made regarding it. I am satisfied whether we have P.M.A. or U.M.W. so long as I work. I dont know how the men felt about working without a contract I cant read peoples minds. Even though they had no contract they kept on working. I did not attend or know anything about a meeting the night before the mine closed.

"I want to work the day of the strike and knew nothing about any strike. When I came out at quitting time I heard there was a strike. I later heard that they called a strike because they had no contract. I never loaded any cars short when I went home I saw some on the parting that were loaded short I dont know why they were loaded this way. About two weeks after mine B closed I went to [redacted] and worked for a couple of months. I never signed any petitions for U.M.W. or P.M.A. I dont know anything about any attempt to form a U.M.W. local in Spring., Ill. I was still a[redacted]hen the sit down strike started. I went out to the sit down after it started I had to to eat. I was there over a month. I went on my own free will. I dont know why they were there. Everything was quiet and peaceful, as far as I know all the men were local 54 men. I was there when the Marshall came and told us to leave, nothing was said, we just left, you cant talk back to the U. S. Marshall when he's got the warrant.

"I didnt hear anything about the attempts to open the mine in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election. I went right from my home to the Armory and voted the way I wanted. As far as I know it was a honest election, it was held by secret ballot. I was not forced to vote.

"I dont know why Elshoff would not sign with P.M.A. after they won the election, I dont know how he was able to afford to keep the mine closed so long either.

"I never heard anything about Falsetti or any men from Mine B. working at Jefferson Mine. After the Marshall made us leave Mine B I got a job on W.P.A. and took no interest in the mine.

"When the mine opened in 1939 I got a letter telling me to come back to work. I went out and saw Falsetti, who put my name on the list, I was last on the list, -I a couple of months they sent me

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] on September 12, 1943. [redacted] stated that no one had told him at Mine B not to talk to Federal agents and that he was glad to cooperate in any way. He understood questions readily and answered them in understandable language and it is felt that he would make a fair witness if his testimony were necessary. He advised he has no criminal record.

[redacted] executed the following signed statement:

[redacted] Ill
Sept. 12, 1943

"I [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] & [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement.

"I started at Mine B in the summer of 1935 as a digger and I am still there. I was born [redacted] I came to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a citizen in [redacted] I first joined a mine union in [redacted] was U.M.W. I have never held a union office. During the 2 years I worked at Mine B before 1937 I was a Progressive_ I had been one before I came there. During this time everything was all right between Elshoff and P.M.A. I never heard anything said by either Falsetti or Elshoff to indicate they favored UMW or PMA. Before the mine closed down there were a few men at Mine "B" tryint to swing the men at Mine "B" back to the U.M.W. All they did was talk_ saying they didn't think P.M.A. was a good union. I remember Pasquale, and Bowling Green as being two of these. During this time the mine and Mine "B" got along all right. I couldn't say anything against it. It was the miner's union & they ran it. I did not attend many meetings because _ lived so far from Springfield, went about once every six months. The dues were not too high because before we split from the UMW he paid them more than we did the Progressives.

"I read in the paper about the men who were sent to the jail for bombing_ I couldn't judge whether they were guilty or not.

"Before the strike I never saw any U.M.W. men come to Mine B to picket or distribute literature. I never heard nothing about any parties given by Elshoff or the U.M.W.

"When the union contract ran out in 1937, we keep on working at Mine B_ I don't know whether they had any temporary agreement or not. There was some talk about the wage question at this time_ some wanted to work and some didn't want to work. There was no strikes or trouble, just some talking.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I don't remember anything about a meeting the night before the mine shut down. When I went to work on May 12, 1937 I did not know there was to be any strike. I did not know anything about it until they called us out just before quitting time. I can't say what the strike was for. I did not load any cars short but I did not load any that way and no one told me to load any short. I don't remember whether P.M.A. picketed the mine at this time or not. I recall signing a petition for P.M.A. ___ night after the mine closed. No one forced me to sign_ I did it of my own free will because I was for the Progressives. I did not sign any petition for U.M.W. and I don't remember any P.M.A. petition in the fall of 1937.

"During the summer of 1937 I read in the paper that U.M.W. was forming a local in Springfield, no one contacted me to join.

"I don't recall anything else unusual happening during the summer & Fall of 1937. When they reopened the mine in the fall of 1937, I did not go out the first day I think I went the 2nd day. During the sit-down I was there part of the time. I was there of my own free will no one forced me to go. The strike was peaceful and the men there were all local men. We where there to protect our jobs and the property. I don't think I was at the mine the night the Marshall came over and ordered us off. After this I never went back to Mine B until it opened for good. I did not go there in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election I voted the way I wanted, no one forcedme to vote. I voted for the Progressives because I was with them It looked to me like it was a straight election. The P.M.A. won this electio I don't know why Elshoff would not make a contract with us. I don't know where Elshoff got the money to keep the mine closed. I never heard a thing about Elshoff owning or anyone from Mine B going to work at the Jefferson Mine.

"When the Mine opened in the fall of 1939 I got a letter telling me to come back to work. I went there the next day and they put my name on the list as my section was not ready. In a few days they called me back. I understood at the time the miners were to get the regular Progressive wage scale. When we went back to the mine to work it was in bad shape_ lots of cave ins. I had not heard of any fire there while it was closed. When I went back I paid dues to P.M.A. From the time I went to work until I joined the U.M.W. some fellow asked me what I thought about 2 unions at the mine_ I told him I did not think it was right, it shouldbe one way or the other. He did not ask me to join U.M.W. No one ever came to my home or bothered me to join U.M.W. When I saw most of the men were joining the U.M.W. I joined to. I think I joined before the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. I joined

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

of my own free will because I saw all the rest join. I figured I might just as well go back too. They hired quite a few new men when the mine opened I don't know whether they were P.M.A. or U.M.W. I never signed any cards for U.M.W. or P.M.A. so far as I remember in ____ summer __ 1940.

"I voted at the 2nd N.L.R.B. election at the Armory. This election was just like the other one we voted by secret ballot so far as I know it was was a good honest election. No force was used to get me to vote. I do not know anything about the meeting at which Jack Glascow was kicked out.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read this statement to me as I just read a little english. To the best of my knowledge and belief it is all the truth and just as I have told it to the Agents. The statement is written on this and four other pages. I am signing this statement of my own free will as it is all true.

Signed [redacted]

[redacted], Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)

[redacted]

Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 12, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] On September 13, 1943, Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. During the course of this interview it was observed that [redacted] is a very intelligent person who is possessed with a very good memory. It should be noted that he admitted freely that he does not care for [redacted] the man who succeeded him as board member for this district. It is further to be noted that he claims to have no personal knowledge whatever of any violence at Mine B after that mine was opened although he was working at the mine at that time and has a very good knowledge of most things pertaining to the union. It is believed that if called as a witness he will make a very good impression. He expressed his willingness to cooperate with the Government in every way. He advises that he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was procured from [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 13, 1943

"I [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me and I give this statement willingly. I have been employed [redacted] Prior to that I was employed as a digger at Mine "B" since [redacted] I was born [redacted] The first time I joined a mine union was in about [redacted] this was U.M.W. I went in as a charter member. In 1932 I became a member of [redacted] P.M.A., I held this until 1933 when I was succeeded by [redacted] I was at Mine B [redacted] before they chan to the Progressive Union. During that time as far as I know U.M.W. at that time got along alright as far as I know.

"When the change was made from U.M.W. to P.M.A. I just went over automatically with the rest. It did not make any difference to me whether we were P.M.A. or U.M.W. and in fact I did not want the job as board member, but when I took it I went out and signed up every mine in this District that went P.M.A. When I contated ELSHOFF to sign up for the P.M.A. it was at his request. He seemed pleased that they had gone P.M.A. at his mine.

"From 1932 to 1937, there was a lot of rumpus between ELSHOFF and the P.M.A. officials from what I have heard. One difficulty was caused by ELSHOFF wanting to operate on a 6 day week and the P.M.A. wouldn't let him. I never heard of ELSHOFF or FALSETTI doing anything to discredit the P.M.A. officials nor do I know of their having expressed any desire to have U.M.W. back. From 1932 to 1937 local 54 P.M.A., was being run in a way to satisfy most of the men in all respects there were some men who felt that some of the money was not being spent properly but this is usual in all labor unions. I attended all P.M.A. meetings during this period. The P.M.A. officials made regular

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

reports on money matters. When the P.M.A. started it was hard pressed finiancially, I know that they didn't pay me all they promised as a board member. This was due to their finiancal circumstances. I don't know of anything to indicate dishonest handling of union funds. I recall the P.M.A. men who were sentenced for property bombings, I have no opinion as to their guilt or innocence. While the P.M.A. was the union at Mine B, it was never to my knowledge picketed by the U.M.W. nor was any literature distributed by them. I did not know of any group in P.M.A. who were actually U.M.W. men. No one ever contacted me to get me to join U.M.W. at this time. I heard nothing about any parties being given by ELSHOFF for U.M.W. or by U.M.W. for him.

"When the contract expired on 3-31-37, [redacted] told us we were working on a temporary agreement and that our pay would be retro-active.to Apr. 1. I figured at this time that P.M.A. would be able to get us as good a contract as the U.M.W. In April and early May of 1937, there were no showdowns or stoppages at the mine or any other demonstrations so far as I know, over the wage issue. I have no idea as to the managments position in the wage matter. I did not attend the 5/11 meeting, where I believe two P.M.A. members were expelled I don t remember the names of those expelled. At previous meetings I know that some members were expelled. I wentto work 5/12/37 this was just like any other day to me. I don t remember any commotion at the mine that day over either the wage question or the men who had been expelled from P.M.A. On 5/12/37 there were some cars loaded short, I did not purposefully load any short and no one told me to load cars in that manner. I had a couple come out short because the driver came & got them too soon. On the last day we worked I was called out of the mine and went over to one of the men & asked where orders came from to strike the mine, he said from district headquarters. I then saw [redacted] and he told me he had ordered the mine closed, he did not at the time tell me why he had called the strike. I did not feel at the time that a strike should have been called at Mine B. I never heard that the reason for closing the mine was because the Co. had refused to fire men expelled from P.M.A. There was a picket line at Mine B for a few days this was on the road not the mine property.

"I signed the first P.M.A. petition on the road near the mine. I was not forced to sign and did it of my own free will.

"I signed a later Petition which was to be submitted to the laborboard. I signed this also of my own free will.

"I did not sign any petition for U.M.W. during the summer of 1937 and don t recall being asked to sign such.

"I read of a new U.M.W. local being formed in Springfield the summer of 1937. I was not approached concerning it however. No one contacted me during the summer of 1937 to join U.M.W.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"When the mine opened the summer of 1937 I read of it in the papers. I did not go out the first day. I did go out the 2nd day on this day some men tried to go to work. they walked up to the cage but were blocked. I think either the 3rd or 4th day the sit-down started. I was there most of the time it was on. This strike was carried on by our own local so far as I know. There were no imported hoodlums or thugs. No one forced me to take part in this and I did it figuring I was protecting my job. There was no violence at this strike so far as I know. I was there when the U. S. Marhsall came out and read the injunction. He came out and told who he was, read the law to us and told us to leave. Some of the men asked us what to do & I told them, that men was the law & we had to go. There was no trouble. I heard of the attempt to open the mine in Dec. 1937 but I did not go out.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election. I voted the way I wanted and of my own free will. I went to the local hall first and we went over in 10's. [redacted] explained the purpose of the voting and why we were going to go in groups. he did not tell me how to vote. I did not see any U.M.W. men on the way to or at the Armory. I think this was an honest election. I remember the attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938, but I did not go.

"I did not hear why ELSHOFF would not make a contract with P.M.A. from the time of the election till the mine opened nor do I have any knowledge as to where he got the money to keep it closed from.

"I did not hear of FALSETTI or any of the Mine B men working at Jefferson mine while Mine B was shut down.

"When the mine opened I got a registered letter from the company telling me to report in 5 days. I went out, saw FALSETTI who gave me my check and put me to work at once. I don't recall what the wage scale arrangement at this time was. When I went back to work I kept on paying dues to the Progressives. When we went back to work there were many falls in the mine. Two boxes never did open. I did not hear of any fire in the mine while it was closed down. After I went to work I was not contacted in regard to joining the U.M.W. I was not threatened in any way. I joined up with the U.M.W. the first working day in Jan. of 1941. I signed then because so many had already signed. [redacted] and I just decided we might just as well join. I signed of my own free will. I did not care about my job there as I know I could get a job somewhere else. I only heard of one man being beaten and I didn't see this and don't know whether there was anything to it or not. So far as I know the Progressives did nothing to keep the men with them. I don't think there was any particular reason why they did not bother me except that they knew I would be my own judge. During the summer of 1940 I signed a membership card for P.M.A. but not for U.M.W. During this time the management did nothing to

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

indicate preference for one union over the other. I did not see many new men at the mine when it was first opened.

"I voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election, I was not forced to vote and voted the way I wanted, voting U.M.W.A. As far as I can say this was an honest election.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read this 6 page statement to me and it is all true and correct so far as I can recall, and is as I have told it to Agents. I am signing this of my own free will."

"Signed [redacted]

"WITNESSED:
[redacted], Spc. Agt.,
F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI (Milw)
Springfield, Ill. 9-13-43"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of the pertinent facts in this case and his inability to speak English well. He admitted no criminal record.

[redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 7,1943

"I [redacted], do voluntarily give the following statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to America in [redacted] I was naturalized at [redacted] I am presently residing at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois.

"I have worked in the Coal Mines in Lincoln and Springfield, Ill since [redacted] starting at Mine B in [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers of America when I first started working in the mines at [redacted] and stayeed with this union until 1932. Between [redacted] and 1932 the UMWA had no trouble with the Mine B officials.

"The theft of the ballots on the wage scale was the reason for the start of the Progressive Mine Workers of America so far as I know. I had no part in the formation of PMA but I did attend a meeting at Reservois Park when the men were talking about a new union. I never held an office in either PMA or UMWA. I joined PMA along with all the other miners at Mine B in 1932, and so far as I know this union got along well with Mr. Elshoff and Oscar Falcetti, and I never heard either of them talk against P.M.A.

"I thought the PMA was a good union, well run and I liked the officers. I attended most of the meetings and had a right to talk and vote for whom I pleased. The dues and Special assessments were about the same in PMA as in UMWA.

"About two weeks before the strike in May of 1937 James Hale came into my room where I was loading coal and asked me to sign up with UMWA, saying that everyone was signing up. I was scared and signed up. I was surprised and couldn't think, and signed up to save my job. I was afraid to tell anyone about this. [redacted] also signed up

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

the same way, according to Jim Hale. Mr. Hale also claimed that [redacted] had joined UMWA.

"I knew Andre Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout George Jacaway, & Charles Bohannon but I never knew that any of them were UMWA spies or know that any of them were suspended until I joined UMWA.

"So far as I know the strike in May of 1937 was caused by an argument about back pay. I was working the day of the strike, but I don't remember how it started. I do remember seeing Coal Cars being loaded short that day but I didn't load any short myself. After the strike both PMA and UMWA came around with petitions, but I don't remember signing either one, because I had decided to quit. However, during the summer of 1937 the UMWA started a new local. I believe itwas #7469. I was asked to come over to John Ananias house to pay my dues. The only other person I ever saw over there was Tony Plotch. I remember paying dues there a couple of times.

"During the time the PMA was picketing the Mine B I went out the. only one night. None of the PMA men knew that I was paying dues to UMWA

"I recall that in Dec. 1937 "Cotton" Ananias told me to come out to Mine B as it was going to open UMWA. I went out to the mine but there was only about a dozen men there--mostly the men whose names have been set out above. I remember that there were some PMA men on the road in cars watching who went to work. We only worked one day and quit because we didn have enough men. I was scared because I saw that the UMWA didn't have a majority like James Hale had told me when he got me to sign up with UMWA.

"I remember voting in the 1st NLRB election, but I don't remember how I voted. I believe the Progressives won.

"After the strike I went back to work at Mine B in 1939. I got a letter from Mr. Elshoff saying that the mine was going to open. I had been on WPA for 14 months when the mine opened. When I returned to work I was paying dues to UMWA. No one bothered me or tried to get me to join UMWA as I was already a member. I never tried to get anyone to join UMWA. I never saw anyone beat up, but one morning I saw an old man named [redacted] lying on the floor in the wash house and I heard the men talking, and I heard that John Sirtout beat him up. I also heard about a man being beat up down in the mines. I think the reasons for these beatings was because the UMWA was trying to squeeze out the PMA.

"I recall voting in the Second NLRB election which UMWA won. I v for UMWA this time.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I quit out at Mine B about the end of May 1941, because [redacted] I never went back to Mine B again.

"If I had a free and voluntary choice of Unions I would choose the Progressives.

"I have had the above statement consisting of four and one quarter pages (4¼) read to me by Agent [redacted] and have initialed the changes I wanted to me. The above statements are true and I do hereby sign my name.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted], Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was very cooperative and it is believed he will make a good witness. He speaks English well and was Pit Committeeman at Mine "B" when it reopened. He appeared intelligent and familiar with the pertinent facts of this case. He has no known criminal record other than an admitted traffic violation.

He submitted the following signed statement and an addendum thereto:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 6, 1943.

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement t[redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made by them to get me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] I first joined U.M.W. about [redacted] when I began to work at Spring Creek Mine near Springfield. I began working at Mine "B" about [redacted]

"In 1932 when P.M.A. was formed, I attended several of the meetings but was never an officer until 1937 when I was on the Pit Committee. I wanted to join P.M.A. because I didn't like the cut in wages which U.M.W. proposed on the wage contract.

"For the first 3 or 4 years P.M.A. had the contract at Mine "B" everything seemed to go along smoothly. There were no strikes or closedowns and only some minor arguments took place in the office over settling grievances.

"Prior to the strike in 1937, there were some pamphlets were placed on windshields of the cars urging us to join U.M.W. There was a group of men who were agitating and acting as spies and some of these were expelled just before the strike. They Joe Albanese who was also known as Sam Catalino, and Andrew Skrelivicus, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Geo. Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and Jame Hale. These men were frequently seen at parties of a social nature at various homes including Falsetti.

"At the time when the wage contract held by P.M.A. ran out in 1937, [redacted] read a temporary agreement to the miners at the mine explaining that they would get retroactive pay if the new contract was higher. Soon after this U.M.W. obtained a wage scale which was higher than the P.M.A. contract.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

U.M.W. could not get a contract at Mine "B" though, because they did not have bargaining rights at the mine. At this time the agitators named above began talking to the miners explaining that the miners would get this raise and be better off if they joined U.M.W. These men were always around the mine company offices, even after hours and on Sunday mornings, which indicated to me that the company was behind it all. These men were also seen going to U.M.W. headquarters so P.M.A. expelled about 5 of them for spying activities, but the company refused to fire them and this was the cause of the strike.

"I signed a petition to have these spies tried before the Union body and to be dismissed for their spying activities.

"The day of the strike I was loading coal and I saw some cars being partly loaded and I know the men were doing this in an effort to force the company to dismiss the spies. I began loading cars short also at that time. About two o'clock that afternoon we were called out on strike. When we came up the shaft Frank Austin made some slurring remark and this caused a slight commotion but no violence occurred. The spies went immediately to the office of the company and after a short time of milling around we came on home.

"About two weeks after the strike P.M.A. circulated a petition to show that P.M.A. had a majority. John Schneider and others made a house to house canvas of the miners to get signatures. They made no threats of any kind to get these signatures, and each man was required to sign in his own handwriting.

"I heard U.M.W. also circulated a petition that summer but no one asked me to sign it.

"In September, 1937, I saw in the paper that Mine "B" was to reopen so the next morning I called the mine to see if there was work because I could not hear the whistle from my home. They said there was work so I went to the mine to work but I saw that the expelled spies were there to go to work too and I refused. That morning we all went to the office and the company gave each man a paper supposed to explain why no P.M.A. had no contract. Falsetti led the spies to the shaft and when I saw this I refused to work with them as did the rest of the P.M.A. members. We began picketing in a day or so and this continued for about two months until we were served with a court injunction.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Dec. 1937 and in my estimation it was a fair election. No threats or violence occurred that I know of. There were some pamphlets distributed at the election but I refused to take

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

one and I don't recall what was in them.

"I received a letter that the mine would reopen in November, 1939, on an open shop basis. I went to work as a member of P.M.A.

"Shortly after the mine opened a fight occurred when a man named [redacted] who had secured a job at the mine, hit [redacted] who was a P.M.A. member. I don't know what started this fight. From this time on there were several fights and the spies mentioned above were always going around in the mine attempting to get them to join U.M.W. and when the men refused they would beat them up.

"In the winter of 1940, after most of the men had gone down the shaft, a bunch of the spies began beating several dues paying members of P.M.A. I saw them beat up on [redacted] and [redacted]

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 and when it went U.M.W., I quit the mine and went to work [redacted]

"During the time most of the fights occurred I was Pit Committeeman and I settled all grievances whether the men belonged to P.M.A. or U.M.W.

"When the mine reopened, I suggested several P.M.A. men be hired but Falsetti said he would hire the men he wanted and he refused to hire any P.M.A. men. He refused to hire [redacted] was a P.M.A. member.

"I have read this 5 page statement and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 9, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary addition to the statement which I gave to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

make this additional statement. I wish to add the following:

"On the day [redacted] was beaten up [redacted] and [redacted] and myself were driving entry in the section of the mine where [redacted] was working. All three of us who were driving entry were members of the Pit Committee. About 10:30 a.m. we got a call to go up on top and when we went to the company office Falsetti told us our district office had called and wanted us down at the district office right away. We got in [redacted] car and came down to the District Headquarters but when we reached there we were told that no call had been placed for us and that we weren't wanted. While we were at the District Office a call came in from the mine advising that [redacted] had been beaten up.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and one other page which is a statement in addition to the statement I have given previously. It is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of the pertinent facts at Mine B. [redacted] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 14, 1943.

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily make the following statement to Special Agents [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and emigrated to America in [redacted] I was naturalized in [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. I first started working in the mines in [redacted] joining UMWA at that time. I have never been an officer in any union. I began to work in Mine B about [redacted] I was a UMWA member at that time and we got along alright with the Mine B Co.

"The Progressives were started in 1932 because the UMWA stole the wage scale notes. I never had anything to do with the formation of PMA and never attended any of the meetings when it was being organized. I joined PMA along with all the other men at Mine B and we got along fine with Mr. Elshoff until the time of the strike in 1937. I thought that the Progressives were alright.

"The strike started in 1937 because a bunch of guys wanted to put UMWA in Mine B. Some of the men who were causing this trouble and acting as spies for UMWA were: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrolevicus, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon (Bowling Green), and James Hale. I know that Jim Hale was kicked out of PMA for 99 years for talking for UMWA. I never heard about any of the other men being expelled.

"I don't recall any argument about a contract or wages but I do know that I had some back pay coming that I never got.

"I was at the mine on the day of the strike but I never loaded any cars light, although I saw some come by only half loaded. [redacted] called us out on strike at 2:45 pm because the mine wouldn't pay the scale.

"I don't remember signing any petition showing that I favored PMA.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I remember going out to Mine B one morning when 13 UMWA, who had formed a new local, tried to open the Mine. These 13 men were composed mostly of the men named above. The PMA started a sitdown strike out there to protect their jobs. I was only at the mine for a couple of days during the sit down strike.

"I voted in the 1st N.L.R.B. election which PMA won by a big majority.

"While the mine was closed on strike I raised a garden and sold vegetables and went one year on W.P.A. I was on WPA when I got a letter from Mr. Elshoff to come back to work.

"When I went back to Mine B it was "open shop." I was still a Progressive. Two or three months after I was back at work [redacted] came around and asked me to sign up UMWA. I told him that I was going to wait a little. I was never threatened or beaten, but I saw [redacted] in the office after he got beat up because he wouldn't join UMWA. I finally joined UMWA because I saw that most of the men were joining up, and I was afraid of getting beat up if I didn't.

"I also voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election which UMWA won.

"I don't favor either union, both of them treated me about the same.

"I am presently employed at Mine B as a digger.

"I have had the above statement consisting of 2 3/4 pages read to me by Agent [redacted] It is true and correct.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I. Springfield, Illinois.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was cooperative but it is not believed that he would make a good witness because he seems hazy on the facts and events which occurred at Mine B during the period under investigation. [redacted] admitted no criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 10, 1943

"I, [redacted] do voluntarily make the following statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to America [redacted] I claim citizenship through my father who got his papers in [redacted]

"I started working in the mines around Springfield, Ill. in [redacted] I joined up with United Mine Workers of America in the latter part of that year. I started at Mine B in [redacted] Between [redacted] and 1932 the UMWA got along fair out at Mine B.

"The split in 1932 was caused on account of John L. Lewis mostly he wanted us to take a reduction on a 'Yellow Dog' contract. I took no part in the formation of the Progressive Mine Workers of America but joined them along with all the other men at Mine B. The PMWA got along alright with the Mine B. officials. I figured that the PMWA was a whole lot better than the UMWA.

"The trouble in 1937 was caused by a temporary contract about retroactive back pay. Elshoff backed down on this contract and we went out on strike. I know that he owed me $11.00 back pay. At this time there was a bunch of men who favored UMWA at Mine B and they were starting trouble. These men were: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale.

"The strike was caused because [redacted] told us not to go down because Elshoff wouldn't give us our back pay. We came out about the middle of the afternoon. I recall seeing some cars come out with short loads on the day of the strike. This was because the men were mad about the Co. trying to switch back to UMWA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I remember signing a petition after the strike showing that I favored PMA.

"I picketed out at Mine B for about a month, two or three days at a time, but I wasn't out there when it started, and I wasn't there when the men were ordered off by the injunction.

"Right after the injunction some of the UMWA men mentioned above went out to the mine and brought up all the coal that was down close to the pardon. I don't know how long they were there as I didn't go out to the mine.

"I remember voting in the first N.L.R.B. election which the Progressives won by a big majority.

"Between 1937 and 1939 I was on relief and later WPA. I was on WPA when I got a letter to come back to work at Mine B.

"When I returned to Mine B in 1939 I was still Progressive and paid dues to that union. I stayed PMA untill about the last one. I never saw anyone beaten up at the mine and no one ever bothered me but shortly before I joined UMWA the man I rode with was beaten up and 'Cudge' Baumgarner told me that I had better join up with UMWA. I joined because I had to or be out of luck. My tools weren't stolen and I only had a few docks.

"Just a day or two after I had signed UMWA I quit because the top of room was working and when I came back the next morning [redacted] said that he was going to give me a two day layoff. I told him that if he gave me two I take two. He said that I was fired. I went in the wash-house to change and I got mad and went back and asked [redacted] whats the idea are you going nuts. [redacted] said that I had been laying off to much. [redacted] then asked the clerk how many days I'd lost and if I'd signed up. The clerk said only 1 day and that Id joined up. [redacted] then told me to put my clothes on and go on down to work.

"I remember voting in the second NLRB election. The UMWA won this election. I was surprised when UMWA won because I thought the men would still vote PMA anyway.

"I am still out at Mine B digging coal in Box [redacted]

"If I could have a free and voluntary choice of unions I would choose PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(Continued)

"When Mine B reopened in 1939 they closed off Box [redacted] and [redacted] because of squeezes & caveins. I don't imagine that it cost them over $10,000.00 to start operations again. I have read the above and it is true and correct.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] at Mine B and as such disclaims any knowledge of union activities. It is not felt that [redacted] would make a good witness because he was reluctant to talk to the Agents and advised that he was a friend of Mr. Elshoff's. [redacted] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 15, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily make the following statement to Special Agents [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to cause me to make this statement and I know that anything I may say can be presented in a Court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] I started working in mines about [redacted] and have been [redacted] I joined UMWA in [redacted] when the [redacted] I started at Mine B [redacted] All of that time I have been working nights and out of touch with union activities. So far as I knew the UMWA got along fine with Mine B officials before 1932. I don't know the reason for the beginning of PMA and didn't take any part in its permotion. I never even attended any union meetings under PMA. When Mine B changed its union affiliations I joined PMA with the other engineers.

"I knew Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, and Charles Bohannon out at Mine B at the time of the strike in 1937, but I never heard about any of them favoring UMWA or stirring up trouble, and I never heard about them or any others being expelled from PMA. On my job I didn't have much contact with the miners and I have no knowledge of any contract or wage difficulties at the time of the strike in 1937. [redacted] and I wouldn't have any knowledge of coal being hoisted short at the time of the strike.

[redacted] so I couldn't say anything about conditions below during the strike period.

"I don't recall signing any petition for PMA or UMWA after the strike started.

"I returned to Mine B in 1939 as a PMA member. No one ever

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

approached me to threaten me or beat me up. I just joined up with UMWA along with the majority. When I returned to Mine B the fans, hoisting equipment, and boilers were in working condtion. I have no knowledge of the condition of Mine B down below when we went back to work.

"I never discussed the strike or union situation with Mr. Elshoff or Oscar Falcetti either during the strike or after I returned to work.

"I have read the above 2¾ pages of voluntary statements made by me. The same are true and correct.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [redacted]
/s/
Special Agents, F. B. I.
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at the FBI Office, Springfield, Illinois, on September 10, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was beaten by the UMW prior to leaving Mine "B", and is anti-UMW. From interview, it was the agents' impression he is of questionable reliability. He executed the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 10, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

[redacted]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union about [redacted] I worked in some nine or ten mines before I started working at Mine B in [redacted] I worked in all of these mines as a member of UMW.

"I have never held an office in a union office. However, I was a check weighman at Mine B. from [redacted] until January, 1940.

"I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, following the action taken by the other miners at mine B in September, 1932. I took no active part in the formation of PMA.

"As far as I know the relations between Carl Elshoff and the UMW prior to 1932 were satisfactory.

"I believe it was in 1936 when Carl Elshoff was reported to be interested in the operation of the Jefferson Mine at Springfield, Illinois. At this time I recall that Falcetti, under Elshoff's orders took eight or ten men from Mine B out to the Jefferson Mine and worked them out there. I also recall that the Jefferson Mine at that time was operating under an open shop and it later appeared that other men who were UMW members were brought to Mine B to work when that mine opened under the open shop in November, 1939. It appears possible that the eight or ten men put in the Jefferson Mine were UMW agitators. I think that therefore from the start there was some working agreement between Elshoff and the UMW to have a UMW

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

majority in these two mines, Mine B and Jefferson. Between 1932 and 1937 Elshoff would never try to get along with the PMA.

"As far as I knew the PMA miners got along well with, and liked, and trusted the PMA officials.

"In 1936 the UMW tried to obtain UMW sympathizers in the union offices in the PMA.

"I knew the following men were UmW organizers both before 1937 and after the mine opened in 1939: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"Sometime in December, 1936, just before the regular PMA local election, handbills appeared in the Mine B wash house. The bills read, 'vote for Tony Plotch for check weighman and you will be voting for the UMW.' I do not know who put out these bills. I did not put them out. [redacted]

"It was my understanding that the PMA District Board members had a clause in their contract with Elshoff by which the miners were to get retroactive pay dating back to April 1, 1937. This was not paid to the miners. It was expected that PMA would get as good a wage scale as the UMW would obtain.

"In April, 1937 at the mine offices there was some amongst the miners who expressed dissatisfaction about what wages they were getting and that they were not being paid what had been agreed upon in the contract.

"The whole group of men whose names are mention above in this statement took advantage of this feeling and were active in telling the miners they would never get their retroactive pay.

"About 1934 or 1935 the top boss told me that Falcetti had instructed him to go to the men who work on top of the mine and get them to accept a lower wage scale. That is, a scale lower than we were then receiving. The Top boss, whose name I do not remember refused and he was fired. He was a company man.

"I do not remember if I attended the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937. I did hear that some UMW agitators had been thrown out of the PMA at that meeting.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I remember that on the next day which was May 12, 1937 the coal cars were shorted. I think the cars were shorted in the West part of the mine because it was in that section that most of the UMW agitators including the men listed in this statement were working, and the PMA miners in that section did not want to work with them. I assume the other miners knew about the expulsion of these UMW agitators from the PMA. I could notice unrest among the miners on May 12, 1937.

"I helped picket Mine B after the strike started. I do recall signing the PMA petition of May 26, 1937.

"I think the attempted opening of Mine B in September, 1937 was just a test to see how many men would go to work under the UMW. Elshoff would not let PMA members work there and and he and the UMW felt that the miners by this time after being out of work all summer would be willing to go back to work under the UMW. I think the same reasoning applies to the two other attempts to open the mine. I heard that during this period the majority of the foreign element working in the mine were contacted at their homes and told that the mine would re-open if they joined the UMW.

"In the late Fall of 1939 after the mine had opened under the open-shop, [redacted] told me that he had just seen a check in the amount of $50,000.00 on Elshoff's desk. From the way [redacted] described it I understood this check was made payable to Elshoff. He also told me once that Elshoff would not live up to his contract with the PMA.

"I returned to work at Mine B on November 6, 1939, the day it opened under the open-shop. I returned as a PMA member. I never joined the UMW after I joined the PMA in 1932.

"Charles Bohannon, [redacted] came to me in the summer of 1940 at my home and asked me to help them get the PMA miners to sign over with the UMW. They said I would have my job as long as I wanted it. They made another trip to my house and on one occassion Cudge Bumgarner came by himself. These men wanted me to help organize the balance of the men. They implied that I would get money for my trouble. They were trying to get me to sign up at the same time. They figured that if I, as check weighman, signed with the UMW the rest of the men would. Many of the miners came to me for general advise about mining affairs. They had confidence in me. These agitators knew I could influence the men. They showed me a list of the miners who had signed up with UMW by that time and referred to some of the names of the miners they had persuaded to join the UMW. I head that practically all of the Lithuanian and Italian miners had been contacted at their homes by Falcetti in an effort to get them to join the UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Because of my job at the mine the N.L.R.B. likened my job to that of a company clerk or weighman and therefore I was not permitted to vote in either N.L.R.B. election.

"In the last part of 1941 I was still a PMA member. At this time about 2:30 PM. one afternoon I was in Falcetti's office checking sheets and Falcetti ignored me. This was unusual and I thought something was wrong. About a half hour later I was standing in front of the blacksmith's shop an a man, whom I knew to be [redacted], came directly from the mine office and mumbled something as he passed me. He stopped and when I turned my head he hit me over the head with a weapon and I fell. He hit me several times. As he walked away from me he said, 'I would not come back to the mine to work anymore.'

"A few days before this happened I was working up in the coal tipple and a company man came up to where I was working and someone called him [redacted]. That is how I know the name of the man that hit me as this was the same man. He was a strong UMW man. I figured he got instructions to beat me from Falcetti. This was the last day I ever worked at Mine B.

[redacted] (signed)
[redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent F.B.I."

RE:
JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 9, 1943. [redacted] willingly answered the questions put to him, and was definite in his answers. He can read and write English, but his reading glasses were not available when the following statement was taken.

"

Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I was born [redacted] I entered the United States in [redacted] at New York City. I became a naturalized citizen in [redacted] Illinois. I am presently employed at the Panther Creek Mine #4, under the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America in [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois. I then worked at two other mines under the United Mine Workers, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, before I started working at Mine B in [redacted] under the UMW.

"The last day I ever worked at Mine B was on May 12, 1937. I have never held an office in any union.

"Prior to 1932 the relations between ELSHOFF and UMW appeared to be satisfactory and I believe the same applies to the relations between ELSHOFF and PMA from 1932 to April 1937 as far as I know. I do not know that ELSHOFF favored either union at this time. I was just interested in working and although I went to most union meetings, both UMW and PMA, when I joined that union, I paid little attention to the relations between the union and the operator.

"I voluntarily joined PMA in 1932 when ELSHOFF signed a contract with PMA. I took no part in the formation of PMA.

"The following men were UMW organizers working in Mine B before May 12, 1937: JOE ALBANESE, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN COTTON, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEORGE JACAWAY, EMORY JACAWAY, CHARLES BOHANNON and JAMES HALE.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"About a month before the strike in 1937, and before he was thrown out of PMA, FRANK AUSTIN came to my room in the mine, I was a digger. He told me if all of us would sign up with the UMW ELSHOFF would sign a contract. He said he did not know what I was working for because PMA did not have a contract with ELSHOFF. He wanted me to sign a UMW card. I would not. I saw some of these agitators talking loudly with PMA members and heard they tried to get these PMA men to sign up with the UMW. There was a lot of talk before the strike at the mine to sign up the miners with UMW.

"I heard each one of these agitators were getting ten dollars for each PMA man they signed up with the UMW. They all looked like they were making more money than they had before when they worked as regular mine workers. TONY PLOTCH, FRANK AUSTIN, and ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS bought new automobiles about this time. I saw the new cars.

"I am not familiar with the wage scale trouble, except I know I was supposed to get some back pay which I never received.

"I do not remember if I went to the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937. I knew some UMW agitators had been thrown out of the PMA at this meeting. I heard about this the next morning from miners at the mine. I worked in Box on the south side. I did not know coal cars were being loaded short. When I came out of the mine that day I heard that cars from the west side had been loaded short. I did not hear why they were loaded short.

"At 3:00 p.m. on May 12, 1937 the company men came down to my room and told me to come out of the mine. I usually quit work at 3:15 p.m.

"I went back the next morning but the strike had started and no one went to work.

"I helped picket Mine B for more than three weeks.

"I never worked at Mine B again.

"After the mine opened in November 1939 I went to the mine and saw FALCETTI and told him I was sick. He told me to bring a doctor's certificate. I took him a doctor's certificate and he kept it. About eleven months later I was able to work again and got another certificate to show I could work. I took this to FALCETTI and the PMA Pit committee went with me. I was still a PMA member. I showed the certificate to him and he refused to let me work.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"He said I was too late. I am sure he would not let me work because I was still a member of PMA. There could be no other reason.

"I never had trouble with anyone. Also at that time, while FALCETTI was turning me down there were fifteen or twenty other miners standing around me in FALCETTI'S office. Some from the State of Penna. They all signed up for work while I was standing there. I heard some of them talking about having worked in mines in Penna.

"There was a miner named [redacted] who is older than I am who showed FALCETTI a sick certificate the same day I did. I know this man returned to work at Mine B a short time after I had been turned down by FALCETTI, who said I was too late.

"I know that [redacted] signed up with UMW before he went back to work. Before the strike, I had refused to sign up with the UMW. This showed me that FALCETTI, who takes orders from ELSHOFF, favored the UMW.

"I have had this statement consisting of three and one half pages read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]

[redacted]

Special Agent, FBI

[redacted]

Special Agent, FBI"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 9, 1943. He appeared cooperative and alert.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I am presently residing at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I am employed at the Panther Creek Mine #2, Springfield. I was born on [redacted]

"The first mine union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, in [redacted] at Mine B. This was the first time I ever worked in a mine. I worked there continuously from that date until May 12, 1937 when it closed on strike. I returned to mine B in November, 1939, worked there two days and then quit and never went back to mine B.

"The only office I ever held with either union was as a member of the Trial Committee of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, about 1936. I attended very few UMW and PMA meetings. I took no active part in the formation of the PMA in 1932, but merely went along with the rest of the miners when they joined the PMA. As far as I knew, the officials of PMA were good leaders and treated the rank and file miners fairly. The PMA was run right as far as I knew. I believe the other miners felt the same way.

"The relations between Elshoff and the UMW at Mine B prior to September, 1932 seemed to be satisfactory but from April, 1937 until the mine closed on May 12, 1937, Elshoff was not getting along well with the PMA due to the negotiations on the contract. Neither Elshoff or Falcetti made any remarks to my knowledge indicating they favored the UMW at this time, but he was definitely dissatisfied with the negotiations on a new contract with PMA and I was told on May 12, 1937 that he refused to sign a new contract.

"To my knowledge, the UMW never had a picket line and never distributed literature at Mine B prior to May, 1937.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I knew the following men who were members of the P.M.A., but who were sympathetic for the UMW and who were agitators for the UMW at Mine B in the spring of 1937; Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale.

"I feel that Oscar Falcetti knew the agitating was going on and I heard that he was informed of it, but he did not take any action. Prior to May 11, 1937, the PMA trial Board tried several of the above mentioned men, charging them with disloyalty to the union and several were expelled a short time before May 11, 1937. I do not know how Falcetti was informed that these men were agitating for UMW. I do not recall attending the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937, and did not hear about additional men being expelled.

"I knew that coal cars were being shorted on May 12, 1937, but I do not know why. I was a digger at Mine B. I never received any instructions to load cars short in my room, which was Box[illegible] in the West side of the mine. Sometime in the late afternoon on May 12, 1937, I was notified it was quitting time by the driver. I knew it was early, but thought sometime had broken down. When I got to the top, I was told there was a strike as Elshoff would not sign a contract.

"I did not know the details of the wage scale trouble in 1937 with the exception that the PMA officials advised un that Elshoff had signed a retroactive contract that would pay back pay as of April 1, 1937. I never heard the UMW would be able to get a better wage scale arrangement than the PMA.

"I helped picket at Mine B off and on for several weeks in 1937. I only went back to Mine B one time during the shut down to go to work, which I believe was in September, 1937. I heard the mine was going to open by the end of the month. When I got to the mine the UMW organizers were in the company office. I heard that only UMW men were going to work. The mine did not open.

"When the mine opened in November 1939, I went back for two days, got my tools and quit. I quit because I thought there was going to be trouble at the mine. No one at any time asked me to join the UMW, but I knew UMW men were trying to sign up miners.

"I never heard there was a fire at the mine from 1937 to 1939. I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of that union. I do not recall any other petitions. I voted in the first NLRB election on December 15, 1937 and as far as I know it was fair. I did not

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

vote in the second election.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the three pages of this statement and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
Special Agent, FBI.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on September 9, 1943. He willingly answered the questions put to him, and appeared to be alert and intelligent. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

[redacted] I arrived in the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] I am presently unemployed and live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be hereinafter be referred to as the UMW. I joined this union in [redacted] Illinois and worked in the [redacted]

"In [redacted] I started working in Mine B under the UMW and worked there until that mine closed down on May 12, 1937. My job in Mine B was coal digging. I never held an office in a mine union.

"I worked at Mine B as a member of the UMW from [redacted] until 1932. At that time the PMA was organized at Mine B due to the fact that the miners had voted against a lower wage scale and JOHN L. LEWIS claimed the ballots were stolen and tried to push the new wage scale through regardless of the wishes of the rank and file.

"I did not help to organize the Progressive Mine Workers of America which is being referred to as the PMA, but I willingly joined that union because I was being cheated by the UMW.

"It seemed to me that ELSHOFF never did go out of his way to get along with PMA officials. I remember that when little grievances were taken to him he would not cooperate with the PMA committees.

"I was always satisfied with the PMA and its leaders and I believe the other miners felt the same way. At least I never heard any complaints from the miners.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I attended most of the UMW and PMA meetings while I worked under these unions.

"I do not recall the details or circumstances of the wage scale controversy, but generally speaking I was interested in the PMA because I liked the union. I felt the miners were being treated fairly under the PMA.

"I think ELSHOFF'S attitude toward the PMA was clearly indicated when he was finally shown by the first N.L.R.B. election that the PMA had the vast majority and he still would not open the mine and let the PMA miners work.

"After the mine had been closed down on trike for sometime, it became common talk amongst the miners that ELSHOFF must be getting paid by someone to keep his mine closed.

"I never saw a UMW picket line at the mine. I never saw any UMW literature distributed at the mine while I worked at Mine B.

"It was the general opinion at the mine the following men who were working as members of the PMA at Mine B were bought over by UMW to agitate for that union at that mine: JOE ALBANESE, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN (COTTON) ANANLAS, JOHN SIMTOUT, GEORGE JACONAY, EMORY JACONAY, CHARLES BOHANNON, and JAMES HALE.

"I observed that CHARLES BOHANNON and ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS spent a lot of money in bars and saloons in downtown Springfield, about two years before the strike. They seemed to have a lot of money all of a sudden. It looked like these men whose names are mentioned above were more prosperous during the period between 1935 and 1937. No one has ever talked to me about joining the UMW. However, many of the miners were approached for this purpose, but I guess they thought I was too strong from the PMA.

"I attended the PMA Special meeting on May 11, 1937 when some miners, about five I think, were thrown out of the PMA union. I voted to have them thrown out because there was evidence that they were double-crossing the PMA. I can not remember the testimony against them, but I remember that it was strongly against them. I do remember that ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, TONY PLOTCH, PETER CARTER, and DOMINIC PASQUALE were included in this group who were thrown out of PMA.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEWED WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"I helped picket Mine B for two or three months. I went out to the mine each of the three times it tried to open, but did not go to work because the UMW men were allowed to go down in the mine. None of us PMA members would work there at this time for that reason.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of the PMA.

"I think the first N.L.R.B. election in December, 1937 was fair and I never heard any complaints from anyone who said it was not fair.

"I have read this statement consisting of three and one half pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 10, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks very broken English and had only a fair understanding of the activities at Mine B. He was repeately contacted by an UMW organizer, until he finally joined UMW to hold his job. He executed the following written statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 10, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following signed statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, and I am presently unemployed. I was born in [redacted] I arrived in the United States, entering at [redacted] I became a naturalized U.S. citizen in [redacted], at Springfield, Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America at Mine A, Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] I only worked at Mine A for three or four months and then started working at Mine B about [redacted] I worked at Mine B continuously from [redacted] until the mine closed on May 12, 1937. I went back to Mine B when it re-opened in November, 1939 and worked in this mine until May, 1943. I quit at this time as the work was too hard for me.

"I joined the United Mine Workers, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, in [redacted] and remained a member of that union until 1932 when the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, was organized at Mine B. I joined this union when Carl Elshoff signed a contract with this union at Mine B. I did not take any active part in the formation of this union. I never held an office in any union. It was my belief that the PMA fought more for the rights of the miners than the UMW did. I thought the PMA was a good union and had good leaders.

"Prior to 1932, Elshoff had trouble with the UMW in settling grievances, but from 1932 to 1937 he had more trouble with the PMA. I feel that Falcetti and Elshoff favored the UMW because that union did not cause him so much trouble. That union did not fight so hard for the miners rights. I never heard either Elshoff or Falcetti

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] make any statements on this matter.

(Continued)

"Before the mine closed down in May, 1937, Pete Carter and several other men working at Mine B were agitating for the UMW and said the PMA did not have a contract with Elshoff. No one ever asked me to join the UMW at this time. I had no knowledge of the wage scale trouble in 1937 and I went to only a few meetings. I was not at the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, and never heard about any miners that had been expelled from the PMA.

"On May 12, 1937 some coal cars were loaded short, but I did not know why. The mine closed on this day and I believe it closed because Elshoff wanted to sign up with the UMW. I did not hear Elshoff make any statement to this effect. I knew that Elshoff was friendly with the UMW and I also believe that the miners at Mine B were 95% PMA men.

"I signed the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member. I signed no other petitions.

"The first NLRB election on December 15, 1937 was fair. There was no doubt about that in my mind. I do not believe the second NLRB election on February 21, 1941 was fair as the men had already signed up with the UMW in order to get steady work. I helped picket for a few weeks in 1937, but did not go back to work until the mine opened in November, 1939. In November 1939, I went back to work as a PMA member but I joined the UMW in January, 1941.

"In January 1941 Pete Carter came to me in the mine and asked me to join the UMW. I told him no. Carter said, 'you will lose your job if you do not sign'. Carter was mad when he talked to me and he talked to me almost every day until I signed with the UMW. Some other UMW organizers from the UMW office building in Springfield came to me at the mine to get me to join that union. I do not know the names.

"I did not want to join the UMW but I did join to keep my job. I knew that [redacted] and [redacted] got beatings because they would not join. On one ocassion, [redacted] and Pete Carter came to my house and tried to get me to join the UMW. I did not join at this time, but later I signed a card at the mine and gave it to [redacted] who was a UMW organizer.

"I have had this statement read to me by [redacted] because I cannot read much English. All of these three pages have been read

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

(Continued)

to me and I understand all that is written on each page. It is all true.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]

[redacted]

Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted]

Special Agent, F.B.I. "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. He was very cooperative, but it is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to speak English very well. [redacted] acted as interpreter during the interview. He also lacked detailed information about the controversial facts of this case. He has no known criminal record. [redacted] supplied the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill
September 10, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I know I do not have to make a statement and also that what I may say can be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] I came to U.S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen of U.S. in [redacted] at Springfield, Ill. I first started to work in the mines near Springfield in [redacted] and joined U.M.W. at that time. I first began to work at Mine 'B' about [redacted]

"I joined P.M.A. when it was first formed and as far as I know there was some trouble with John L. Lewis and everybody changed to P.M.A. so I changed too. As far as I know there was no difference between P.M.A. and U.M.W. as far as Elshoff was concerned.

"I know Mine 'B' closed down in about 1937 because John L. Lewis was trying to get control of the union again.

"I did picket duty while the miners were on a sitdown strike. I stayed on the picket line until we were ordered off by an injunction and [redacted] said we should go home.

"I remember signing a petition for P.M.A. shortly after the strike occurred.

"I voted in the Government election in which the P.M.A. won by a large majority. I worked on W.P.A. while all the trouble was going on at the mine except the time I picketed.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERNAL SECURITY [redacted]
(Continued)

"I went back to the mine when it opened on an open shop basis and after working there for a while I saw that the majority was all joining U.M.W. so I joined too. I was a member of P.M.A. before that and paid dues to P.M.A.

"I don't understand English very well and I talk mostly to my [redacted] friends and when they changed from P.M.A. to U.M.W. I changed too.

"I have no choice of unions and think they are just to get money out of the miners.

"I have had this 2 page statement read to me in presence of [redacted] and it is true and correct.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed: /S/ [redacted]

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special [redacted] Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on September 12, 1943. He appeared anxious to expound on his theories concerning conditions existing at Mine B during the pertinent period. It is not believed that his judgment is sound due to his inability to concentrate on a point for any length of time. He would not make a good witness generally.

He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 12, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] an [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born in [redacted] entered the United States in [redacted] and I was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois about [redacted] I am presently living at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and working at the Panther Creek Mine No. 2. I am presently a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"The first mine union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union in [redacted] at the [redacted] The first mine I worked in within the boundry of the United States was at [redacted] under the UMW. I worked at two other mines located in Illinois before I started working at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] under the UMW.

"The only union office I have ever held was as a member of the Pit Committee in a mine in [redacted]

"I think Elshoff was trying to fool the miners at Mine B prior to 1932 by attempting to sell the miners bonds which would be backed by stock which was admittedly low grade stock. The money was supposed to be taken out of the wages of the miners. The ownership of the bonds was to be transferred to the miners. Most of the miners would not stand for it. I remember that Tony Plotch agreed to take a bond, but the UMW local at Mine B discouraged it and the project fell through. Elshoff admitted to me that the stock backing the bonds was low grade stock and that this was in effect a cut in wages.

"I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932. The PMA was formed due to the high handed tactics of John L. Lewis in attempting to disregard the expressions of the miners as far as the wage scale matter was concerned.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Conditions between Elshoff and PMA appeared to be normal from 1932 until about six months before the strike on May 12, 1937.

"I was always satisfied with the leadership of the PMA and I felt I was being treated fairly by the PMA leaders.

"I have not attended many UMW or PMA meetings.

"I think the PMA leaders were trustworthy.

"It is my opinion that although there was a certain amount of dissatisfaction over the wage scale question involving the existing contract between Elshoff and the PMA before the strike, yet the miners were whole hearted behind the PMA. They still remembered the methods used by the UMW leaders to gain their own ends and not actually representing the miners.

"I know that Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale were working at the mine the time the strike started.

"However, about a month before the strike George Sirtout talked to me about the contractual relations between Elshoff and the PMA and that we might never get the back pay. It appeared that Sirtout was sowing the seeds of discontent.

"It appeared that Elshoff, by not trying to get together with the [illegible] on the retroactive wage question, was trying to force a strike. He knew we would never be satisfied to work there under a lower wage scale than stipulated in the UMW contract.

"If the retroactive wage clause was not set forth in the PMA contract with Elshoff, then Elshoff deliberately misrepresented the meaning of the contract to PMA or put something over on the PMA keeping in mind the effects of this on the men and giving the UMW grounds to start organizing for that union.

"It was my understanding that we would get retroactive pay. There was no feeling that PMA would be unable to get as good a wage scale as the UMW.

"There was some talk at the mine on pay days in the Spring of 1937 about the wages. There was no disturbance as far as I know.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I think I attended the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 I remember that some UMW organizers were thrown out of PMA at that time.

"On May 12, 1937 there was generally an understanding at the mine that coal cars were to be shorted because of the wage scale, and generally because the company was trying to make trouble. This is vague in my mind and I do not remember exactly why short cars were loaded.

"I helped picket the mine until the Federal injunction.

"I do not remember signing any petition, but I may have signed any PMA petitions.

"I do not remember, but I think I went to the mine each time it tried to re-open to prevent the UMW from coming down in the mine. I think the UMW only had a few men at the mine on these occasions.

"I was not in sympathy with the Federal injunction of December, 1937

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election. I remember that unsigned handbills were passed out on the corner near the arsenal before the election, which handbills gave the impression that we would be better off if we voted for UMW.

"No one talked to me about how I should vote. It was a fair election.

"The second N.L.R.B. election was fair except that many miners who voted for UMW were afraid the trouble at the mine would continue.

"The last day I ever worked at Mine B was on May 12, 1937."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed: [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I.
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence. [redacted] speaks very broken English, claimed the UMW organizers at the mine were his friends, and never asked him to join the UMW, but that he did so voluntarily. He executed the following written statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 10, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and I am employed as [redacted] I was born in [redacted] I arrived in the United States in [redacted] I was naturalized and became a U.S. citizen in Springfield, Illinois in [redacted]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, about [redacted] Call City, Illinois. I worked there for a couple of years. I worked at the Old West Mine in Springfield from [redacted] and from [redacted] I worked on WPA. In 1935 I went to work in B Mine and continued to work there until the mine closed on May 12, 1937. When the mine re-opened in November, 1939 I went back to work there as a PMA man. I am referring to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I worked there until the Fall of 1940 and quit because I was sick. In the first part of 1940 I joined the UMW because most of the miners were joining the UMW. No one asked me to join the UMW.

"I was not working in the coal mines from 1932 to 1935. Then I started in Mine B, I joined the PMA. I went to only a few PMA meetings and do not know how Elshoff got along with the PMA union. As far as I know, both the PMA and the UMW treated me fair. I just wanted to work and had no trouble with anyone. No one asked me to join the UMW. I do not know anything about the wage scale contract, or the wage scale trouble between Elshoff and Local 54, PMA.

"I knew the following men who worked at Mine B. They were working at Mine B. while I was there. They never came to me house. They did not ask me at any time to join the UMW; Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Dominic Pasquale, James Hale, Charles Bohannon, John Ananias, George Jacaway, John Sirtout, Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious. I never heard

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

that any miners had been expelled from the PMA. I did not go to the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 and did not hear any men had been expelled from the PMA.

"It is my belief that Mine B closed because of the trouble over back pay. I think the miners loaded short coal cars on May 12, 1937 because they did not get their back pay. I do not remember signing any petition in 1937. I voted in the NLRB election on December 15, 1937 when the PMA won. I thought the election was fair. I do not remember voting in the second election.

"I have carefully read this statement consisting of two pages and it is true and correct. I understand all of it, and no threats or promises were made to get me to make this statement.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F. B.I.
[redacted]
Special Agent F. B.I. "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Street, Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at [redacted] Illinois, on September 11, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] felt the PMA did not treat him fairly when he was employed at the Jefferson Mine. He was cooperative in answering all questions asked. He executed the following statement.

[redacted] Illinois
September 11, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed at [redacted] Illinois, badge number [redacted] I was born on [redacted]. I arrived in the United States about [redacted] I was naturalized and became a U.S. citizen about [redacted] through my father, [redacted]

"The first Mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, about [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois when I started working at the Peabody Mine #6, near Springfield, Ill. I worked under the UMW in coal mines from [redacted] to [redacted] From [redacted] to [redacted] worked for the [redacted] From 1931 to about 1935 I had no regular employment, but worked off and on at the Jefferson Mine in Springfield.

"About the first part of 1936, I started working at Mine B as a company man on top and worked there until it closed on May 12, 1937. I was at the mine for about two days when the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, were picketing a short time after the mine closed. I never attempted to return to work at Mine B during the striking period, when the mine tried to re-open. I did return to work at Mine B in the early part of 1941, as a member of the UMW, for that union had the bargaining rights at the mine at that time. I worked for about four days and quit because [redacted] I never returned to the mine to work.

"I joined the PMA at the Jefferson Mine, Springfield, Illinois, sometime between 1932 and 1935. I do not remember the exact date I joined the PMA because part of the time at the Jefferson Mine there was

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] no union, and later the PMA got the contract and still later, the UMW got the contract. I joined the PMA at the Jefferson Mine when the PMA had the contract. I do not recall the exact date of joining the PMA as that mine for a time did not have a union. I recall that I was a member of the PMA when I transfered from the Jefferson Mine to Mine B about 1936. I was instructed to report to work at Mine B by the Top boss at the Jefferson mine whose name was [redacted] I continued to work at Mine B. as a PMA member until it closed on May 12, 1937.

"From 1936 until Mine B closed in May, 1937 I was not familiar with the feelings of Falcetti or Elshoff regarding either union. The closing of the mine was a complete surprise to me. When I worked at the Jefferson mine under the PMA, that mine was in Receivership and the operator did not pay us 100% of our pay. However, the PMA continued to take the full amount of dues and assessments out of my wages. I therefore did not like this and felt we were not being treated fairly. I continued to work just to make a living and not because I liked the PMA. I got my full pay at Mine B and there was no unfair treatment. I can only say against the PMA, that at the Jefferson mine, prior to 1936, that union did not treat their members fairly because of the above reason.

"I went to very few UMW or PMA meetings. The only office I ever held in a union was [redacted] of the UMW for about three months in [redacted] at the [redacted] I knew the following men who worked at Mine B prior to the mine closing down in 1937; Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Charles Bohannon, James Hale.

"I did not know if these men or any other men were organizers or agitators for the UMW, at Mine B. No one contacted me on the matter of joining up with the UMW.

"I had no personal contact with Falcetti or Elshoff. I did not know the men they were friendly with or which union they favored if any. I just worked, paid my dues and nothing more.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937, but I heard the next day that some of the PMA members were expelled. I heard this by word of mouth at the mine.

"I knew some coal cars were loaded short, but I never knew why. I worked on top at the time, and did not have any knowledge of what was going on below. I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member. I do not recall signing any other petitions.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I believe the NLRB election in December, 1937 was fair. The PMA won by a large majority and I feel this election showed the miners true feelings at that time. I am not sure if I voted in the second NLR election in February, 1941.

"I am not a member of either union now. I merely joined the union that had the contract at the mines I worked at. One union is as good as another union as far as I am concerned.

"I have read and fully understand the four pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on September 9, 1943. He appeared cooperative and willingly answered the questions put to him. He is mentally slow and his English is difficult to follow. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently unemployed. I was born on [redacted]. I arrived in the United States in [redacted] I became a Naturalized U.S. Citizen in [redacted] Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at [redacted] Illinois in October [redacted] I never held an office in any union. From [redacted] I worked in the [redacted] mine at [redacted] Illinois.

"In [redacted] I started working at Mine B and worked there until August 27, 1942, when I quit work.

"I joined the PMA, the Progressive Mine Workers of America, in 1932 when the miners at Mine B signed up with the PMA. I joined because everyone else joined. I liked the PMA.

"The relations between Elshoff and the UMW before 1932 were good. From 1932 to 1937 Elshoff did not like the PMA union. I do not believe he wanted to sign a contract with them. The PMA officials seemed to deal fairly with the members of the PMA. I went to most of the union meetings when I was working under the UMW and the PMA. All I know about the trouble in 1937 at Mine B was that Elshoff did not want the PMA men to work in that mine and he closed it down. Also, the PMA men did not want to work at the mine when the UMW members worked in the mine.

"I had no understanding of the wage scale trouble in 1937. Before the mine closed in May, 1937, UMW men came to my house three times to get men to join the UMW. I do not remember their

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

names. I told them that I would wait and see how the other miners joined, and when everybody joined, I would join.

"On the picket line, after the mine went on strike, I helped watch the mine for more than two weeks after it closed in 1937, to keep the UMW men from working. When the mine tried to re-open three different times, before November 1939, I did not try to go back to work but when the mine opened as an open shop in November, 1939, I went back to work as a PMA miner.

"When I went back to the Mine in November, 1939, many UMW organizers walked around in the different rooms in the mine and asked the men to join the UMW. I remember only the names of Frank Austin and Peter Carter who talked to me. These men promised better working conditions and everything good under the UMW, but they did not threaten me. More and more UMW men started working in this mine, so to keep my job I signed up with the UMW in January, 1940. I joined this union just to keep my job. I did not want to join the UMW. I was satisfied working under the PMA.

"I never saw anybody get a 'licking' because I was not around, but I heard some PMA men got 'lickings' because they would not join the UMW.

"I am not sure if I signed any petitions in 1937. I do not remember much about the NLRB elections, but I heard they were 'crooked' because the PMA won the first election and the UMW won the second election.

"I have carefully read this statement and I know what it means and I understand everything written on these pages. It is all true as best as I can remember.

/S/ [redacted]

" Witnessed:
/S [redacted]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois [redacted] was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 12, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was a member of the PMA Trial Board at Mine B at the time of the strike in 1937, but appears to have a very poor recollection of the business handled by the Board during the strike period and prior to that time. He was cooperative, seemed sincere, is still a member of the PMA, and presents a good appearance. He executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 12, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I am presently employed at the Panther Creek Mine #2, in Springfield, as a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I was born on [redacted] The first union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMA, in [redacted] From [redacted] until about [redacted] I worked in coal mines in the state of Illinois. In approximately [redacted] I started working at Mine B as a digger. I worked there until May 12, 1937 when that mine closed down on strike. I helped the PMA picket for a short time at Mine B in 1937 but I never did return to work at Mine B after that time.

The only offices I have held in unions were as follows; [redacted]

"I was not familiar with the relations between Elshoff and the UMW prior to 1932. The same applies to the relations between Elshoff and the PMA from 1932 to 1937, with the exception that I believe the PMA had more grievances to settle. I voluntarily joined the PMA in 1932 when that union obtained the bargaining rights at Mine B. I took no active part in the formation of that union.

"It is my opinion, and I feel the other men felt the same way, that the PMA officials were honest, capable and gave the rank and file miners fair treatment. I believe the miners were satisfied with the PMA, and did not want to join any other mine union. Between 1932 and 1937 I gained the opinion that Elshoff favored the UMW, but I have nothing tangible to base this opinion on. About April, 1937, I was on the PMA Trial Board at Mine B. I knew the following

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

employees at Mine B to be organizers for the UMW, and at the same time were holding PMA membership cards; Charles Bohannon, Emory Jacaway, Tony Plotch, Frank Austin, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Andrew Schrelevious, Joe Albanese, James Hale, John Sirtout and John Ananias.

"These above mentioned men were attempting to persuade the miners to join the UMW by contacting them in the mine and at their homes. In the last part of April or the first part of May, 1937, the following men were expelled for disloyalty from the PMA. By this, I mean they were trying to swing the miners to the UMW; Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, and Dominic Pasquale. I am not sure if I attended the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 and do not recall having heard of the meeting. I do not know how Elshoff or Falcetti felt about either union at this time. I was not familiar with the details of the wage scale controversy in 1937, but I did expect some back pay which I have not received.

"On May 12, 1937 I worked in Box [redacted] South Section, and loaded my cars full. The men in that part of the mine were loading full cars. I did not know about the short cars until after quitting time that day. I never knew why the cars were loaded short.

"I recall signing the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member. I did not sign any other petitions and I heard of no others. I did not go back to the mine when it attempted to reopen. I voted in the NLRB election on December 15, 1937. The PMA won by a large majority and I felt the election indicated the true feelings of the men. I thought this was a fair election. Since I was not working at the mine in 1941, I did not vote in the second NLRB election.

"No one ever attempted to persuade me to join the UMW. I never heard any threats made to get miners to join the UMW. I have no information indicating that Elshoff wanted to sign up with the UMW.

"I have read and fully understand this statement of three pages and it is true and correct."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted] F.B.I.

[redacted]

Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on September 12, 1943. He appeared to be strongly sympathetic for the UMW. He is intelligent, alert and decisive in his remarks. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 12, 1943"

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] Illinois, I am presently unemployed, and living at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. My last employment was with the [redacted] Springfield, Ill.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union [redacted] At this time I was employed at the [redacted]

"I worked at other mines in Springfield under the UMW before I started working at Mine B which was about [redacted]

"When I started working in Mine B i[redacted] I was a track layer. I held this job about six or seven months. [redacted] I worked as a company man. [redacted] until about six months after the strike ended in 1939.

"I went back to work on the 9th of November, 1939 when the mine re-opened, [redacted] About June, 1940 I became a "Face Boss" and I then had charge of track men, timbermen, company men and diggers.

"In 1932, when the PML was formed, Elshoff first refused to sign a contract with PML at mine B. As I understood it, he claimed it was an illegal organization and also that he still held a contract with UMW. At this time most of the men at Mine B wanted to join the PML.

"Shortly after the PML was organized and before the PML and Elshoff signed a contract, about fourteen of us who were still members of the UMW got together and tried to keep the local UMW charter. I wanted the UMW to remain at Mine B. I do not remember the name of these other men.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"The PMA asked me to join that union, but I would not. Later on, about three months later, I did sign up with the PMA as a new member. At that time PMA had a closed shop agreement with Elshoff and I was compelled to join PMA or lose my job.

"I was never threatened by any PMA members to join the PMA. Because I did not sign up with PMA, some months before that, I was compelled to pay an initiation fee. I was one of seven who were made to pay this fee.

"In May, 1937 a PMA Board Member called the strike at Mine B and never produced a strike order from the President of the State District of PMA. It is my opinion that it was an illegal strike.

"As far as I know the PMA rank and file miner was satisfied working under the PMA. from 1932 until 1937.

"I never heard that the PMA leaders at Mine B were not trustworthy, but I heard some men complaining about high assessments, but they did this in the UMW and every other local where I have worked.

"I was satisfied working under the PMA. I had a good wage scale and had no fault to find generally. I knew the following men: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James hale. It was rumored that they were organizing for the UMW. They never contacted me.

"To my knowledge, Falcetti and Elshoff did not favor either PMA or UMW.

"I did not understand the wage scale controversy.

"I attended only a few UMW and later PMA meetings.

"I recall hearing that some UMW organizers were expelled from PMA and the next day the miners went on strike because Elshoff refused to discharge these men.

"I remember coal cars were shorted on the day of the strike, but I do not know why. I worked nights all of this time and I was not too well acquainted with what happened during the day.

"I did not help picket Mine B. I think I signed the PMA Petition of May 26, 1937. At this time I was no longer interested in the UMW.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I went to the mine in September, 1937 when the mine tried to re-open. I did not go to work because I was a PMA member. To my knowledge only UMW members went to work. It was just a few, possibly ten or twelve and included some of the men listed in this statement.

"I was out of the State of Illinois from December, 1938 until November, 1939.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election held in December, 1937. I thought it was a fair election. It was not a fraud, and no one tried to influence my vote. I never heard that anyone was influenced to vote one way or the other.

"Because of my job I was not permitted to vote in the second N.L.R.B. election.

"I have never heard of any threats made by any miner to another to get a miner to join a mine union.

"I joined the UMW in August, 1941. I could not join earlier because I was the "Face Boss" until that time.

"In January, 1942 I was made "Face Boss" again and so had to sever my connections with the UMW.

"The last day I worked at the mine was February 12, 1943. I was not a member of any union at that time for the above mentioned reason. I quit because I got tired of my job."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois was interviewed at his residence on September 14, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted]s not presently employed in the mines, he is not mentally alert, had little understanding of the union difficulties at Mine B, and was very vague in his statements. He can read and executed the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 14, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born on [redacted] My residence is [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and I am presently employed at the [redacted]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union at the Spring Creek Coal Co., Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] I worked at the Sangamon Mine #2 from [redacted] I went to work at Mine B in [redacted] as a digger. I was always a digger at Mine B. I left Mine B in May, 1942.

"I never held an office in any union. When I worked under the UMW and the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, I attended about one union meeting a month.

"I recall that the PMA was organized in 1932 because the miners did not want to work under John L. Lewis any longer.

"As far as I know Elshoff got along all right with the UMW, before 1932 and with the PMA after that date.

"I joined the PMA voluntarily in 1932. I took no active part in organizing the PMA.

"I was always satisfied with the PMA and its' leaders. As far as I know all the miners who I talked with at mine B were satisfied with the PMA.

"I knew the following men who worked at Mine B at sometime during the period I worked there: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrolevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias,

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

(continued)

"I do not remember the details of the wage scale controversy.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937. I did not know there was going to be a PMA meeting on that night.

"I did know the next morning by talking with men down in the mine that some miners had been expelled from the PMA.

"On the day of the strike I loaded my cars about half a ton shorter than usual. I worked in Box [redacted] on the West side of Mine B.

"John Schneider, a PMA member, came along the bottom of the mine that morning while we were still in our cars and before we had gone to our boxes to start working. He told us to load short cars that day. He did not say why. At that time I did not know the reason for this. Later on I heard that the cars were shorted because the miners who had been expelled from the PMA went to work that morning.

"I only helped to picket the mine for the first two days after the strike.

"I do not remember signing any petitions in 1937.

"I went out to the mine when it tried to open in December, 1937, and January, 1938. On the first occasion I went to work for one day and only about seventeen men went down in the mine, so it closed again. I went back to the mine in January, 1938 and worked two or three days. About seventeen or twenty men went to work at this time, but there were not enough men to work the mine.

"In December, 1937, and January, 1938 when the mine tried to re-open the men who went down in the mine included the men named in this statement. Four or five Progressive men went down in the mine on these occassions. One of these PMA men was named [redacted] I do not remember who the others were. I found out about the mine re-opening on these dates from notices in the newspapers.

"In the Summer of 1938, I went to work in the Jefferson Mine. I then joined the UMW.

"In November, 1938 I returned to work at Mine B as a member of the UMW. I left the Jefferson Mine in January, 1939. I was out of work from then until November, 1939.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I voted in both N.L.R.B. elections. They were fair to the best of my knowledge.

"I have read this statement consisting of three pages and it is correct.

/s [redacted]

WITNESSED: [redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and Special Agent [redacted] on September 10, 1943.

[redacted] advised that he is presently working at Panther Creek Mine #5 and was born [redacted] He entered the United States in [redacted] was naturalized in Springfield, Illinois on [redacted] He advised that after the beginning of the strike DOMINIC PASQUALE, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS and CHARLES BOHANNON came to his home several times. [redacted] and the above three would come to the tavern and come to [redacted] home after having had several drinks. At one time, SCHRELEVIOUS took 25¢ from his pocket, turned to PASQUALE and said, "That's what he's worth," meaning he could buy bullets to get rid of [redacted] One time in the tavern PASQUALE, SCHRELEVIOUS and BOHANNON began threatening [redacted] wife, [redacted] SCHRELEVIOUS saying, "You look healthy now, but you can get shot awful quick." PASQUALE told her that bullets would go through her very easily. BOHANNON told her, [redacted] you had better keep out of this or you will get in trouble."

Sometime in the late summer of 1937, the exact date not being remembered by [redacted] BOHANNON, PASQUALE and SCHRELEVIOUS came to the house and tried to get [redacted] to sign up with the United. He refused, and SCHRELEVIOUS said that they would come back later when his wife was there; that she was the one who was keeping him from joining, and they would see that she agreed to allow him to join. He advised that a number of people had told both him and his wife that the three men had been looking for her and threatening what they would do to her.

About three days after the above occurrence, SCHRELEVIOUS came to [redacted] home about 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon and just walked into the house. [redacted] was in the back yard working, and [redacted] was in the house. She told SCHRELEVIOUS to get out, and he started talking about Mine B, and told her that if she knew what was good for [redacted] she would let him join the United because he wouldn't have a job if he didn't. [redacted] tried to force SCHRELEVIOUS out of the house. He grabbed her, and tore her dress. She was pulling towards the back door yelling at him, and [redacted] came running from the back yard, grabbed SCHRELEVIOUS by the back of the coat and jerked him out of the house. As he fell, SCHRELEVIOUS pulled a revolver from a shoulder holster and shot [redacted] He fired again but missed the second time. [redacted] tried to reach down for a board or club to beat SCHRELEVIOUS but couldn't find one, and SCHRELEVIOUS turned and shot him. [redacted] was in the hospital for three months and [redacted] was in the hospital for two months.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

The above information was given by [redacted] in the presence of [redacted] At this time they both became very emotionally upset and [redacted] requested that no further questioning be conducted at that time. At this time [redacted] said that during the summer of 1937 in a talk with SCHRELEVIOUS he told [redacted] that he was being paid $35.00 a week by the U.M.W. to organize it.

In view of the emotional unstability of [redacted] the request of [redacted] was acceded to and no further questioning was conducted. [redacted] advised that [redacted] had been under the doctor's care for a period of four years, due to the nervous reaction of the shooting, and they were both in poor health. She also stated that [redacted] were also under the doctor's care and that they were all deathly in fear of their lives. She stated that she would not allow [redacted] to testify to any of the above information; that they would rather just forget about it and she did not believe that their testimony would be of any paramount importance in the Federal Courts, inasmuch as the matter was one entirely for the local authorities.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 13, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] reads, speaks and understands English sufficiently well to testify in court. However, he seemed to have a poor memory, especially when one considers that [redacted] at Mine B. [redacted] said he is willing to testify but noted that he is in business for himself [redacted] which would be affected seriously if he were called to court for a day or two. He claimed to have no criminal record. [redacted] furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 13, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I am living at [redacted], Springfield, Ill., and [redacted] Springfield. I was born [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers at Springfield in [redacted] and was a member of that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I began work at Mine B in [redacted] and worked there until December of 1940. [redacted]

"While I was an officer of the P.M.A., I had no trouble with the management of Mine B, and, in the period from 1932 to 1937, I knew of no trouble between the union and the management. I had no part in the formation of the P.M.A. and, [redacted] knew nothing about conditions down in the mine, [redacted] and had no knowledge of anything down in the mine. Along toward spring of 1937, I heard that conditions between the union and the mine weren't so good, but I don't know what the disputes, if any, were about.

"Just before the strike in 1937, some P.M.A. men had joined the U.M.W., and were agitating among the men to pull them away from the P.M.A. Some of these men were Pasquale, Carter, Austin, Shrelevious, Bohannon, Hale and Plotch. I was under the impression that these men were paid by the U.M.W. to pull men away from the P.M. A. I don't

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

know any other reason why men with good working conditions would try to cause trouble. None of these men ever talked to me, but I saw them talking to some of the other men. I think that these fellows set up a U.M.W. local of their own, with Bohannon president, shortly after the strike. The P.M.A. expelled these men at a union meeting just before the strike. I wasn't at the meeting, but heard about it the next day. The P.M.A. officers had a discussion with the superintendent of the mine the morning of the strike. The P.M.A. had a closed shop contract, and the super refused to keep those men from going to work. As far as I know, that is the only reason for the strike.

"I don't remember signing any petitions for the P.M.A. or any other union in the summer of 1937. In the fall of 1937, I heard that the mine was going to open up, and went out the first day. I don't remember how I heard about it. When I got there, I heard that the management wanted to operate the mine with U.M.W. men. The U.M.W. didn't have enough men to operate the mine, and the P.M.A. men wouldn't work with the U.M.W. The P.M.A. began to picket the mine to keep the U.M.W. men out. The federal injunction was gotten by Elshoff, perhaps to protect the property, and perhaps to keep the P.M.A. away.

"In December of 1937, in the election at the state arsenal, I voted for P.M.A. because I felt that was the better union for me, and was best for my benefit. [redacted] were appointed by the P.M.A. to help the N.L.R.B. man count the ballots. Both sides could have had representatives, but there were no U.M.W. men there as I remember. I saw nothing irregular, and to me, the election was as honest as it could be. [redacted] We just did what the N.L.R.B. man told us to do, and nothing more. Sometime, while the mine was shut down, some man, whose name I can't remember, but who had an artificial leg, came to my house and tried to get me to join the U.M.W. No threats or anything were made, but I told him I didn't want to.

"In the fall of 1939, I went back to work at the mine when it opened. I don't remember how I got word, that the mine would reopen. No one ever contacted me at the mine about joining the U.M.W. after I went back, although Tony Plutch worked with me at the tipple. In December of 1940, [redacted] and have never been back to Mine B since that time.

"To go back, when the fellow with the artificial leg came to see me, he told me that if he got enough men to join U.M.W. at Mine B he could go back to work there. He had been hurt in an accident at the mine, and there was some dispute over his accident claim. He was fired, and was told he could never work there again. After a while, he joined the U.M.W., and

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

began organizing for them, and was rehired at Mine B, after he joined U.M.W. He is still working there, I think.

"I don't remember telling Falcetti, in the fall of 1937, that U.M.W. clean up men couldn't work the mine unless they were P.M.A. I don't remember anything about a conversation with him, I don't remember [redacted] ever asking me to attend a U.M.W. meeting, although I know [redacted] was a U.M.W. member.

"Some time after the election of February, 1941, which I didn't vote in, I went back to Mine B. I had recovered from [redacted] and wanted to go back to work. I asked the super, and he said I could have a job if I got a U.M.W. card. I tried to get one from Bohannon and a U.M.W. board member, but Bohannon said there wasn't any room for me because I was too good a Progressive.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of about four pages, and state it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

/s/ [redacted]

Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 11, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is employed at Mine B [redacted] He stated he has worked for Elshoff and Falcetti for over [redacted] years and they are both fine people.

[redacted] stated he was satisfied with the manner the PMA was operating Mine B, and that he was aware that UMW organizers were trying to organize for UMW in Mine B in May, 1937. These statements were put in a written statement as he gave the statement and he corrected the statement in his own handwriting as well as initialed two pages of the statement.

At this point in the interview [redacted] and several members of the family interrupted the interview and told him he would have to leave the house with them due to a death in the family. [redacted] excused himself and made another appointment for 6:15 P.M. September 13, 1943 to complete the interview. This latter appointment was kept by the interviewing Agents at which time [redacted] stated he had changed his mind about making a statement, that he knew nothing of interest, and would not discuss the matter further. He denied he had been instructed not to make a statement.

The following two pages of a written statement were executed by [redacted] and witnessed by interviewing Agents.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 11, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I presently reside at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed at Mine B, Springfield. I was born [redacted] The first union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union in [redacted] at Mine B., Springfield. I worked there until [redacted] returned to Mine B in [redacted] and worked there continuously until the present time, with the exception of the time the mine was out on strike. [redacted]

"I have never held an office in a mine union. Prior to 1932, as far as I know, Elshoff got along well with the UMW and the same applies to his relations with the PMA from 1932 to 1937 when the mine closed. I voluntarily joined the PMA in 1932 at Mine B when that union obtained the bargaining rights.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] bargaining rights.

"I was satisfied the the PMA was well run when I worked under that union at Mine B, although that union was strict regarding the enforcement of their by-laws. As far as I know, both Elshoff and Falcetti were impartial as to which union had the bargaining rights. I have worked with them for [redacted] years and I think they are both fine people.

"It is my understanding that on April 1, 1937 the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA through their officials signed a contract with Elshoff for a $5.50 a day wage scale with no retroactive clause pending a permanent settlement. At that time as I understand it, the UMW had a wage scale which amounted to $6.00 a day. Therefore the miners working at Mine B were dissatisfied. I know that I was. Due to this, many miners wanted to go over to the UMW to get the extra money.

"I know that there was a group on men, whose names I do not recall, who were try___ to organize for the men to join the UMW. A bulletin was posted at the mine calling for a special PMA meeting on May 11, 1937. I did not attend this meeting, but the next day at the mine I heard some men had been expelled for organizing for the UMW.

[redacted] of the PMA and a Board member of that union, told the miners the PMA had a contract with a retroactive clause and they would get back pay. Falcetti handed the Secretary of the local, [redacted] (phonetic), a copy of the contract and had him read it to the men to prove there was no retroactive clause. I do not know what [redacted] replied to that.

WITNESSED:

[redacted]

Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted]

Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was cooperative but it is not believed he would make a good witness inasmuch as he ceased working at Mine "B" at the time of the strike in 1937 and therefore did not possess knowledge of pertinent facts in this case. He is native born and is employed [redacted] He has no known criminal record. [redacted] submitted the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 8, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing that it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted]

"I began working in the mines when I was about [redacted] yrs. old. I started at Peabody #6 and joined U.M.W. at that time. I began working at Mine 'B' about [redacted]

"I joined P.M.A. in 1932 when Local 54 was formed. I changed from U.M.W. to P.M.A. because my whole union changed over and I went with the majority.

"I have never held any office in either union.

"As far as I know there were no strikes, closedowns or any partiality shown toward either union by the mine officials and everything went along smoothly until the strike in 1937. I attended union meetings of P.M.A. about once a month but took no active part in the discussions.

"I was working as a 'cager' at the mine and therefore I did not contact many men and I was not approached by anyone to join U.M.". In the job I was doing I had to be down in the mine about and hour before the rest of the men and I had to stay until all of them were out at night. I did not see any literature being distributed at the mine by U.M.W. and I did not know of any organizers or spies in the mine while I worked there. I do not know what caused the strike in 1937 except that

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

on the day of the strike I saw several cars come out that were only partly loaded and it was my job to get as much tonnage out of the mine as possible. That afternoon when the cars were loaded short the men all came out about 2:20 o'clock and I came out and brought my clothes home and never went back.

"I then went to work for [redacted] and while I worked there Emory Jacaway came to me to get me to sign a petition to go back to work as U.M.W. but I did not sign. Another man asked me to sign a petition for P.M.A. and I think I signed it but I don't recall who brought it to me.

"I am now working at [redacted] and have never worked in the mine since Mine 'B' went on strike except for about 3 months in 1943 when I worked at Mine 'B'. I quit then and don't intend to go in the mines again. When I went back to Mine 'B' in 1943 I joined U.M.W.

"I have no choice of any union and would join whichever union was at the mine if I ever went back to the mine.

"I have had this 2½ page statement read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was very cooperative and should make a good witness and appeared to be able to withstand cross-examination. He was active in the formation of P.M.A. and held the office of Board Member [redacted] He was convicted along with the others in the bombing cases. He has since been working [redacted] he appears to have a fairly above average education.

[redacted] supplied the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 11, 1943

"I [redacted], make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make a statement and I know that it may be used in a court of law.

"I was [redacted] I came to America with my parents in [redacted] I am a naturalized citizen of U. S. such citizenship having been derived through my parents.

"I first began working in the mines in [redacted] near [redacted] and joined U.M.W. at that time.

[redacted]

"I was working at Peabody Mine #9 when P.M.A. was formed. I was instrumental in forming P.M.A. which was started because of a revolt of the miners against the reduced wage scale proposed by John L. Lewis. U.M.W. in Ill. was placed on a provisional basis in about 1925 and then the miners were deprived of their autonomy at that time. Under this regime the elected officials lasted only so long as they followed the directives of John L. Lewis and his henchman. This also caused the men to break away from U.M.W.

"I took an active part in organizing for P.M.A. [redacted] After organizing at other mines in the state and obtaining a following we petitioned for a recall of the officers of U.M.W. which was ignored. Then we asked for a

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

convention which was also ignored. Then we had a referendum vote which was going against the proposed scale and another vote was taken later and it also showed that we were winning and then the ballots were stolen.

"P.M.A. grew out of a convention held in Gillespie in Sept. 1932. [redacted] P.M.A. managed to get the independent operators to rally behind our new union and temporary agreements were signed and later each local sanctioned the set state scale.

"The miners in P.M.A. appeared to like their officers and willingly gave any special assesments which were made to take care of the bombing trial and cases.

"My first contact with Mine "B" was into about 1935 when I was an alternate P.M.A. Board Member and later while I was Board Member. That contact amounted to settling disputes and grievances. I had some difficulties in settling these differences because Mine "B" officials were antagonistic most of the time. As an example, Falsetti was continually requesting the ½ hour clean up period which only U.M.W. had and which was meant for the hard coal regions in Penn.

"After my elective office of Board Member ran out in February 1937, I asked Falsetti for a job and he gave me a job as pardon tender. I was working with Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway and Bill Crompton in the pardon.

"At the time I began working at Mine "B" Charles Bohannon, Pete Carter and Frank Austin were denouncing the officials of P.M.A. about large sums of money being misappropriated and policy of P.M.A. and were spreading U.M.W. propaganda. About 5 weeks after I started working at Mine "B" I started working at Mine "B" I started driving mules extra and was working with Bohannon, Carter and Austin and hearing them talk a while, I accused them of being U.M.W. organizers and Bohannon said, 'I'm going to get mine while gettin is good' and by that statement I understood that he was being paid by U.M.W. About this time the wage scale agreement ran out and [redacted] signed a temporary agreement with Oscar Falsetti. This contract failed to contain a retroactive clause but [redacted] claimed that such a clause was understood to be a part of the contract by tacit agreement between P.M.A. and the mine officials. Bohannon and Carter found out about this omission and began to inform the men that they weren't going to get any back pay because they had seen the contract and it wasn't in it. This argument proved to be true because when payday arrived the men did not get any back pay. This caused some unrest among the men. I personally talked to [redacted] about it and told him that he had made a mistake but he wouldn't admit it to me.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I never attended any meetings at which U.M.W. organizers were expelled but understood there were two meetings at which at least nine men were expelled and I believe that at the first meeting Bohannon, Carter and Austin were expelled. The P.M.A. attempted to get Elshoff to fire these expelled men but he refused claiming that he could not legally do so under the Wagner Act as it would show discrimination. After the company refused to abide by the oral agreement to pay retroactive wages and to fire the expelled organizers a suggestion was made and adopted by about 70% of the miners that cars would be loaded short and thereby cause an increase in the production costs and in this way Elshoff would be forced to come to an agreement.

"About two days before the strike Falsetti called me into the office and showed me the temporary contract and asked me if I could see anything in it about retroactive wages. I told him no but said that I knew that there was a tacit understanding between him and [redacted] that retroactive wages were to be paid. He flatly denied any verbal agreement said his company could act only on written contracts. He also told me that the company could not go on operating with short loads being sent up and asked me if I could do anything about it.

"On the morning of the strike [redacted] and I discussed the controversy and I told him under no circumstances should he strike the mine and advising him that we could bring Elshoff to his knees by our present methods.

"On the day of the strike everyone was called out and I didn't know whether it was a strike or shut-down. I found out when I came on top that it was a strike called by [redacted] When I came out I ran into Falsetti and he asked me what I thought about it and I said 'He played right into your hands' and he said if I had been the board member it never would have happened.

"I recall signing a P.M.A. petition about two weeks after the strike which was circulated to show that P.M.A. was in a majority and should have the bargaining rights.

"I was at the mine when Frank Austin and those organizers who were expelled tried to open the mine and that morning Falsetti said the company had signed a contract with U.M.W. and if we wanted to work we would have to join U.M.W. The men refused and began a sit-down strike which lasted until they were put off the mine property by an injunction.

"I recall voting in the N.L.R.B. election which P.M.A. won by a large majority. This election was fair and square as far as I know.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Shortly after the election a committee of three Italians came to see me at my home and tried to get me to organize at Mine "B" for U.M.W. saying that they would make it worth my time. These three men were Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale and the third has since died but I don't recall his name. About a month later Andrew Skrelevious, Joe Albanese, and Dominic Pasquale, came to see me at my home and tried to get me to organize for U.M.W. saying that I would go on the payroll as of that day. We didn't agree at all and they left.

"I never returned to Mine "B" again until Jan. 1940 when I tried to get my old job back and I was told I would have to join U.M.W. and I refused.

"If I had a free and voluntary choice of joining either union, I would choose P.M.A. I have read this 7 page statement and it is true.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed) Special Agent, F.B.I.

[redacted] (signed) Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 12, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] understands and speaks English sufficiently well to testify, but he claims to be unable to read English. He exhibited a lack of interest in union activities. [redacted] said he has never been arrested. He executed the following statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 12, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I am living at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine B. I was born [redacted], and came to the United States in [redacted] I became a citizen in [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. in Springfield, in [redacted], joined the P.M.A. in 1932 at Mine B, and rejoined the U.M.W. at Mine B in June, 1940.

"When the P.M.A. began in 1932, I went along with the men. The union was all right, treated us as best they could, and I was satisfied with it. I didn't go to very many meetings, because I don't understand very well, but everyone at the meetings had a chance to get up and say what they pleased. As far as I know, the union got along OK with the management. I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike, and probably didn't go, because I had been sick and didn't go out much. On the day of the strike, I worked all day long. Then I came up from work, all the miners said there wouldn't be any work the next day. I don't know the exact reason for the strike, but I heard that the mine management wanted the U.M.W. and not the P.M.A. I don't remember signing any petition or paper for the P.M.A., or any other union, that summer. No one asked me to join the U.M.W. that summer.

"I don't remember how I heard that the mine was going to open up in September, 1937. I didn't go out the first day, but the second, when I went out, all the men were there ready to go to work. There were a bunch of U.M.W. men there too. We didn't go down into the mine. I don't know the reason for this. I was on the picket, went out by myself, no one forced me to. I was on the picket line to protect my job against men who might be brought in to work the mine.

"In the election of December, 1937, I was told by the P.M.A. union that the vote was to be in the armory. The union officers didn't tell us

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

how to vote, just said to vote any way we wanted to. I voted for the P.M.A. because I was a member of that union. It didn't really make any difference to me which union had a majority in the mine.

"In the fall of 1939, I got a notice from the company saying that the mine was going to open up. In July of 1940 I joined the U.M.W., because I thought the majority of the men had joined that union. No one forced me too, and no one threatened me. I thought that the majority of the men had joined from conversations with them. No one ever told me that, and no one ever spoke to me about joining.

"In the election of February, 1941, I voted for the U.M.W. because I was a member of that union. It still didn't make any difference to me which union I was a member of, I just wanted to be with the majority.

"In the week after Labor Day, 1943, some men were out at the mine, telling all the men that they didn't have to talk to federal agents if they didn't want to. I was in the wash-house, and didn't hear him. Some of the men told me about this.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of two and a half pages, read to me, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

Witness:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois was interviewed in his residence on September 13, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] speaks and understands English fairly well. He professed a lack of interest in union activities. If necessary he will testify. He said he has no criminal record.

[redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 13, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and employed in Mine B. I was born [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted] in Springfield, Ill.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, when I started to work in Mine B in [redacted] I stayed in this union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. in August 1940. I have not held an office in any union.

"As far as I am concerned, the P.M.A. was a good union from 1932 to 1937. I don't know of any trouble it had with the Mine B management. I liked P.M.A. because the majority of the miners liked it. That is why I joined the P.M.A. in the first place. I always wanted to be with the majority of the miners. It really makes no difference to me to which union I belong. Prior to 1932 I had been satisfied with UMW, and after that I was satisfied with P.M.A.

"Prior to the start of the strike in 1937, I don't remember hearing about the activities of any U.M.W. men at Mine B. Nobody contacted me about signing up with U.M.W. I attended P.M.A. union meetings about once a month, but I don't remember any discussion about throwing some men out of the union because of their disloyalty to P.M.A. I did not know anything about the P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike started.

"On May 12, 1937, I recall that I worked all day. I was working in the parting at that time, and know nothing about miners loading the cars with short weights. As I recall, when I finished working

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

that day the local president of P.M.A., who I think was [redacted] told me that we weren't going to work in Mine B any more until the company signed a contract with P.M.A.

"I did not sign any petitions or papers in the summer of 1937. I saw in the newspapers that Elshoff was going to reopen Mine B in September 1937. I did not go to Mine B the first day. A couple of days later, when I went to Mine B, I learned that Elshoff wanted to work with U.M.W. and I heard in general conversation among the miners that he had signed a contract with U.M.W. In the fall of 1937 the P.M.A. men picketed at Mine B to keep U.M.W. men from going into the mine. [redacted] I did not go out to the picket line much. Nobody forced me to go on to the picket line. I saw only Mine B in the picketing group. I wasn't at Mine B when the injunction was read to the miners. We were at Mine B at this time so Elshoff could not bring in U.M.W. men to work the mine.

"In the election in December 1937, I voted for P.M.A. I saw the notice of election in the newspaper. A group of us went to the State Armory from the P.M.A. hall. No one told me how to vote, and I voted for P.M.A. because I thought it was the best union for me. It was more peaceful and quiet at Mine B with PMA there than it was when U.M.W. was there.

"I received a letter from Elshoff about the reopening of Mine B in November 1939. I went back to the mine on the third or fourth day, but had to wait for a job for a couple of weeks because no room was ready for me.

[redacted] talked to me about joining U.M.W. He said that I should join U.M.W. because everyone else was joining U.M.W. I myself knew that I would lose my job at Mine B if I did not join U.M.W. I told [redacted] that I had been working at Mine B for a long time, and liked it there and wanted to stay there. I told him that I would join the U.M.W. when the majority of the miners joined. [redacted] was supposed to be an air inspector, but really he did nothing but attempt to organize Mine B for U.M.W. No other person talked to me about joining U.M.W.

I went to a U.M.W. meeting in 1940, and saw a great many Mine B men there. I thought that there was a majority of the miners there. At the next meeting of the U.M.W., I signed up with Tony Plotch who took my application. No one threatened me so as to make me join U.M.W., but I felt I had to join to save my job.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"In the election in February 1941, I voted for P.M.A. because I liked that union. I thought that John L. Lewis in the U.M.W. was too much of a crook.

"On Tuesday, September 7, 1943, I heard the men at Mine B talking about some man having been at Mine B. They did not tell me what he said. Because I was late in getting to work that day, I did not hear the man myself.

"This statement consisting of this and three other handwritten pages has been read to me, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

(Signed) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Ill., was interviewed in his residence on September 11, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] does not speak English too clearly, but he understands it well enough to be questioned on a witnessstand. He is a man who is not afraid to say what he knows, and stated that he is willing to testify. [redacted] claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 11, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] I became a citizen in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted]. I am living at [redacted] Springfield, and am working at Mine B, where I have been employed since [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] and rejoined at Springfield when I came to this country in [redacted] I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, and remained a member of that union until shortly before February, 1941, when the U.M.W. won the election at Mine B.

"I was always satisfied with the P.M.A.. The dues were lower than U.M.W., we would vote for any man we wanted in the P.M.A., while in the U.M.W. the same men were in office all the time, and, at P.M.A. meetings, we had a chance to take the floor and say what we pleased at any time. Everything at the mine was satisfactory between 1932 and 1937, as far as I knew.

"On May 12, 1937, I heard from my buddy, [redacted] that there had been a meeting of the P.M.A. the night before. I didn't go to the meeting, but he told me that they had kicked some men out of the union, and were going to ask Elshoff to fire them. If Elshoff wouldn't fire them, no P.M.A. men would work the mine. These men were, Schrelevious, Austin, Bohannon, Albanese, Pasquale, three Sirtouts, Ananias, Carter, Hale, Plotch and George Jacaway. I had heard talk at several meetings of the P.M.A. about what to do with the U.M.W. sympathizers at Mine B, but didn't know the final decision until [redacted] told me. None of these men had ever approached me before the strike to join U.M.W.

"On the day of the strike, we worked a full day. In the morning, an

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

Italian fellow, whose name I don't know, told me that the men on top were deciding to load short because Elshoff wouldn't play the game, and fire the men who had been kicked out of the U.M.W. I started loading cars short, and most of the men I saw were doing the same. When I came up from the mine, I asked what the trouble was, and I was told there was a strike. I think Elshoff's failure to fire these men was the very reason for the strike. Elshoff wanted trouble at the mine, didn't want to sign a contract with P.M.A. but wanted to sign with the U.M.W.

"I remember signing a P.M.A. petition shortly after the strike started, probably at Progressive Hall. We wanted to show Elshoff that P.M.A. had a majority in the mine. I signed voluntarily. No one forced me to.

"In the fall of 1937 I heard that Elshoff tried to open the mine with ten or twelve U.M.W. men. I went out there the next day. There were many P.M.A. men there that day, but hadn't been many the first day, because none of us knew of Elshoff's attempt to open the mine. When we got there, John Schneider and other P.M.A. Committeemen told us not to let any U.M.W. men down into the Mine. We stayed on the grounds until the federal injunction in 1937 December. The purpose of the picket was to keep U.M.W. men from working the Mine, and to keep them from damaging the Mine. Elshoff got the injunction to get us off the property, and not to protect it, because we were guarding the property. I went out to the picket line of my own accord. I didn't see any but Mine B men there.

"In December of 1937, I heard of the election down at P.M.A. headquarters. We had a meeting the day before, and we were told where the election was to be held. On the day of the election we went in small groups from Progressive Hall, and voted. I was not told by anyone how to vote, and voted for the P.M.A. because I liked that union and wanted to keep it. As far as I know, it was an honest election.

"In November of 1939, when the Mine opened up, I went back and worked for seven days. I had not been contacted by anyone about joining the U.M.W. up to this time. After I had worked seven days, I had to quit. The room I worked in ran into an old entry. My entry ran south, and old man Sirtout had an entry going west near mine. Falcetti told me he wanted the entry driven west, and I was told to stay home until Falcetti called me back to work. I was out for two months, before Falcetti called me back, and I got my old entry back.

"After I went back to work, some time later, around May of 1940, [redacted] not the P.M.A. man, [redacted] and another man came and sat behind me in my room. They were there three days, and sat there all day long without saying a word to me. They were trying to scare me, but didn't say anything to me. The next day, [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

[redacted] came into my room. [redacted] my buddy, knew him, having been raised with him in [redacted], Illinois. [redacted] told me that he'd gotten a telegram from Ray Edmundson to come to Springfield right away. He told me he was being paid by Edmundson to organize all Frenchmen at Mine B for the U.M.W. He told me he didn't want to force me to join the U.M.W. because I was a smart fellow, but I knew that I'd have to join U.M.W. or lose my job, because Lewis was a big shot. He was only in Springfield a week, and said he didn't want to kill himself here, but wanted to get back to [redacted] He talked to both [redacted] and me several times, and told [redacted] to sign up or he'd lose his job. He said that Elshoff would have an election as soon as U.M.W. had a majority, and then the P.M.A. men wouldn't have any jobs, so we'd better sign up. [redacted] told me that [redacted] was a gunman and an organizer and the U.M.W. sent him wherever they had trouble.

"After [redacted] left, Albanese came to my home one day with [redacted] not the P.M.A. man, and tried to get me to join the U.M.W. I told him he had no business coming to my house, and he went away. He came back a second time, and said I'd better sign up or I'd lose my job. A couple of days later, [redacted] told me that he was getting so many docks he was going to sign up with the U.M.W.. He did sign, and didn't get any more docks. I joined with U.M.W. the day after [redacted] did. I had been getting a lot of docks, but after I joined the U.M.W., Falcetti took them away. After I signed up just before the election of February, 1941, and signed only to keep my job. In the election of February, 1941, I voted for the P.M.A., because I liked it better, and didn't like the rotten business of the U.M.W.

"After I went back to work, [redacted] was working there as an air checker. He just wandered around the mine from place to place, and talked to the men. He never talked to me about the U.M.W. On day, I saw an old man, a crippled fellow named [redacted], get beat up in the washhouse by [redacted] and two young fellows I didn't know. On the same day I saw Bohannon and [redacted] beat up a young Italian fellow in front of the office.

"One day in the Mine, [redacted] made a shot too high. He was fired for it, and an Italian fellow, [redacted] tried to take his case to a U.M.W. meeting for him. Bohannon told him to sit down, and I heard, that after the meeting, he was beat up. I didn't see it, and don't know anything more about it.

"On Tuesday, September 7, 1943, at the Mine, I heard some lawyer whose name I don't know, talking to all the men. I just heard the end of the meeting, but I heard him say that this is a democracy, that the miners didn't have to sign papers for the federal agents. On the next

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

day, Wednesday, Tony Plotch asked me if the federal agents had been to see me. He said Cudge Baumgarner wanted to know.

"When the P.M.A. was at Mine B, my coal cars would weigh between 3600 and 4000 pounds. Now, for the same ammount in the cars, it never weighs more than 3200 pounds. Falcetti says the scales are ok, but that the check-weigher may be wrong. I think the scales might be all right, but I know the check weigher isn't.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of approximately nine pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] seems to be a very excitable person and told his story in a very illogical manner as is apparent from his statement. [redacted] stated he had a very poor memory for dates and it took a great deal of prompting on the part of Agents to elicit information from him. It is believed he would be a poor witness. There is set forth below the signed statement executed by [redacted] at the time of this interview:

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 11, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted], both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born on [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a citizen in [redacted] I have been a miner all my life and joined the U.M.W. in about [redacted] I have never held a union office.

"I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and was working there at the time of the strike in 1937. I joined Progressive in 1932, but didn't have anything to do with the formation of progressive. Things went along about the same under progressive, but I think progressive officers were all good men & everything was fine.

"In the spring of 1937 I recall that the question of a new contract came up, but my memory is rather bad as to any of the details of the contract question. I didn't go to many meetings as [redacted] the meetings were in Springfield.

"I recall that some of the men in progressive were supposed to be working for united, but I do not remember anything they were doing. I heard later they were kicked out of the union though. I went to work as usual on the day of the strike in May of 1937. I was then a digger in box [redacted] I do not remember any disputes or fighting that took place the last day the mine was in operation. As I remember it, I worked that whole day as usual and can't even remember as to when I first heard the mine was on strike.

"I remember that a couple of weeks after the strike the progressive union got out some kind of a petition, but I don't remember whether or not I signed it. I also recall that we had a picket line at the mine and I was out there for about four or five weeks when I had to go to the hospital. I voted in the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937 and everything was quiet at that time. I saw a man passing out some kind of bills, but forget what they were

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

about. I didn't go back to the mine again until the mine opened in Nov. of 1939.

"I believe it was in the paper that the mine was open so I went back and started in working again at my old job. I guess I had been working a few months when Bowling Green, [redacted] and a man whose nick name was [redacted] attacked me. One day at the mine, on top of the mine, [redacted] said he wanted to talk to me. He started pushing me and then these men all jumped on me and hit me until I passed out. These same men had been to my house several times trying to get me to join united. They told me I should sign because everyone was going to sign. Every time they came to my house there was about 5 of them. When I was beaten up by those men I had already signed up with united-- in fact I had been a member for about a month. I want to clarify this beating. My room had caved in at the mine several days before the beating and I called the boss in to see my room. He wanted me to clean up my room, but wouldn't promise to pay me for the labor. I went to work the next day and the boss still said he wouldn't pay me so I just sat around. The next day I came to get my line check and Oscar Falcetti said I was fired. I tried to get the pit Committee, headed by Baumgartner, to take up my case. Baumgartner & Bowling Green were supposed to have inspected my room & they sent my tools up. I went back a few days after I was fired & it was at that time that they beat me up. I never worked at Mine B after that time. I was out of work for about two years and now work for Panther Creek #2. After looking over my statements I see now that I left Mine B in about June of 1941 so I must have been a member of the United union for some time before the be ting. I have a bad memory for dates, however, i never saw anyone beat up at the mine.

"This statement has been read to me by [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses
[redacted]) Special Agents, FBI
[redacted]) U.S. Dept_ of Justice"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Ill., [redacted] was interviewed at his residence on September 10, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks English with difficulty and can understand it only when it is spoken slowly and plainly. He has no objections to testifying in court. [redacted] said he has never been arrested. It is noted that [redacted] has been reported to the Springfield Field Division as being [redacted], but no information is available that he is a member [redacted]

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 10, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and at present I am unemployed. I was born [redacted] In [redacted] came to the United States, and I became a citizen of the United States in [redacted] at Springfield, Ill.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] when I was working in [redacted] I began to work in Mine B about [redacted] In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America with the rest of the miners. I had no part in the formation of this union. In the fall of 1940 I rejoined the U.M.W. I have never held an office in any union.

"While I was a member of the P.M.A. I was treated alright. I was treated alright by the U.M.W. too when I was a member of that union. I did not see much difference in the two unions. I don't remember hearing about any men trying to get members for U.M.W. before the strike started in 1937 at Mine B, and no one tried to get me to join the U.M.W.

"I think that the strike started because Elshoff refused to sign a contract with P.M.A., and wanted to sign with U.M.W. The P.M.A. union struck to try to make Elshoff sign a contract with them.

"In the fall of 1937 I heard Falcetti say that if the men joined the U.M.W. they could go to work in Mine B, and that if they did not join U.M.W., they could not work in the mine. I think about 13 men went to work in Mine B at this time.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"In the fall of 1937 I was in the picket line at Mine B. Only Mine B were there. The purpose of the picket line was to keep U.M.W. men from working in Mine B.

"I voted in the election in December 1937 at the State Armory. The P.M.A. officials told me about the election but they did not tell me how to vote. I voted for the P.M.A. because I was a member of that union, and because most of the miners seemed to want that union in Mine B.

"Before I went back to work after the mine reopened in 1939, no one tried to get me to join the U.M.W. After I had started back to work Bohannon came to my house one night with Frank Austin. They said that I had beter sign up with U.M.W. because I could not win staying with P.M.A. I told Bohannon that I would think it over. They did not threaten me or say that I would lose my job.

"An air inspector, [redacted] also talked to me about U.M.W. He came to my room in Mine B. He told me that I had a good room, and that I better join U.M.W. if I wanted to keep that room. I told him that I would join U.M.W. when most of the miners did. He told me to come to a U.M.W. meeting. I went to the meeting, and saw a great many miners joining U.M.W. so I joined U.M.W. too. I did this to stick with the majority of the miners. I knew that I would have to sign up with U.M.W. to keep my job at Mine B. I knew I could not get a job anywhere else.

"I don't remember signing any petition for P.M.A. or any other union. I heard that some miners were beat up, and I saw two men who had been beaten, but I don't know their names. Later at a meeting of the U.M.W. union, an Italian fellow tried to say something at the meeting. Cudge Baumgarner told him to sit down. After the meeting in an alley I saw Cudge beat this Italian fellow. I don't know his name.

"In the election in 1941, when the U.M.W. won, I voted for the U.M.W. No one made me vote. I voted for U.M.W. because most of the miners, so I thought, were members of the U.M.W. and so was I.

"I quit working at Mine B in March 1943 because I was getting bad rooms and could not make any money, and also because I wanted to get out of the mine because my health was going bad.

"This statement consisting of this and two other typewritten pages has been read to me and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnesses:
[redacted] (signed)
[redacted] (signed)
"Special Agents, FBI
"Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted]. Illinois, who is employed as [redacted] was interviewed on September 9, 1943 at his place of business by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] speaks and understands English very well. He is willing to testify if necessary. He claimed he has not been arrested. [redacted] furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 9, 1943.

"I [redacted] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill., and am employed [redacted] I was born [redacted]

"In [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers when I was working in a coal mine in [redacted] I stayed in this union until 1936, as I recall, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America when I was working in the [redacted] at Springfield. I first started to work at Mine B some time after I became a member of P.M.A. I never rejoined the U.M.W. After Mine B shut down in 1937 I worked for a time in the [redacted] of Springfield, Ill. [redacted]. I was working at the [redacted] mine most of the time Mine B was closed down.

"When I first started to work at Mine B, everything seemed to be O.K. However, soon I heard from general conversation of the miners that trouble was brewing. Some men were alleged to be paying dues to both the U.M.W. and the P.M.A. Some of the men that I heard about doing this are: Bohannon, Sammy (Joe Albanese), Frank Austin, Pete Carter, and Tony Plotch. It was common talk among the miners that these men were trying to work their way into the leadership of P.M.A. so that they would be in a position to turn over P.M.A. to U.M.W. Prior to the start of the strike in 1937 no one ever approached me about joining the U.M.W.

"I don't recall a meeting of the P.M.A. on May 11, 1937, and I don't recall seeing any notice of a meeting. On the day the strike started, I saw many of the coal cars going out of the mine with short weights. At this time I was employed in Mine B as a timberman. I know

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

that the miners were dissatisfied, but I don't know whether they were loading the cars short of their own accord or because they had been told to do so by the P.M.A. officials. I do know that the P.M.A. men were objecting to the presence in Mine B of those men I named above and others who were trying to pull for U.M.W. I think that the miners hoped to force the mine management to fire these men from the mine. That day I heard that some men had been kicked out of P.M.A. because they were not loyal members.

"On the day of the strike I think that the men quit working about 2PM. As I recall the Pit Committee said that the men were not to work in Mine B when U.M.W. men were working there. I don't think that the wage scale problem had anything to do with the strike. The miners had confidence in the P.M.A. officials and thought they could get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. After I came out of the mine on the day of the strike, I heard the men saying that they would not work with U.M.W., but I did not hear any conversation about wages.

"I recall that I signed a P.M.A. petition in 1937, and I think the petition was to find out how many loyal members the P.M.A. had at that time.

"In the summer of 1937 I read in the papers about the forming of a new U.M.W. local, but no one approached me about joining it.

"I don't remember how, but I recall that I heard that Mine B was going to reopen in the fall of 1937. I went out to the mine, I don't remember the exact day, and got ready to work. Then I saw that there was going to be some trouble. The P.M.A. men refused to work with the U.M.W. men who also showed up for work. I was told to stick around the mine which I did. I was in the picket line formed by P.M.A., but I would have preferred to be at home. The purpose of the picket line was to keep the U.M.W. men from over_throwing the P.M.A.

"I think that the federal injunction was obtained by the mine management to break the strike, and not to protect the mine property. The P.M.A. men at the mine had done no damage to the mine and were really protecting it. I saw only local men in the picket line.

"I voted in the 1937 election at the State armory. I voted for P.M.A. in this election which I think was fair in every respect. I was not compelled to vote in this election. I voted for P.M.A. because I thought that was a better union than U.M.W. In the P.M.A. a man had a chance to run for office, and a chance for election. In the U.M.W. it seemed that one

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

man always held office, and there was no chance to beat the machine. The P.M.A. seemed to me to be more righteous.

"In the summer of 1937 a man by the name of [redacted] my former boss, tried to talk to me about joining U.M.W. and asked me why I did not join it. I told him I was not interested, and that was the end of that.

"I don't recall how I received that Mine B was to reopen in 1939. I went back to work shortly after the mine opened. I worked there until I was hurt in March. [redacted] I figured that the company was trying to force me out of a job because I had not joined the U.M.W. On one occasion Bohannon asked me why I did not get wise and join the U.M.W. He talked like the U.M.W. was going to control the mine, but he did not threaten me.

"I never have rejoined the U.M.W., and if I had a job in a mine today I would prefer to be in the P.M.A. because I think it is the better union.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and three other typewritten pages, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 9, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] has a keen memory of incidents which happened while he was employed at Mine B. He understands English very well and can express himself intelligently and coherently. In the interview he related most of his experience voluntarily without being questioned specifically on each point. [redacted] is anxious to testify because he feels that he has been injured by the actions of individuals at Mine B. He stated that he once spent three days in jail for an incident which happened near a mine when a state of martial law was in effect, but he said that he does not know what charge was placed against him. He claims that he was merely a bystander on a public sidewalk, and when he refused to move on the request of a soldier at the mine, he was taken to jail. [redacted] has in his possession a letter from C. H. ELSHOFF dated January 27, 1941 in which ELSHOFF states that the mine company will not be responsible for medical bills 'in connection with the occurrence at this mine on January 25, 1941', the day on which [redacted] was attacked by [redacted] and others.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 9, 1943.

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and am not working at the present time. I was born [redacted] and came to the United States on [redacted] I became a citizen at [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers at [redacted] In 1932, while working at Mine B, I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I never held an office in any union. I started work at Mine B in 1929, and worked there until January of 1941.

"In 1937, just before the strike, twenty-five men at Mine B switched from the P.M.A. to the U.M.W. Some of these men had held minor offices in the P.M.A. union, such as members of pit committees, grievance committees, and things of that nature. These men worked on the P.M.A too strongly, and were removed from their positions. In April of 1937, ELSHOFF refused to sign a contract with the P.M.A., but

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

in spite of this, the men worked until May 12, 1937. ELSHOFF was intending to hire U.M.W. men to work the mine, while the P.M.A. men wanted to continue working the mine.

"In the fall of 1937, ELSHOFF tried to start up the mine again. He didn't want the P.M.A. in the mine, but wanted the U.M.W. The P.M.A. stayed at the mine for 55 days, ready to work. We guarded the mine against damage from others, and also to protect our jobs. The U.M.W. tried to bring in men from other places, not only those who had been P.M.A. men at Mine B, to work the mine. After a time, ELSHOFF got an injunction, and the P.M.A. men had to leave the mine property.

"In November of 1939, ELSHOFF opened up the mine again. I heard that ELSHOFF, the superintendent, and some of the bosses had gone to miner's homes, and tried to get them to go back to work as U.M.W. members. I don't know how true this was. I heard that some of the men were intimidated about the time the mine reopened, but no one approached me. About that time, [redacted] came by my home one day, saw me outside, and asked me to return to work. I had been sick, and went back around the 15th of November.

"In 1940, a drive was started at Mine B to organize the men in the U.M.W. At first, just the original 25 men, who had been members of the P.M.A were agitating the men, but after a while, when they didn't seem to be getting anywhere, U.M.W. organizers from the outside were brought in. The trouble in the mine began about this time. They asked the men to join the U.M.W, saying that company would shut the mine down if the U.M.W. didn't sign up the majority of the men. I heard that the mine bosses were saying this too, but I never heard any of them say it. The men were scared, needed their jobs, and joined the U.M.W. to save and keep their jobs. The men who joined U.M.W. were told to bring out their sons, and the sons would get jobs too. After a while, if the men didn't sign up, their tools would be stolen, some men having as many as three sets stolen. Finally, the slugging began. One man, [redacted] had his arm broken in the mine. I didn't see it happen, and don't know of anyone who did. The men were talking about being threatened, but no one threatened me at this time.

"Various men came to my room several times, asked me how things were going. On Jan. 16, 1941, [redacted] came to my room, and asked me if I were still a member of the P.M.A. He asked me if I didn't think I should join the U.M.A., and I said no, that I was satisfied with the P.M.A. Nothing happened, and nothing more was said about it at that time. The 16th day of January, the day [redacted] came to see me, was the deadline set by U.M.W for the men working at Mine B to join the U.M.W. On January 17, 1941, [redacted] came to my room

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

again, and had some U.M.W. buttons with him. He asked me if I had changed my mind, and I said no. He said that he had come to my room as he had just gotten a supply of U.M.W. buttons, and wanted to give me one. He then left, and nothing more was said.

"On January 25, 1941, I rode to work with the usual bunch of men. The driver was [redacted], who lives [redacted] When we got to the mine, we split up and went about getting ready to go to work. I saw [redacted] get beat up at the washhouse. [redacted] and a fellow named [redacted] all were working on him, and beating him. When this bunch got tired of beating [redacted] they went into the washhouse, and jumped on [redacted]

"I didn't want to have anything to do with this, so I went on into the office to get my supplies. On my way there, I saw a [redacted] something, coming from the direction of the office, bleeding, and looking as though he had been beaten up. After getting my supplies, I went to the tipple, got my bucket, then went to the wash house to fill it. When the bucket was filled, I went to take it outside & put it in line, to show the order in which I was to go down into the mine after I had changed my clothes. From the wash house to the bucket line it was necessary to go through a narrow space. There were a lot of men trying to get through, and it was crowded. We moved very slowly, a step at a time. [redacted] got right behind me. I don't know where he came from. He was working at Mine B at that time, but I had known him before, and knew he was an organizer for the U.M.W. He had been fired from the [redacted] for making trouble. I didn't say anything to him, and he began jerking on my coat, and kicking at my legs. I looked around and he grinned at me. This went on until I got through the narrow place, and went and put my bucket in the line. I thought that he would be looking for me to come back into the wash house that way, so I went around the building, and went in another entrance. I sat down on the bench, and started to change clothes, to go to work. Just as I bent over to take off my shoe, [redacted] came in, cursed me, and kicked me in the head. He kicked me several times in the head, and then others started beating on me too. I don't know who the others were, because I was on the floor, and put my head under the bench to try to protect myself. However, I think some of the others were a [redacted] who had just come over a short time before from the Jefferson Mine, [redacted] not the old P.M.A. member, but a new U.M.W. man from another mine, and one of [redacted] boys. After they got tired of working on me, they started on a [redacted] who was in the wash house. He had signed up for the U.M.W. about two or three weeks before, and they kicked and beat

him because he wasn't going to U.M.W. meetings. Right after they stopped beating me, the Sheriff and his deputy came in the wash house. I told him who had beat me up, and he left. I saw [redacted] got beat up near the wash house by the same bunch.

"After I saw the Sheriff, I got dressed in my street clothes, went to the office, and got a slip from the office to go and see the company doctor. I went to see him on that day, Saturday, and the next two, Sunday and Monday. He treated me, his name was Dr. DIEHL, but on Monday he told me that ELSHOFF had told him I was to get no more medical attention. I then went to see a Dr. MOUNT on Capital Avenue, who finished treating me. When I got home from the doctor on Monday, there was a letter from ELSHOFF, saying that I wouldn't be paid for medical treatment, that the company was not liable. Later I got a bill from Dr. DIEHL for $5.50, but paid no attention to it. When I got a second bill, I went to see the doctor, and told him I wouldn't pay it because the company was liable, that I had been hurt on company property, while I was going to work. I told him that the company had given me a slip to go to see him. Dr. DIEHL told me that Mine B had told him they were not liable for my injuries. I told him that he had taken the company's orders when he had accepted the slip they gave me for medical treatment, and that I wouldn't pay. I told him to collect from the company. I haven't heard anything about it since that time.

"On the day we were beaten, we swore out warrants against the men who beat us. When we went down to the hearing, we saw them coming out, and found out they had been released under $250 bond apiece. I don't know who made the bond for them. The Justice of the Peace, who had the hearing, and released them on bond, was a man named DUNN. He was not re-elected in April of 1941, and when he left office, he turned over his books to another J.P., whose name I don't know, and whose office was at 218½ South 6th St., Springfield. I waited to hear of the indictments against the men, but heard nothing. In June of 1941 I heard that the case against them had been dismissed. I went to see the Sheriff, and found that a warrant had been issued by DUNN. The Sheriff didn't have it, so finding out about DUNN'S successor, I went to see him and found that the case had been dismissed. I did not know anything about it before this time, and even though I was one of the plaintiffs, I had never been notified that it was to be heard. I went to see the state's attorney, and he told me he couldn't prosecute, because there wasn't enough evidence, that he didn't have enough proof. I told him that others had seen it happen, but were afraid to talk.

"Just after the beating in January of 1941, I was subpoened to appear before the Grand Jury as a witness, on that matter. Several of us were there, but none of us were called, except [redacted], who came in in the afternoon. He had been beat up that day, and went in and

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

testified. None of the rest of us were called. I asked GREENE, the state's attorney, about it, and when we would be called. He said that that was the last day, and the Grand Jury wouldn't meet again until February. I told him I would be there to testify, but when I did appear at the next Grand Jury, I wasn't called. I saw the state's attorney again, and he said he didn't have enough evidence to present to the Grand Jury. I made an appointment to meet him later, when I could get all the men who had been beaten. A few days later, all of us who had been beaten met with the state's attorney. He still claimed that he didn't have enough evidence, and we all got pretty hot. Finally, GREENE, the attorney, invited all of us to have a drink. I took it and told him I might as well as that's all I'd ever get back for the beating I took.

"Just before 1932, when the P.M.A was formed, the U.M.W. was not functioning any too well. There was a lot of racketeering going on, and, in 1930 or 1931, there was some trouble between JOHN L. LEWIS and FISHBURK. At that time JOHN WALKER was district head of the U.M.W. He had been connected with the state employment service, and took a cut in salary when he went with the U.M.W. from $8000 to $5000, I think. At this time, the district office of the U.M.W. was not paying death claims to the locals. A resolution was passed in the local not to pay the per capita share to the district until the district would pay the death claims.

"In 1932, there was a strike within the U.M.W. The contract with the mine operators had expired, and the men refused to work until a new one was signed. At this time, LEWIS signed a secret contract with the operators, calling for a reduced wage for the miners. The men had voted against the proposed cut in a referendum. A second vote was called, and the miners were against the cut again. However, the officials at the district office of the U.M.W. said they had voted for the contract with the reduced wage. The men demanded a recount of the referendum ballots, and the district officials finally submitted to the demand for a recount. About one-half the ballots were counted, and the vote to there showed a stronger protest against the contract than the first referendum had shown. It was agreed to put the ballots in a bank vault until the next morning, when the counting would be completed. The next morning, the ballots mysteriously disappeared, between the bank and the U.M.W. building. They were supposed to have been placed in a car, and driven off by a tall, slender fellow, answering EDMUNDSON'S description, and another, answering the description of Foxhughes, a U.M.W. officer, now dead. I don't know if EDMUNDSON, or who, was sent to get the ballots.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"Shortly before this occurence, EDMUNDSON had started his own union, called the 'Rank and File Movement', and it seemed to be progressing pretty well. In fact, when the first split occurred in the U.M.W., the local at Mine B was considering joining EDMUNDSON'S organization. I think EDMUNDSON must have made some kind of a deal with WALKER, because the 'Rank and File Movement' seemed to lose ground, finally quit, and EDMUNDSON got a position with the U.M.W. I don't know if EDMUNDSON & WALKER had any agreements about what to do with the ballots. However, just after this, WALKER had an injunction against LEWIS in Illinois lifted, and LEWIS came back and signed the secret contract.

"About two weeks after I got beat up, I got a letter from BOHANNON, saying he wanted to see me, and for me to come to U.M.W. hall. I was afraid that they might do something to me if I went down, so I didn't pay any attention to it. I didn't hear anything more about it, and don't know the purpose of the letter. One day, about two weeks before I got beat up, and two days before payday, I happened to come up from the mine a little early. When I came up in the cage, I was the only P.M.A. man in the cage, all the rest being U.M.W. When we got to the top, I saw [redacted] standing there with a lot of money in his hand. The U.M.W. men, who were on the cage with me, circled around him, and he seemed to be paying them. I don't remember all the men in the group, but I did see [redacted], TONY PLOTCH, BILL SIRTOUT, and [redacted], the new man, not the P.M.A. man, as well as [redacted] I don't know why [redacted] was giving them money, but I had noticed that the men who had been imported to organize for the U.M.W., never got any statements from the company. The company usually gave out the statements two days before pay day, and all the men go to the office to get their statements. I noticed that these imported organizers never went to the office to get any statements, and I thought that perhaps ELSHOFF wasn't paying them, but the U.M.W. was. Later, they began getting statements, probably because the company wanted to have a cover for them.

"Before I was beaten up at the mine, men came to my house twice to get me to join the U.M.W. One time, [redacted] and two others I didn't know, came to the house and asked me to join the U.M.W. He told me that the U.M.W. would get control , and, if I didn't join, I'd lose my job. A month or so later, I don't know just when, JOE ALBANESE, and DOMINIC and ERNIE DI BARTOLOMEO came to the house and asked me again. I didn't give them any satisfaction at all. I think this was sometime in 1940.

"I had no leading part in the organizing of the P.M.A. I swung over with the majority. There were really no leaders to the change

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

over from U.M.W. to P.M.A. It seemed as though the local went over as one body. Even the honorary members of the local, those who were old and not working, but had charter memberships, swung over. I don't know of anyone who led the move. U.M.W. held meetings in the Leland Hotel and the K.C. Hall. One Sunday they were having a meeting in the K. C. Hall, to try to sign up men to go to work. A fight began, and Detective PORT WILLIAMS of the Springfield Police Department was killed. I don't know how it all started. [redacted] was arrested for it and put in jail, but as far as I know, it was all hushed up. The police got a truck load of guns and ammunition out of the Leland Hotel. A few days later I heard that [redacted] was taken out of jail, because they were afraid somebody might try to get to him. He was taken away, and I don't know what ever happened to him.

"On April 5, 1935, the P.M.A. held a meeting at headquarters, at 6th and Washington. During the meeting, U.M.W. men circled the block in automobiles. When the meeting was over, and the men leaving, several shots were fired, and EDWARD MAYBE was killed. He had told me sometime before that EDMUNDSON and others had offered him money to turn from the P.M.A. to the U.M.A. I heard the shots, and looked out the window of the union hall, and saw men running. The shots which killed MAYBE were fired from EDMUNDSON'S car. There were three men in the car, and while looking at MAYBE on the sidewalk, EDMUNDSON'S car ran into a truck at a stop sign, and locked bumpers. The men in the car couldn't get away, and had to take out on foot, leaving the car. One of the men was found in a rooming house on Adams St., with a revolver and ammunition. Another was arrested on Washington St. Edmundson gave himself up in Taylorville. ED BURKE was his lawyer. No one was ever prosecuted for this case, either.

"When the mine opened up in 1939, I went back to work a few days after it opened. I don't have any facts, but I feel that the U.M.W. furnished ELSHOFF with men and money to clean up Mine B. I know it must have cost quite a bit of money to clean up the mine, and I don't think ELSHOFF had enough money to do it himself. Shortly after this, I heard that the U.M.W. men at Capital Mine were saying that the U.M.W. had a gold tipple at Mine B. I don't know just when I heard this, but I think it was just after the mine opened. Since I've been out of work, since January of 1941, I've talked to a lot of U.M.W. men, and they are pretty generally dissatisifed. At the Peabody Mine, I know that the company pays the check off directly to the National headquarters of U.M.W., and not to the local. The National gives the local as much as they want to give.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"Just before the strike in May, 1937, ELSHOFF was bargaining underhanded with the U.M.W. He refused to sign a contract with the P.M.A., saying that he wouldn't make a wage adjustment retroactive. I think he used that question because he wanted to prolong the disagreement, so the U.M.W. could organize, and get enough men to work the mine, so he wouldn't have to work it with P.M.A. men. There had been a rumor around in May of 1937 that ELSHOFF was going to bring in U.M.W. men to work the mine. After the strike, no U.M.W. men showed up, so the P.M.A. men didn't stay around the mine. I had heard, in some union meetings, some discussion of what to do with some men who were accused of collaborating with the U.M.W. I don't remember the exact details, but I think that a referendum was had, and it was voted that the men be suspended or expelled from the union. On the day of the strike, the grievance committee went into see ELSHOFF, and after a while, came out, said they couldn't reach an agreement, so we wouldn't work the mine. I think the strike was called to force ELSHOFF to sign the contract, and not especially to force him to fire the men suspended from the P.M.A., but I can't say positively which it was. I know the men were loading cars short either the day of the strike, or the day before. The reason for this was that the company wanted to produce a lot of coal, and told the drivers to bring up cars in a hurry regardless of whether or not they were filled. The drivers would pick up the cars before the diggers could fully load them. As I remember, this was the reason for loading short, and I don't remember having anything about loading short as a protest against the management.

"From 1932 to 1937 no one approached me or asked me to join the U.M.W. Nobody really approached me on it until 1940, after I had gone back to work. Right after the strike, [redacted] and didn't know of anything happening at Mine B. I don't remember signing any petitions for P.M.A. or any other union. In the fall of 1937, I went out to Mine B to go to work, when I heard it was going to open up again. When we got out to the mine, we found out that ELSHOFF was going to have U.M.W. men work the mine too. When we heard that we decided that we wouldn't work the mine with U.M.W. men, and we wouldn't let the U.M.W. men try to work the mine. There wasn't any trouble, because the 25 U.M.W. men there couldn't work the mine, and went home. When they left, we saw ELSHOFF and offered to work the mine, but he refused to allow us. We stayed at the mine for 50 to 55 days, to protect our jobs and see that ELSHOFF didn't get any U.M.W. men to work the mine. We were more like guards than pickets, and wanted to keep the U.M.W. men from destroying the property. I think ELSHOFF got the injunction to get the P.M.A. off the property, and allow the U.M.W. men to work the mine. The P.M.A. men weren't hurting the property, and really left it cleaner than before they came.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"The notice of the election in December of 1937 was published in the paper. I went to the election voluntarily, and all but 25 men voted to retain the P.M.A. as the bargaining union. I voted P.M.A. because I wanted to keep that union, it was the best one for me. U.M.W. had two drunks handing out pamphlets at the election and one of them told me he had been paid $2.00 to distribute them. The election was supervised by the N.L.R.B., and it was a square election. In the election of 1941, I voted for the P.M.A. again, because I wanted that union. The U.M.W. men told the miners that they would lose their jobs if they didn't vote for the U.M.W. Also, if a man turned U.M.W. he was told to bring relatives to work, and they would find jobs for them.

"After the mine opened in 1939, members of the P.M.A. pit committee told me that they couldn't get ELSHOFF to do anything for them. They didn't have a contract with him, and couldn't make him do anything. After I went back to work in 1939, [redacted] talked to me quite often. He never mentioned U.M.W. to me, although I know he was organizing for U.M.W. in the mine. He posed as an air inspector in the mine, but had nothing to do. There was no such position before the strike.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of approximately seventeen handwritten pages, read to me, and state it is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

"Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.,
Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] On September 14, 1943, Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] was entirely cooperative at the time of this interview and expressed his desire to help the government in any way possible. It is to be noted that during the interview it was observed that [redacted] appeared to have a good deal of trouble understanding the questions and gave vague and rambling answers rather than answering the question directly. It is felt that he tried to do the best he could to be helpful, but that he would not be a good witness due to his rambling tendencies and lack of understanding. He advised agents that he had no criminal record.

The following signed statement was given by [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 14, 1943.

"I, [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement. Last Monday or Tuesday, after Labor Day, some man from U.M.W. District Office spoke to us and says we don't have to talk if we don't want. This man said you fellows don't have any right to question us miners. I heard that 12 men went to the Regional Bank Bldg. or U.M.W. Bldg. & they were supposed to have taken their signatures off what they signed. This is what I heard from the other miners. I also heard these men were to get paid $7.00 a day but I don't ___ by who they were to get paid. I am willing to talk to you men anyway but I hope I don't get in any trouble over this as I never been in any trouble in my life.

"I have been at Mine B since [redacted] & am still there as a digger. I was born in [redacted] & I came to U. S. in [redacted] & became a citizen in [redacted] I first joined U.M.W. in Ill. in [redacted] & I never held any office. Till 1932 U.M.W. was a good union & we could speak like we wanted to and I don't know if U.M.W. officials got along with Mine B before 1932 or not. After Elshoff came in there always was a lot of little troubles around. Before 1932 U.M.W. at Mine B was the strongest local there was. In 1932 I went with majority to P.M.A. & it didn't make any difference to me & I did not help organize over to P.M.A. Between 1932 & till Mine B closed P.M.A. had little troubles with Elshoff like U.M.W. did. In 1932 I heard that the Communists were going to be strong in P.M.A. but they never got in at all & I heard they, for years, were not sure which way they wanted to go & I heard they then went back to U.M.W. & took tales to Ray Edmundson. I never heard Elshoff say anything that he wanted U.M.W. back. Between 1932 & 1937 P.M.A. was like old U.M.W. local & it was

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

a mens union & I trusted the P.M.A. officials. In all unions I don't know anything about money matters. I went to P.M.A. meetings once in a while. P.M.A. local 54 was alright & I never saw anything wrong with it. Before Mine B closed no U.M.W. men bothered me & I never knew of any U.M.W. men being there till last day. In regard to parties by Elshoff for U.M.W. I heard Elshoff had been at office once for parties. I heard men say that [redacted] made a wrong agreement with Mine B when the contract ran out in spring of 1937. There was no trouble at all at Mine B because of this contract running out. I did not know if Elshoff & P.M.A. were going to get together & sign a contract. I did not go to any meeting before Mine B closed. On day Mine B closed I was on parting when I first heard of strike in afternoon. I heard that some men loaded cars short but no one said anything to me about it. That same afternoon Jim Hale asked me what was going on & I asked him what he meant & he did not answer me. I also saw Andy Schrelevious & Bowling Green (Chas. Bohanon) ride out with the mule together that afternoon & they were not supposed to do that. I heard that trouble was over the fact that the men did not get fired who were expelled & I heard this several days later while on picket on the road near the Mine B. While on picket I heard that some P.M.A. men were in the corn field with guns & that one was Cudge Baumgarner & other was Italian named 'Tony' from Pawnee, Ill. I also heard that some P.M.A. men at Mine B were getting money from U.M.W. I don't know if I signed any P.M.A. petition or not in summer of 1937 & I heard that U.M.W. had a petition out but I never signed it & was not asked to sign it or join U.M.W. In summer of 1937 nothing happened to me & it was all quiet. In fall of 1937 I went to sit down strike & was forced to go otherwise P.M.A. would fine us $5.00. I think I was out at Mine B on first day they tried to re-open in fall of 1937 & we were all ready to go to work. The sheriff was out there too. The U.M.W. men did not go back to work. I spent most of my time out there. No outsiders were brot in to help but just local men. It was a quiet & peaceful strike. John Schneider tried the best he could to keep us out there. I think he was right in what he did & even tho he was sick he stuck it out with us. I was there when Marshall came out & some wanted to stay & he said they would have to leave & we all left quietly. We felt sad about it as we thot we lost out. Mine B shut off our water and lights but [redacted] helped put switches back again for us miners. We got coal from Mine A to keep us warm. I don't remember of going out to Mine B when they re-opened again in 1938. I voted at N.L.R.B. election the way I wanted to & no one forced me to vote & it was by secret ballot. All of us had made up our minds to stay with P.M.A. In fall of 1937 I got a letter from Mine B telling me to go back to work & I did as I heard a union lawyer told P.M.A. to go back to work otherwise we would lose. I don't know why Elshoff would not sign a contract with P.M.A. About a year later I was beat up at local U.M.W. meeting in Springfield, Ill. & this was after I signed over to U.M.W. U.M.W. had us lay track & paid us $1.00 extra an hour & I & others were against it & I opened my mouth at the meeting that it was not right & [redacted] talked against me on it. Same evening I tried

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

to talk to other men & Bowling Green Chas. Bohanon, president, fined me 50¢ because I was talking to those men & another man came up to me & said I should go to [redacted] treasurer, & we went & man told [redacted] to take the fine off & then this man left & [redacted] hit me while I had my glasses on & while on the floor he kicked me & beat me up. At a later meeting charges were placed against me for talking about U.M.W. officials & I never did it & they fined me $150.00 & I had to pay it in 3 payments. I appealed to Ray Edmundson & he said that something would have to be done & next day at Mine B Jack Falcetti changed my statement to $5.00 instead of $150.00. This all took place after I had joined the U.M.W. union.

"After Mine B opened in 1939 [redacted] came in to see me while at work but he did not ask me out right to join U.M.W. One morning too my air was bad. Also once [redacted] came to my house & asked when I was going to join over to U.M.W. & I told them I would sign when the majority did. Later on Bowling Green Charles Bohanon came to my neighbor's house while we were playing cards & I signed over because a lot had signed over already. I heard that men did get beat up & I heard some hollering for help but I never saw them get beat up.

"I signed an affidavit against Bill Sirtout as he was my driver & he was doing everything he could to make it uncomfortable for me & I cried many times over it. The affidavit I signed then was made by me of my own free will & the information in it is true. I saw a lot of new men at Mine B & they would hang around in groups & I guess they were U.M.W. men. In summer of 1940 I did not sign any cards for P.M.A. or U.M.W. I paid P.M.A. dues but not when Mine B reopened in 1939. I voted in next N.L.R.B. election & it was like first one & I voted way I wanted to. I think U.M.W. won because the men were tired & I also heard that Mine B would not run again with P.M.A. I joined over to U.M.W. in 3 or 4 months after Mine B opened & I didn't pay dues at first & they all 'backed' me then. I had a bad room too when I went back & I figured they tried to get rid of me but I stuck it out. Mine B was in bad shape in 1939, & I never heard of a fire at Mine B in 1939. I did not attend a meeting when Jack Glascow was kicked out. I have had Agent [redacted] read this six (6) page statement to me & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge. I am signing of my of my own free will.

"Signed [redacted] (signed)

"[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted] signed)
Special Agent FBI (Milw.)
Springfield, Ill. 9/14/43"

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 8 and 9, 1943.

On September 8, 1943, Agents went to the residence of [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, and his wife advised that he still is employed at Mine B and she said he gets home around 4:45 P.M. However, she said she did not know for sure if he would be home that evening as he might go to a U.M.W. meeting that was being held.

On September 9, 1943, Agents, about 4:40 P.M. went to the residence of [redacted] and upon identifying themselves to him, he said that he hadn't much to say and supposed it was in regard to that investigation and he was told it was. [redacted] then told Agents that they would have to see his Attorney, FITZGERALD and that he had nothing to say to Agents. He admitted, however, he was working there at Mine B when the strike occurred but he said nothing happened that he knew of. He further told Agents to just go and see FITZGERALD, his Attorney. He also stated to Agents that FITZGERALD perso~~nally told~~ him to have Agents go and see him, FITZGERALD. This was in response to a question as to whether or not all the men all the men had been told this at Mine B or at a meeting. [redacted] was then asked by Agents what the full name of FITZGERALD was and he said he didn't know his first name but that he is a little old fellow. [redacted] was also asked where FITZGERALD has his offices and he said the offices are in the Farms Building, on top of Walgren's and it is on the ninth floor. [redacted] further remarked that he would not answer any questions and said for Agents to go and see his Attorney.

It was noted by Agents that [redacted] appeared to be somewhat intelligent and was not illiterate and spoke the English language alright.

Stenographic notes of Agent [redacted] are being retained in the exhibit section of this case.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 8, 1943.

At his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, agents interviewed [redacted] who advised he has never been arrested in his life. [redacted] although somewhat old, understood the majority of the questions very readily and his answers were understandable and it is felt that he would make a fair witness if his testimony is necessary. He furnished agents with the following signed statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill. make this free and voluntary statement to [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"In July 1941 I was laid off at Mine B as they think I was too old & I should go on pension. In June [redacted] I first started as coal digger at Mine B at Springfield, Ill.

"I was born [redacted] & came to U.S. in [redacted] & became citizen in [redacted] I was a miner in old country but did not belong to any union. I joined U.M.W. at Springfield, Ill. when I first came here & I never held any union office.

"Before 1932 ELSHOFF & U.M.W. got along fine and everybody was happy and we got what we wanted & it was a union for the men. When the split came in 1932 I went with the majority & was glad to go over & no one forced me to join P.M.A. & I didn't take any active part in going over. Between 1932 & 1937 P.M.A. got along fine too with ELSHOFF & there were no strikes or troubles. ELSHOFF & FALCETTI never said to me that P.M.A. was no good & I never heard of them saying anything against P.M.A. We P.M.A. miners felt our officers of P.M.A. were alright. P.M.A. was run by the men & they were O.K. I would go to meetings only once in a while. We men could say what we wished to say & no one stopped us. I never knew a thing about those bombings by P.M.A. men & I don't believe they did it & I think there was something crooked there. Once in a while there was a special assessment for a convention or something but they were not often. The P.M.A. officials always told us at the meetings what they did with the money. Before Mine B closed U.M.W. never

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

picketed Mine B & I never saw any literature being given out by them. Before Mine B closed there were some P.M.A. men, about 15 or so, who were for U.M.W. Some was CHAS. BOHANNON, BOWLING GREEN, TONY PLOTCH, COTTON ANANIAS, JOHN & BILL & JOHN JR., SIRTOUT, GEO. & EMORY JACKWAY, Sal the Italian, ANDY SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMONIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER; FRANK AUSTIN & JIM HALE. That was the bunch. I never heard of any parties by ELSHOFF or U.M.W. In Spring of 1937 we were told in the Mine that we were working on a temporary agreement like old contract. I just dont recall if anything was said about back pay. We felt that our P.M.A. officers could do as good for us as U.M.W. Just before Mine B closed there was no trouble about the wages. PLOTCH &"COTTON" came to my home before Mine B closed and they told me that we could not work without an agreement but that U.M.W. could get an agreement. I told them I would not sign my name to anything. Mine B never said to me anything about the wage agreement. Before Mine B closed I did not go to any meeting but there might have been one. I worked in Box [redacted] on day Mine B closed and I loaded 2 cars & had no more coal & came up to parting and saw some old man who also did not know of any trouble. No one came to our section & said mine was to be closed. After I got on top I heard all the men were called out. I heard the trouble was because an agreement was not signed. That is all I know about it. I heard that in some parts they were loading short but in my part we all loaded full cars. Next day after Mine B closed I don't remember if they picketed or not at Mine B. I never signed any U.M.W. Petition in summer of 1937 & I don't know if I signed one for P.M.A. or not as I still was Progressive. No one asked me to join U.M.W. local & I heard they had opened it from the papers. During summer of 1937 I don't know of anything happening. I also heard that some men from Mine B went to work at Jefferson Mine & I also heard that FALCETTI was there too & I also heard that ELSHOFF was running it for a while. In fall of 1937 I went out first day & they wouldn't let any P.M.A. men go down but did let that same bunch of 15 or so go down & next day we started the strike that lasted for some time. FALCETTI let them go down. I went out to the strike about half the time & I would go home when I wanted to. No one forced me to go out. The men were all from local 54. I went to protect my job as I had $25.00 worth of tools in the mine. I don't see any U.M.W. men at Mine during the strike. It was a quiet and peaceful strike. We protected mine property & took 3 hr. watch each night. We had no guns. I was not at Mine B when U. S. Marshall came out as I had left 3 days before. I did not go out to Mine B later as I read in paper they were going to open it as U.M.W. & I didn't go out. I voted at first N.L.R.B. election at Armory in Springfield, Ill. & I voted for P.M.A. I was in meeting hall & we went over in groups of about ten. No one told me how to vote. We were told to get our ballots at the Armory. Between Armory & our hall I saw several men giving out papers but I did not take any. It was by secret ballot & it was a good election - no

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

trouble at all. I heard that later Mine B was to be re-opened but I didn't go out. I heard that ELSHOFF would have nothing to do with Progressives even tho they won the election. In fall of 1939 I think I got a letter telling me to go out to work. I went out after [redacted] came to my house & said I had to go out in 3 days & I went out on second day & I was told my place had caved in & that they would let me know in a week or so & some one later told me to go out & I did. I paid to P.M.A. $33.00 in dues after I returned to work. After I worked a while TONY BAUMGARTEN asked me in the wash room at Mine B when I was going to sign over to U.M.W. & I did as I figured I had better sign before some one punched me. He just told me it was better to join. This was about Jan. or Feb. 16th, 1941 when I signed up. At Mine B, BILL SIRTOUT, who is now in the Army, asked me almost every day when I was going to join U.M.W. but he never threatened me. This was before TONY saw me. No one hurt me or did damage to my coal. ELSHOFF & FALCETTI never asked me to join U.M.W. I didn't sign any card for U.M.W. in summer of 1940 but I saw SAMMY go around in Mine B with some kind of cards but I never signed. I belonged to P.M.A. so didn't have to sign any cards with them. I voted at second N.L.R.B. election at Armory. Before we had to go to big meeting at Redman's Hall & Edmundson & [redacted], was there & we had to go & vote in groups of ten. I did not pay any attention to their speeches & I still voted for P.M.A. It was a good election. U.M.W. had men all around the election booth. U.M.W. brot all kinds of new men to Mine B and they came from all places & that is how U.M.W. won as they got more men in at Mine B. No one forced me to vote at second N.L.R.B. election. When I returned to Mine B they had bad air. Box [redacted] was in good condition but Box [redacted] never were opened. I never heard of a fire at Mine B while it was closed. After I joined U.M.W they fined me 50 cents for not going to a meeting & I complained to BOHANNON about it because I was too old to go. I don't think I attended a meeting where [redacted] talked.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read this seven (7) page statement to me and it is correct to the best of my recollection & I have signed it of my own free will.

[redacted]

"Witnesses:
[redacted], Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)
[redacted] Special Agent, St. Paul, Minn."

Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 8th and 9th, 1943.

On September 8, 1943 inquiry was made at the residence of [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and it was ascertained that he was at [redacted]

[redacted] Agents were advised by [redacted] that he has been [redacted] since September 1, 1943 [redacted] and that he was well and would answer questions of Agents.

He stated he had never been arrested in his life. It was noted that although he is rather old he readily understood the questions and answered them intelligently, and if it were not for his illness, he would make a good witness if necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 9, 1943

"I [redacted], Springfield, Ill. make the following free and voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted] at the [redacted] I have been suffering [redacted] but I feel all right and well enough to talk. No threats or promises have been made to me to procure this statement.

"I was born [redacted] I came to the U.S. in [redacted] and became a citizen about [redacted] I first joined a mine union at Springfield in [redacted] I have never held a union office. I first went to work in Mine 'B' about [redacted] and worked there until 1937 since which time I have not worked at all except for one month in 1939 after the mine opened Prior to 1932 the U.M.W. at Mine B seemed to get along OK with Elshoff so far as I know. In 1932 I joined the P.M.A. when all the others did I felt then that there should be only one union for the miners, I took no active part in changing to P.M.A. just went along with the rest.

"During the 5 years from 1932 to 1937, the P.M.A. and the Mine 'B' officials had no unusual trouble, there were no shut-downs or work stoppages during this time. Neither Elshoff or Falsetti

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

ever said anything to me about wanting to get P.M.A. out at Mine B and getting U.M.W. back. I heard that the union officials had some trouble with Elshoff over the contract and his wanting to get U.M.W. back. Before 1937 the P.M.A. seemed to get along OK with their own officials. P.M.A. did not seem to have any more trouble with crooked leaders than any other union, there are always some men in every union trying to get something out of it. I heard at this time there were some men in P.M.A. carrying stories to the Bosses about what happened in the union. I did not go to P.M.A. meetings because I lived out in the country and under the agreement did not have to. I would attend election meetings and that was about all. There was never any question in my mind as to the dealings of P.M.A. officials with union money, assessments in P.M.A. were about the same as in any union. From 1932 to 1937 I don't recall the U.M.W. ever picketing at Mine 'B' nor do I remember any U.M.W. literature being distributed at the mine. I don't know whether there were any men in the P.M.A. trying to organize for the U.M.W. Before the mine closed I heard some P.M.A. board members say they did not want the mine to close. There were 12 men in the P.M.A. before the mine closed organizing for the U.M.W. they never asked me to join over but I heard of their activities, I don't recall their names now. I never knew about Elshoff giving any parties for U.M.W. officials or they for him.

"I remember hearing about the contract running out in the Spring of 1937. I heard they had a temporary agreement, but never heard anything about back pay. I was satisfied with the way our union officials were handling this matter. The miners were mad about there being no contract but there were no fights or other trouble. I never heard anything about what the Co. had to say about the wage contract.

"I did not go to any meeting the night before the mine shut down. I heard about it and about some U.M.W. men being chased out of the union. I worked on May 12, 1937. I did not know anything about the fact that there would be a strike on that day. I worked all day and found out when I came up on top that the mine was shut down. I heard the mine was closed because Elshoff wanted the P.M.A. men to join U.M.W. but they would not do that so they closed it down. I heard of cars being loaded short the day the mine closed down, but I did not do this myself.

"I did not sign any petitions for either P.M.A. or U.M.W. the summer the mine closed down.

"I knew nothing about the U.M.W. forming a new local the summer of 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I did not return to work when they tried to open the mine in Sept. 1937. About two weeks after the strike started Johnny Schnieder and a couple of men came and asked me what kind of a union member I was not to be at the mine. A day or so later another member took me out and I stayed for 4 days and then ran off and went home. I asked this other man to take me out after Schnieders and the others had called to see me. I would not have gone if it hadn't been for this. They did not threaten me just talked kind of rough. The men I saw at the strike were all local 54 men. I don't know of anyone else who was made to go to the mine. I was not at the mine when the marshall came and chased the men out.

"I did not go to the mine when they tried to open it in Sept. 1937. I don't know whether I knew about it or not.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election. I went from home to the Armory, nobody forced me to go. It was a good honest election by secret ballot. I think I voted P.M.A. I never saw any U.M.W. men near the Armory when I went to vote.

"I did not go to the mine when they tried to open in Jan. 1938.

"I heard the reason the mine was not opened after P.M.A. won the election was because Elshoff didn't want P.M.A. I heard the reason Elshoff could keep the mine closed was because John Lewis was paying him. I heard something about Elshoff opening up the Jefferson Mine and not being able to make it so he closed.

"When the mine opened in 1939, [redacted] came to my room and said I had to come to work in two days or I would loose my job, I was sick at that time. I had previously had a letter telling me to come back to work but had not gone. I went out after [redacted] came to see me, I was sick and walking with a cane. Falsetti let me go back I went back in box [redacted] as box [redacted] where I had worked was caved in I made 444 for 4 days work just before I quite as I was unable to work. After I went back to work nobody asked me to join the U.M.W. I did not vote at the second N.L.R.B. election as I was out when this was held. When I went back to Mine 'B' I guess the mine was in fair shape. I never did rejoin the U.M.W.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read to me this eight page hand-written statement to me as I have some trouble reading. To the best of my knowledge it is all true and correct. I am therefore signing this of my own free will.

Signed [redacted]

Witnessed:
/S/ [redacted] Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. St. Paul, Minn.
Springfield, Ill. Sept. 9, 1943

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] On September 13, 1943, Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. During this interview it was observed that [redacted] is an intelligent person and possesses a very good memory. [redacted] was most anxious to cooperate in every way possible. He impressed Agents as being a thoroughly honest and reliable sort of person, and it is believed that the information given by him is the truth. [redacted] furnished some very interesting information and it is believed that he would make an excellent witness. [redacted] advises that he has no criminal record. The following signed statement was furnished by [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 13, 1943.

"I, [redacted] give the following information to [redacted] and [redacted], who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this information.

"Since Dec. 1938 I have been a digger & company man at Panther Creek #5. I started at Mine B in 1934 & worked till May, 1937 when it closed. I was a member of P.M.A. when I started at Mine B. I was born [redacted] & came to U. S. in [redacted] & became a citizen in [redacted] I first joined U.M.W. around [redacted] in Illinois & I never have held a union office. Between 1934 & 1937 I think P.M.A. miners got along fine with P.M.A. officials & officials of Mine B. I remember that some time before Mine B closed I had a cold & I went out to Mine B & told them I wasn't going down to work. While I was in the wash-house, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN & a few other men all of whom favored U.M.W. were also in the wash-house & after the P.M.A. miners went down when the whistle blew OSCAR FALCETTI came into the wash-house & I saw him wink at FRANK AUSTIN & he said "It didn't work" & AUSTIN said, "we will get them tomorrow." I told this later to the P.M.A. officials. I don't recall of anything happening that day but I think CARTER & AUSTIN had been expelled from P.M.A. already. Between 1934 & 1937 to the best of my knowledge most of the P.M.A. miners were satisfied with local #54 & it was run by the men & not by a few. I was not active but did go to a lot of the meetings. In regard to the men sent to jail for the bombing I & others felt that they were railroaded & were not guilty. P.M.A. officials made reports as to what they did with the money. Once they had a 10% assessment but otherwise there were no outstanding special assessments. Before Mine B closed U.M.W. men never picketed the Mine B. But before Mine B closed there was a group around Mine B who were for U.M.W. and they were SAMMY; ANDY SCHOELEVIOUS: PASQUALE; CARTER; AUSTIN; TONY PLOTCH; "COTTON" ANANIAS; 3 SIRTOUTS; GEO. & EMORY JACAWAY; BOWLING GREEN & JIM HALE and I heard that these men were trying to get the Mine B closed & were supposed to have said that if the Mine didn't go over to U.M.W. it would be closed and I heard they had gone around

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

& talked to men but they never contacted me. I guess about 6 or 7 of the above were expelled from P.M.A. as I heard about that. I never heard of any parties ELSHOFF gave for U.M.W. but I used to see lot of wiskey bottles in the rear of the office of Mine B & I heard that ELSHOFF & FALCETTI did have parties at Mine B for U.M.W. men.

"In spring of 1937 I recall that the contract ran out & we were told we were working pending a settlement & that it would be retro-active to April 1st & that the contract would be based on the Illinois contract. The P.M.A. committee of [redacted] and others told us this. I thot things would be as they always were in regard to the contract. I never heard any men complaining about their wages over this contract & there were no slow-downs over it. I heard that some of the above expelled men were not fired & that FALCETTI told the P.M.A. Committee that he would not fire them. I never heard management say a thing about wages.

"I don't recall if I attended a meeting on 5-11-37 or not. I did not know there was to be a strike when Mine B closed on 5-12-37. That morning there was some rumor around that there might be some trouble. If I recall P.M.A. was supposed to see ELSHOFF about these expelled men. I loaded full cars but because of a fall the driver took out several short cars. No one told me to load any short nor did I know it was being done. Around 2:30 or 2:45 p.m. our driver told us it was quitting time & we came out. After I got on top I heard the mine was on strike. I heard [redacted] wated to have the Company re-instate the contract & they wouldn't so he called the men out. I did not hear it was over those expelled men. For several week the mine was picketed. I never signed any petition for U.M.W., but I did sign one for P.M.A. as there was a rumor that U.M.W. was claiming a lot & petition was gotten up to see how may were for P.M.A. & I signed it at union office of my own free will. I heard of a U.M.W. petition being out. I recall of signing a P.M.A. petition in the fall of 1937 & no one forced me to sign it. I heard of U.M.W. forming a new local & I heard they were going from home to home but I never was approached. P.M.A. held their regular meetings as usual in summer of 1937 & I don't recall of anything unusual happening in summer of 1937. I heard tho of a fellow named [redacted] getting beat up by CHAS. BOHANNON & another fellow. I heard that some Mine B men & [redacted]) worked at Jefferson Mine while Mine B was closed. I think I heard too of FALCETTI being there. In fall of 1937 I went to Mine B first day they tried to reopen & I heard from the other miners I would have to sign up with U.M.W. in order to go down so I didn't go down as I would not sign over to U.M.W. I had not attended any previous meeting when they decided what to do. I read of Mine B re-opening in the papers. I heard a cage or two of men went down. Both JACAWAYS went down & I think TONY PLOTCH too as I saw them myself. The law was out there too but things were quiet. Next morning the sit down strike started & the group who went down first day were in office & sheriff let them go out.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

I went out for 1st week of sit down & then went to Detroit for a month & then returned to sit-down for few days & Marshall came out & told us to leave & there was no trouble. I saw no outsiders -- just local #54 men were on sit-down strike. No one forced me to go out. I thot ELSHOFF might get tired of us & sign a contract. It was quiet & peaceful. There were rumors that U.M.W. were going to bring men in but it never took place. I heard of re-opening the mine in Dec. 1937 but did not go out because of the injunction being served on us. I voted at N.L.R.B. election in Armory. It was by secret ballot & I voted because I wanted to be with P.M.A. & no one forced me to vote & it was an honest election. I think we went to union hall first & then went over in groups. We had heard U.M.W. might have some men out so we went in groups. A meeting was held & [redacted] explained purpose of election & he said to us we can vote the way we wanted to & he did not say to me to vote for P.M.A. Across from Armory & on inside I saw a few U.M.W. men & FRANK AUSTIN was on inside but I did not see them give out literature & they did not bother us. I heard again that they tried to re-open it in Jan. 1938 as U.M.W. & that was why I didn't go out. I heard that ELSHOFF would not sign any P.M.A. contract & another rumor was ELSHOFF got money from U.M.W. I went to work in Dec. 1938 at Panther Creek Mine. I don't recall of getting a letter from Mine B saying for me to come to work. I later went out to Mine B to get my tools & FALCETTI asked me if I was coming back & I told him I never would under U.M.W. & he just grinned at me.

"I never had anything more to do with Mine B since then. Altho I can read English I have had Agent [redacted] read this seven (7) page statement to me & it is true & correct to the best of my recollection and I also recall that in August, 1937 I & [redacted]) were walking along [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. I saw a car containing OSCAR FALCETTI; [redacted] (ph); [redacted] (ph) & [redacted] & another man. OSCAR FALCETTI called both of us over to the car which was parked & we asked him what he was doing & he said they wanted to see how many men were going to the U.M.W. meeting & he asked us why we were not up there & we told him we had no business up there & he wanted to take us out to buy us a drink but we refused. I have had read to me this additional information too & I am signing this of my own free will."

"Signed -- [redacted]

WITNESSES:
[redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.,
St. Paul, Minn.
[redacted]
Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)

Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 13, 1943"

PERSONS EMPLOYED AT MINE "T" AFTER NOVEMBER 6, 1939

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted], Springfield, Illinois on the afternoon of September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted], and [redacted] would not make a good witness due to a poor appearance, and a poor memory. He does not express himself very well. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill
September 7, 1943.

"My name is [redacted] I was born at [redacted] I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to have me sign this statement.

"I started to work at Mine B in July 1940. My father was working there at that time and took me out to work. I had been working at the Jefferson mine before I went to Mine B. It was a UMW mine, and I was a member of the UMW when I went to work out there at mine B. The Jefferson mine was the first mine that I had every worked at.

"While I was at Mine B, I did not see any violence or fights of any kind. I did not hear anything about organizing at Mine B. I thought it was already a UMW mine, and I did not talk to anyone about switching, and no one talked to me about the unions. I did not see any organizing on company property. I heard about such things going on, but do not know of it personally. I voted at the election held for mine B at the Armory in 1941. That was a fair election as far as I know. I never saw any preference or favoritism of the company for one union over the other. I never saw any violence out there by either union.

"I have read the above statement on this page. It is all true and accurate.

(Signed) [redacted]

[redacted], Special Agent FBI
[redacted]
F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] He is about average in intelligence but appeared cooperative. If deemed necessary, he would be a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement:

[redacted]
Sept. 8, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted], both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises or been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and presently reside at [redacted] I have been a miner off and on since [redacted] when I first came to the U. S. I became a citizen in [redacted] and joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] I have never held an office in any union. I first started working at Mine B in about July of 1940 as a timberman. I worked as a Timberman at Peabody #59 from about 1930 until 1940. I had not been getting along very well at Peabody, which was a United Mine, and decided I would go over to Mine B to get a job. FALCETTI had promised me a job at Mine B in about 1928 or 1929, but I never got the job then. I knew OSCAR FALCETTI of course, but didn't know him very well.

"Then I went out to see FALCETTI about a job in 1940, he asked me what kind of a job I wanted, and I said I had been a timberman, so he said he needed timbermen, because the mine was in bad shape. FALCETTI didn't ask me what union I belonged to and didn't say anything as to what union I should join. About the next day after I started work at Mine B, one of the Committeemen from United asked me what union I belonged to. Since I was a member of the U.M.W. at Peabody in good standing I told them I was a U.M.W. man. I then signed some kind of a card and they had my card transferred from Peabody over to Mine B. I worked at Mine B until January of 1942 and quit at that time because I was on a night shift and didn't like to work nights. I got my old job back at #59 then because I could work days. I am still employed at #59.

"While I was at Mine B I never had any trouble with any of the men about union activities. I don't know anything about any trouble at the Mine - I heard about men fighting, but I didn't see any of it. I was never a member of Progressive, but always got along fine with the member of Progressives. I've always been friends with

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

everybody and didn't care what union a man belonged to as long as he was a friend of mine.

"I voted in the election of February 1941 while employed at Mine B. This election was at the Armory and was peaceable as far as I know. I do not know anything about the strike at Mine B in 1937.

"This statement of 3 pages has been read to me by [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.,
U.S. Dept. of Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] stated [redacted] and that he was presently making his residence with [redacted] that [redacted] had not mentioned instant investigation to him and that in his opinion it was a bad situation at the mines. [redacted] stated that he had always been an independent thinker and had joined the U.M.W. because he wanted to and not because of any threats.

[redacted] speaks good English and is above average in intelligence, although his information is rather limited. There is set forth below the signed statement executed by [redacted] at the time of this interview.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 8, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born at [redacted] and my home address is [redacted] I have been in the United States Army for the past two years. As I recall I started to work at Mine B in about August, 1940. My father, [redacted] is a miner and had worked at Mine B for a long time. I had been working for [redacted] and was only making about seven dollars a week and I thought I could make more money in the mines. [redacted] I had never belonged to any union before working at Mine B, and I joined U.M.W. I do not remember whether I joined as soon as I started to work or whether it was later.

"I was not threatened in any way nor did I see anyone else beaten or threatened. I joined U.M.W. because my Dad belonged to that union. I worked at Mine B until the latter part of September, 1941 at which time I left to go into the army. I am now assigned to the [redacted] I am now home on leave.

"I do not remember who hired me at Mine B. I just went to some man and told him that I wanted a job. He put me to work as a digger. No one told me I had to join any union in order to work. I don't know anything about any union trouble at the mine, I never paid any attention to it.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] correct to the best of my belief.

(continued)

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
U. S. Dep't. of Justice."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois; was cooperative and appeared willing to talk. He could be used as a witness, if necessary, although the information furnished by him is not particularly petinent. His statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born on [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a U. S. citzen in [redacted] and I now reside at [redacted] I started mining about [redacted] and at that time joined U.M.W. I started at Mine B on August 9, 1940 and prior to that I had worked at the [redacted] years. The Old West Mine shut down and I thought I would go to Mine B and see if I could get a job. I went to see OSCAR FALCETTI, went to see him two or three times, and he gave me a job. I had been out of work for about two years. I had belonged to Progressive when I was at the [redacted] I got a job as timberman at Mine B for two or three months, and then I started to dig coal.

"When I went to Mine B I was a member of Progressive, I went every month and registered when I was out of work.

"When FALCETTI hired me he didn't say anything about any union. After I had worked for about two or three days. "Sammy" came and asked me to join U.M.W. I told him I would and I signed up with U.M.W. I joined because I thought the majority belonged to U.M.W. I heard that there were fights at the Mine but I never saw any and no one ever bothered me.

"I voted in the NLRB election at the State Armory in 1941. The election was quiet and there was no trouble of any kind. No one told me how to vote or threatened me in any way. I have never held an office in any union.

"I never saw FALCETTI at Panther Creek Mine, but I did see him at a picnic about [redacted] years ago. When he hired me he

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

did not know me, I told him I had met him at a picnic but he said it was too long ago, he couldn't remember.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

[redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.,
U. S. Dept. of Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of employment, [redacted] would make an excellent witness to testify to these matters set out in his statement. He is friendly toward the government and related how hisfather, many years ago was "railroaded" into the penitentiary by John L. Lewis. He further related confidentially that he knew Lewis and Edmundson and that neither were "worth the powder to blow them to hell".

[redacted] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 8, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born on [redacted] I have worked in coal mines for [redacted] years, and joined the U.M.W. in about 1927. I never held any office in any union. I started at Mine B in December, 1939 or January 1940 and got a job as a digger. I had been sick before that and hadn't worked for a year or so.

"I heard that Mine B was hiring men so I went to Oscar Falcetti and asked him for a job. I didn't know him before this. He asked me what union I intended to join and I told him I didn't think it was any of his buiness, that when the time came I would make up my mind. He did ask me if I was a member in good standing in U.M.W. and I told him that I wasn't. However, he gave me a job.

"After I had been there for about a month I was approached by both unions, each wanting me to join. The U.M.W. men told me they had a majority but I was not threatened or intimidated in any way by either group.

"After about six or eight weeks I finally joined U.M.W. The reason I joined this union was because I had been a United Mine Worker before, I had no personal likes or dislikes for either group.

"I worked at Mine B for about six months and during this time I had consulted a doctor concerning some trouble I had [redacted] The

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

doctor told me I couldn't work in the mines anymore, so I quit Mine B.

"I know nothing directly concerning the strike in 1937 and at no time was I ever subjected to any violence or abuse of any kind.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agents, FBI
U. S. Dep't. of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 7, 1943. [redacted] was born in [redacted] He started working at Mine "B" in the summer of 1940 and claims to know nothing of union activity at Mine "B". He understands and speaks English well. [redacted] advised that when a young man he was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge for being drunk, and spent several days in jail.

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943 -

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] I first started working in coal mines [redacted] years ago in [redacted], when I first joined the United Mine Workers of America Union and I have been a member of UMW ever since. I have never been a member of any other union.

"For about [redacted] years before the summer of 1940 I didn't work and in the summer of 1940 I came to Springfield, Ill., [redacted] whose name I cannot spell, but who is a good friend of mine, sent word to me near [redacted] where I was living on a farm, that Mine "B" was hiring and I would get a job. So I came up to Springfield and went to work in Mine "B". No one ever said anything about me working there because I was UMW. I've been working at Mine "B" ever since.

"During the time I have been employed at Mine "B" I have never seen any efforts on the part of either UMW or PMA, the Progressive Union, to organize at Mine "B". Back in 1940 I heard there were some fights, but I never have seen any.

"I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Board election in Feb. of 1941 when UMW beat PMA. I was not forced or threatened in any way and I believe it was a fair election.

"I have never held an office in any local around Springfield, and I do not false any interest in union activities and I attend very few UMW meetings.

"I think the UMW is the best organization in the world, altho I do believe some of the officials are not true to the organization. I would not work in the mines under any other union.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I am certain I know nothing of any organizing or union activities at Mine "B", especially from the time I went to work there until the NLRB election.

"This statement of two pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

SIGNED - [redacted]

"WITNESS
[redacted] - Special Agent - FBI
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] stated that he had been rejected by the Army due to poor health and that since that time he had not been interested in any type of work. [redacted] seemed to be highly resentful of this fact and it is believed he has a rather distorted view point toward life in general. Although he stated he had never been arrested, [redacted] stated he had been accused on several occasions of stealing tools at the mine. It is believed he would make an unreliable witness. There is being set forth below the signed statement executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
September 8, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and was born in [redacted] I have lived in Springfield nearly all of my life. I left high school after two years, in about [redacted] and did odd jobs for a couple of years. My father, [redacted] was working at Mine B and had been there for about [redacted] years prior to his retirement about two years ago.

"As I recall I went to work at Mine B in August, 1940 and worked there until about April, 1942. I had been working at [redacted] and just before I went to work at Mine B I had been working in [redacted] My father asked me if I wanted to go to work at Mine B, and I thought I would, so I went out with him. When I started to work my father belonged to U.M.W. I don't remember who hired me, but I guess it was the Superintendent. I went to work as a digger. I don't remember just when I joined U.M.W. but that was the union I joined. The reason that I joined U.M.W. was because I felt that U.M.W. was in the majority. I was never beaten or threatened in anyway to get me to join any union. The only fights I was in at the mine was about some tools I was accused of stealing.

"I voted in the NLRB election in the Armory, probably in February 1941, but there was no trouble and no one told me how to vote.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have read the above statement and it is true to the best of my memory. I don't know anything about the strike or what caused it, and I have never been aware of any union fights. I was never bothered in anyway by either union and didn't have to join any union to get my job at Mine B.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:

[redacted]

Special Agents, F.B.I.,
U. S. Dept. of Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] appeared cooperative and indicated his willingness to assist the government. Although the information furnished by him is not believed to be particularly vital, it is felt that he would be a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement which he furnished:

"Springfield, Ill_
Sept_ 8, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born in [redacted], and came to the U. S. in about [redacted] I became a U. S. ___ in about [redacted] and presently live at [redacted] I started mining in about [redacted] and joined the U.M.W. at that time. I worked for Elshoff when he operated the [redacted] from [redacted] on and off except when [redacted] was shut down. That mine closed down about in [redacted] but I had left that mine in [redacted] I worked at the Jefferson Mine for about three years and worked there during the time when Elshoff was the receiver for the mine. We were only paid about 75% of our wages and the 25% was kept by the mine or Elshoff. I saw Falcetti around there a lot and I guess he was the manager of the mine.

"After I left the Jefferson & Brewenton mines I worked one winter for the [redacted] mine. After that I got a job at [redacted] for about 3 months. I quit that place and was out of work until about August of 1940 when I got a job at Mine B. I have been at Mine B since that time. While we ran the Jefferson mine on a cooperative basis there was no union, but when it was taken over by Elshoff it was progressive. When the mine was operated by Brewenton he kept $10 back from each pay check & he was supposed to give the men a deed for some land. I think there were five trustees elected; [redacted] who now works at Peabody 59; and the other three men's names I don't remember. These men handled all the details & I believe they were to receive deeds for oil or mineral rights in return for Brewenton keeping $10 from each pay check.

"In August of 1940 I went to see Falcetti about getting a job at mine B. I had been on the pit committee at [redacted] before [redacted] & I was also trustee for the U.M.W. local at Mine B for two terms, that is up until the last election.

"I had seen Falcetti several times in 1940 before he finally gave me a job as a digger in August of 1940. When I first got my job there was no check off and nobody said I had to join a union. I had always been a

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

strong united men, although I did belong to progressive for a short time. When I started at Mine B I was not a member of any union, but I think I signed up before I started to work. I believe it was Albanese or Cotton Ananias who asked me to sign a U.M.W. card so I signed it. I don't like the idea of two unions in the coal business and I don't believe I would have joined progressive even if they were the only one there. I was not forced or threatened in any way to join any union. I never was involved in any arguments at the mine & never saw any fighting during the time I've been there.

"I haven't seen much of Falcetti since I started at Mine B and so I can't say if he favored any union at the mine.

"As I recall it now, the Jefferson mine was first run by [redacted] and then was operated by Elshoff under receivership, and during the time Elshoff was there it was progressive. After that, [redacted] got a loan from the government and the mine was run by U.M.W. men.

"I used to be quite active in union affairs, but since the last union election in about July, I haven't been attending union meetings.

"After reading this statement I want to correct it by stating now that Elshoff didn't start operating [redacted] until about 1917.

"I have read over this statement of 4 pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses
[redacted] } Special Agents, FBI
U. S. Dept_ of Justice"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] appeared cooperative but possessed no information of value. He could be used, however, if desirable, to testify to those matters contained in the following statement, which he furnished.

"Sept. 9, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and presently live at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. As I recall it now I was first employed by Mine B in the early spring of 1940 and quit in the spring of 1942. I was working at [redacted] just before I went to work at Mine B and wanted to quit [redacted] because I wasn't making any money at the [redacted] I went out to see Elshoff quite a few times before I finally got a job. I never knew Elshoff very well, in fact I never really knew him until I saw him at the mine [redacted] Elshoff finally called in Falcetti and told him to give me a job. I was given a job working nights as a clean up man. I had never been a member of any coal miners union before I worked there.

"As I recall it now, I worked there about two weeks before I joined the U.M.W. I believe Bohannon was president of the local and a man by the name of [redacted] asked me to join. I was not threatened in any way by anyone to join any union. I was not approached by anyone from Progressive to join their union. I figured U.M.W. were in the majority and joined them because of that fact, and also because I was asked to join progressive. I heard there was a lot of fighting after I first started but since I was working nights I didn't see many of those men. After I worked there for about six months I was given a job as digger.

"Since I was a roofer by trade I decided I would try and get a job at that business. After the fire at Mine B in 1942 I decided that was a good time to quit so I got a job with the [redacted]

"I voted in the NLRB election in 1941 and as far as I know everything was all right. I do not know anything about the strike in 1937. When I first started at Mine B there was nothing said by either Elshoff or Falcetti as to what union I should join and I never saw any acts of favoritism by them towards either union.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(Continued)

"I have read over this statement of 3 pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

/S/ [redacted]) Special Agents, FBI
U.S. Dept. of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] does not speak very good English and stated he never paid much attention to union activities; that as far as he was concerned they should only allow one union to operate and that union should be the U.M.W. It is believed that [redacted] would be a poor witness. There is being set forth below the following signed statement executed by [redacted]

"September 9, 1943
Springfield, Illinois

"I, [redacted] residing at [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U.S. in [redacted] I became a U.S. citizen in [redacted] I started coal mining in about [redacted] and at that time I joined U.M.W.

"I started at Mine B in August of 1940. I had worked at Peabody #53 for many years and I had to quit there because of a rupture. I had an operation several times for this and didn't go back to Peabody.

"I worked on W.P.A. for a while and then I thought I could get a job at Mine B. [redacted] was working there but I didn't say anything to [redacted] I went to Oscar Falcetti and asked him for a job. I know Falcetti, but not very well. When I asked him for a job as digger he told me to bring my tools. He asked me where I had worked before, and I told him. Falcetti didn't say anything to me about joining any union.

"Nobody said anything to me about joining any union but I wanted to join U.M.W. so I did. No one asked me to join, or threatened me in anyway. I had always been a United Mine Worker so that is why I joined again.

[redacted] had worked at Mine B for a long time but I don't think that is why I got the job. They needed men and hired me. I never saw any fights at Mine B, or had any trouble of any kind. I know nothing about the strike in 1937.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agents, F.B.I., U.S. Dept. of Justice. "

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home, September 9, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] as a difficult time understanding and speaking English and would be a poor government witness as he is a member of long standing in UMW.

[redacted] furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 9, 1943.

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] emmigrated to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen of the U. S. in [redacted]

"I became a member of the UMW in the U. S. in [redacted] and I have been a member of UMW since that date.

"I am not active in the union and I have never held office.

"In 1940 I was employed at the [redacted] Springfield, Ill. This mine was only working a few days a week. I heard that Mine "B" was working every day and for that reason I went to Mine "B" to obtain employment. In the Summer of 1940 Oscar Falcetti gave me a job at Mine "B". I was not asked by Falcetti if I was a member of a union, but I showed him my UMW card as I was a member of UMW at the Capitol Mine.

"I did not see an attempt to organize anyone at Mine "B" nor did I see any fights over union matters. No one contacted me as I was a member of U.M.W.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 for UMW. So far as I know the election was fair.

"No one attempted to get me to join PMA.

"I stopped working at Mine "B" in May 1943 and returned to [redacted] as the [redacted] Mine was working every day and the

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

work at the [redacted] Mine was not as hard as Mine "B", since [redacted] Mine is [redacted], whereas, Mine "B" is a hand mine.

"I have had this statement consisting of two pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

Witnessed:-
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L.LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] who is still employed at Mine B, [redacted]. was interviewed at his home by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois. He was unable to furnish any information of value. In addition, he does not understand questions clearly and it is not felt that he would be a desirable witness. The following signed statement was obtained from him.

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 11, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted] Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U.S. in [redacted] I have been a U. S. citizen for [redacted] years. I presently live at [redacted]

"In about August of 1940 I went to see Falcetti about a job at Mine B. I had not worked in a mine for about 12 years, but before that time I had worked in the South Mine for many years. I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] and never belonged to any other union besides the U.M.W.

"I had been on the W.P.A. just before I got my job at Mine B. I knew both Oscar & Jack Falcetti when they were working at the [redacted] mine about [redacted] years ago. I heard they were hiring men so I went out to Mine B and saw Oscar. He didn't ask me anything about unions & told me to come to work the next day. I worked there a day or two when one of the United men came to me and asked me to join United. Nobody asked me to join the progressive union. I never saw any fighting while I was at Mine B and nobody forced me to join United. I do not know anything about the strike at Mine B in 1937.

"This statement has been read to me by [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

/S/ [redacted]) Special Agents, FBI
[redacted]) U.S. Dept_ of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] at Rochester, Illinois, was interviewed by [redacted] Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] stated his story in a calm and collected manner and seemed to have a good recollection of events at the mine during the time he was employed. [redacted] seems to be of average intelligence and stated he would be willing to testify as to the facts related by him. It is believed he would be a good witness for the government.

Subsequent to the time he executed his statement, [redacted] stated that he had appealed his discharge before a committee of union and company representatives, at which time he was reinstated. [redacted] stated further that about ten days later Falcetti rehired him and sent him to a section in box [redacted] referred to by the men as "Progressive Row". [redacted] stated this particular section had only dirty coal when found, and if found the drivers couldn't pick it up. [redacted] said further he was in this section with about ten men including a man and his son from [redacted] that men who had been vigorously in favor of Progressive were sent to this spot. After working about ten days in this spot, and after receiving numerous "locks", [redacted] stated he decided to quit Mine B.

There is being set forth below the following signed statement executed by [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 9, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to get me to make a statement.

"I was born in [redacted] and presently reside on [redacted] I have been a member of the U.M.W. union off and on for the past [redacted] years. At the present time I am working [redacted]

"I had worked at the Brewerton Mine before I went to work at Mine B. I had heard that Falcetti was at the Brewerton mine, but he left before I started and I never really knew Falcetti until I went out to Mine B. I left the Brewerton mine in about 1939 [redacted] After the Brewerton mine closed, I didn't do very much work as I was sick for about 6 months after it closed.

"I believe I started at Mine B in the fall of 1940 and left in about May of 1941. I was on WPA when I heard that Mine B was going to hire men. I saw [redacted] at the mine and asked for a job driving. [redacted] told me to wait until Oscar came in so when Oscar came in I talked to him about a job. I am pretty sure I told him about my being at Brewerton and [redacted]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

[redacted] This information was volunteered by me and Falcetti never asked me as to what union I was going to join. I was given a job and told to start the next day.

"Within a day or two after I started at the mine I talked about my union status with Bohannon, Plotch, Cotton and a few others. They had known me for some time inasmuch as they all worked with me at Brewerton. They said they would reinstate me with union local at Mine B and thus I would save the $10 initiation fee. I was issued a card by the U.M.W. local at Mine B and I was appointed by Bohannon, President of the local, [redacted] I believe this was about about 30 days after I started work. I kept that job until I was discharged in May of 1941.

"I know that there were some fights at the mine, but never actually saw any of the fighting. I did see some men who had been beaten up. I was quite active at the Mine in trying to organize for the U.M.W. I had gone around to various employees and tried to get them to join the union.

"After the election in Feb. of 1941, the company didn't seem to be living up to their contract as far as the men were concerned, that is laying of track, etc. I got up at a union meeting and said the men shouldn't have to lay their own track. The union committeemen were standing for it and the Progressives were raising the dickens. I said at the meeting that the U.M.W. had promised the men better conditions, etc; that we should try to help the Progressive men who had joined our union. [redacted] said after the meeting, to me that I would have to do as I was told if I wanted to work at the mine. He had said in the meeting that Falcetti wanted it that way, so I told him after that it wasn't living up to the contract to work like that and I wouldn' work unless we worked according to the contract.

"I resigned my union office at that same meeting, but they told me to put it in writing which I did. I turned in my resignation and at the next meeting they refused to accept it, so I said I wouldn't go to any more meetings until a new [redacted] was appointed.

"About a week or so after I was told by the company that I had set a "windy shot". One morning I went to start work and was told to report to the office and get my line check. Falcetti said I had a bad shot the nite before; that it had blown off a couple doors and almost killed a man. Falcetti said the mine examiner had determined it was my shot. He said he wouldn't let me go down into the mine so I could see for myself that it was my shot. Falcetti said I had been talking too much anyway and that he had to fire me. [redacted] was working with me at the time and he is now in Africa with the army. They never did fire [redacted] and he told me afterwards that he didn't think

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

I had set a windy shot. I haven't worked as a miner since that time in this district. I did work as a miner in [redacted] since that time however.

"I feel that I was fired by Falcetti on orders of [redacted] after [redacted] saw he couldn't get me out of the union. I also feel that the U.M.W. men knew exactly who had voted for Progressive in the election of 1941 and that they decided they would work hardships on those men and thus get them docked or fired by the company. Instead of letting things go along smoothly I believe the United men were determined to get rid of all those who had been progressive.

"I have attended a lot of the meetings of U.M.W. which meetings were called to discuss organizational plans during the membership drive before the election in 1941. [redacted] usually took charge of those meetings and I believe [redacted] used to act as his bodyguard and [redacted] was usually the one who would be sent to convert those progressives who were hard to convince. I know that he was given orders to get rough if he had to to get the men to join United. I know that I never threatened anyone and scared them into joining United, but I know it was done. It was generally understood by all of the organizers and officers of United that Falcetti and the company favored the U.M.W. union. We used to hold meetings of the organizers and United officials in one of the small halls in the union building. Sometimes they were on special nites and other times they were after the regular meetings. I know that Falcetti, Elshoff, [redacted] Bohannon and some of the others all used to hang out at a saloon on Fifth Ave. near the Lincoln Hotel, but I never attended any of these gatherings. When I said that I saw men beaten up I meant that I saw both progressive and united men beaten up.

"I have read over this entire statement of 6 pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

(s) [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted] Special Agents, FBI, U.S. Dept. of Justice.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 11, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] would not make a good government witness as he cannot remember important data and is a loyal member of UMW.

[redacted] provided the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 11, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted]

"I am now employed at [redacted], Springfield, Ill. and have been employed at [redacted] since April 1942.

"I was employed at Mine "B" in either the Summer of 1940 or the Spring of 1941. My father [redacted] obtained the job for me at Mine "B". I was unemployed at the time my father got me the job. I never worked in a mine prior to the time I went to Mine "B". A few days after I was employed at Mine "B" I voluntarily joined UMW through Cudga Bumgarner. No one asked me to join, so far as I remember Mine "B" was a UMW mine at the time I went to work. I did not see any organizing for either UMW or PMA when I was employed at Mine "B", nor did I see any fights over union matter.

"I do not remember voting in a N L R B election in Feb. 1941 and cannot remember if I was employed at Mine "B" at the time of the election.

"I stopped working at Mine "B" in April 1942 as it was destroying my health in the mine.

"I am at the present time a member of the UMW union at [redacted] and I think it is a very good union.

"I have read this statement consisting of two pages and it is true

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] and correct to the best of my knowledge."

(continued)

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed: -

[redacted], Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at [redacted] Illinois by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 8, 1943. [redacted] is able to speak and understand English well and would make a fair witness.

[redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record.

[redacted] furnished the following statement:

"Illiopolis, Ill.
September 8, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [redacted]. I am now employed at the [redacted] Ill. as a [redacted] and I have been employed [redacted]

"I was employed at Mine "B" in the fall of 1940. Prior to that time I was employed by [redacted] at $18 per month. I was employed at Mine "B" in order to make more money. My father, [redacted] deceased, got me a job at Mine "B", helping him dig coal. I joined U M W a few days prior to the time I went to work at Mine "B". My father gave me the application card so that I could join U M W. My father joined U M W about the same time I did. I do not know whether my father joined U M W so that I could get a job at Mine "B" or not. Union matters were never discussed between my father and I.

"When I went to work at Mine "B" I thought almost all the miners were members of U M W. I heard that some of the miners were threatened and beat because they did not want to join U M W, but I did not see them threatened or beat.

"I took no interest in union activities and I never worked in a mine prior to the fall of 1940.

"I did not vote in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 as I was sick at the time and it made no difference to me whether I voted or not. My father died about two weeks after I went to work at Mine "B", therefore, he never furnished me any information about the union activity. After my father's death I was employed at the mine after my father's death as a trapper. I stopped working at Mine "B" in the Spring of 1942 as the conditions in the mine were not good for my health.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I did not take any interest in union activities and it made no difference to me what union I was a member of. I only became a member of U.M.W. because my father told me join U.M.W.

"I have read this statement consisting of three pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed

[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home September 10, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record [redacted] cannot speak or understand English very well and would make a very poor witness.

[redacted] refused to sign a statement because he could not read English. [redacted] stated he would only sign a statement upon advice of an attorney which could be provided by UMW.

[redacted] furnished the following information in the form of a statement which he refused to sign, although he admitted the information contained therein was correct.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 10, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] emmigrated to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen of the U. S. [redacted]

"I became a member of UMW in Ill. in [redacted] at which time I started mining coal in the U. S. I remained a member of UMW until 1932 when I became a member of PMA because my local UMW union changed to PMA.

"I was employed at Panther Creek Mine #4 until about June 1939 at which time the mine closed. I obtained a job at the [redacted] Mine in Oct. 1939, which mine did not have a union. In Jan. 1940 I attempted to return to Panther Creek Mine #4 in Springfield, Ill., but I was not allowed to work as PMA, of which I was a member, would not accept my dues because I worked in a non-union mine during the time Panther Creek Coal Mine #4 was closed. I returned to [redacted] and worked until April 1940 when the mine closed as they no longer had orders for coal.

"In July 1940 I asked Oscar Falcetti the supt. at Mine "B" for a job and I was put to work as a timberman. Oscar Falcetti did not ask me what union I was a member of, nor did anyone ask me to join any union. About three days after I went to work at Mine "B" I joined UMW through Joe Albanese as I wanted to be a member of a union and PMA prevented me from working at Panther Creek Mine, therefore, I did not wish to join PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I have never seen anyone attempting to get anyone to join either UMW or PMA at Mine "B", nor have I seen any fights at Mine "B" over union matters.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 for UMW. I think the election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

"I have had this statement consisting of three pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

"Witnessed:-

"This statement was read to [redacted] September 10, 1943 at which time he stated the contents was true, but refused to sign the statement without a lawyer of UMW advising him. [redacted] stated no one told him not to sign a statement concerning union matters at Mine "B".

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. (signed)

[redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I."(signed)

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his [redacted] residence, [redacted] Springfield, on September 9, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] was born [redacted] and is employed at Mine "B", being a member of UMW. He speaks and understands English well, but is definitely lacking in mental ability and would therefore make a poor witness. He advised he has never been arrested.

The following signed statement was executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 9, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born [redacted] In about Nov. of 1939 "Bowling green" Bohannon came to our house and asked my father to join the United Mine Workers of America Union and he could get a job at Mine "B". My father told Bohannon he would join if Bohannon would get me a job. Bohannon told my father and me that if I would join UMW he could get me a job at Mine "B". It was on a Saturday that Bohannon talked to us at our home and the next Monday I went to Mine "B" and [redacted] gave me a job as digger. Nothing was said to me there about any union. But after seeing [redacted] I saw Bohannon who told me to sign up with UMW, and I did. I was not threatened in any way, but I knew I would have to join UMW to get my job. That was the first time I ever joined any mine union and the UMW is the only union to which I have ever belonged. I have never been an officer in any union.

"I worked at Mine "B" for almost a year and then quit to get a job at [redacted] While I was working in Mine "B" during this time I know UMW was organizing there, but I saw very little of it. I knew [redacted] was organizing and I saw a fellow named [redacted] whose last name I do not know, after he was hit by some UMW men to get him to join UMW, but I do not know who hit him and I did not see anyone hit him.

"I voted in a National Labor Relations Board Election held

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

in about February of 1941, when UMW won. I was not forced or threatened in any way and I thought the election was fair.

"Four days ago I started working at Mine "B" again and I still am a member of UMW.

"My father, [redacted] had been a member of Progressive Mine Workers of America but he joined UMW to get work at Mine "B" and so I could get work there. My father had been working at Mine "B" when it closed down in May of 1937.

"This statement of three pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

Witness:
[redacted] Special Agent, F. B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was interviewed on September 8, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] in Room 110 at the [redacted] is employed there as a [redacted] He speaks and understands English well but is rather nervous. He has advised he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] I presently work at [redacted]

"I first started working in coal mines in Springfield, Ill., when I was [redacted] years old. I then joined the United Mine Workers of America Union. I only worked in the mines for about [redacted] years when I left to go to school. I did not return to the mines until about 1936 when I went to work in Mine "B" with my father, [redacted] I applied to join the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union at that time and while they were deciding they found out I was over 21 years of age and could not work therefore as an apprentice under my father, and so they refused me membership in PMA. As a result of this I could not work in Mine "B" with my father. I had worked at Mine "B" for about two months before I had to leave.

"In the Spring of 1940 Joe Albanese and some other men whom I cannot remember, except one was Dominic Pasquale, came to me at my home and asked me if I wanted to work. I was not working and so I said yes. Joe said if I'd help him organize for UMW I would get a job in Mine "B" when there was room. Joe, and others, said the Mine "B" would not stay open unless it would work under UMW. I was told to go around to all the men who were working at Mine "B" and get them to sign up with UMW. I was told by Joe to tell these men that the mine would not stay open unless UMW had the majority of the vote. I was to contact all men whom I knew, especially the Italians. We would travel together, that is I have been with Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale, Tony Chapolus, whose name I cannot spell, and sometimes Bowling Green Bohannon. I saw all of these men organize for UMW. We were able to get rather many of the men to sign UMW. I went to work in Mine "B" in June or July of 1940. I was told by Joe Albanese and [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] owling Green and Cudge Bumgarner and others [redacted] to keep on trying to organize for UMW at Mine "B".
(continued)

"I would see [redacted] and Bumgarner go into the office of the company every morning and talk with either Oscar Falcetti or Carl Elshoff. I assumed they were talking about UMW organizing progress at Mine "B".

"I tried to organize the following men for UMW while I was working at Mine "B" - a fellow named [redacted], whose real name I do not know, [redacted] whose name I cannot spell, and many more whose names I cannot remember. I tried to organize both at the Mine "B" and by talking with the men at their homes. I was not able to get [redacted] to join UMW but later [redacted] got him to join UMW.

"While the organizing was going on I know many men were beat up. One morning a bunch of men were beat up in the wash house. One of the men beat up was [redacted] A man named [redacted] was one of the men who beat [redacted] up but I cannot remember who else did the beating. Bowling Green might have been there but I am not sure. These men would ask [redacted] if he was going to join and when he would not answer they would hit him. There were many miners around & I could not see too well.

"While the Mine "B" was operating, I saw the following men organize for UMW at Mine "B": Bowling Green Bohannon, [redacted] Dominic Pasquale, Joe Albanese, Tony Chapolus, and [redacted] and Cudge Bumgarner.

"I was never paid to organize for UMW. I did it to get my job at Mine "B". I never hit a man out there while organizing. I worked for about nine months at Mine "B" and then I got hurt. I filed suit against the company and then they gave me a job I couldn't do. They wanted me to go back as digger, so I quit. I have never gone back into the mines since that time.

"While I was working at Mine "B" I noticed that the men who were organizing for UMW and those who would sign for UMW would get good rooms. Those who were strong PMA would get bad rooms. While I was organizing I had a good room.

"I have read this statement of four pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"WITNESS
[redacted] /S/ Special Agent, F.B.I.
[redacted] /S/ Special Agent - F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] speaks good English and appears friendly and cooperative. If desirable he could be used as a witness, although the information furnished by him in the following statement, is not particularly pertinent.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943.

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born on [redacted] and came to the U.S. in [redacted] and became a U. S. citizen in [redacted] I reside at [redacted]

"I started coal mining in Illinois in [redacted] and at that time joined U.M.W. I have mined ever since. Prior to [redacted] I held offices in the U.M.W. but not since.

"I started at Mine B in July, 1940 but I had not worked for over a year prior to that. When I went to Mine B I did not belong to any union. Prior to going to work there I had seen a friend of mine downtown, a fellow called [redacted] possibly [redacted] and he told me they were hiring at Mine B. I went out and saw Oscar Falcetti about a job and he told me I got to work on the night shift.

"I went to work nights as timberman and joined U.M.W. right away. Two or three men saw me, one was Bohannon, and they asked me to join U.M.W. They were nice about it and didn't threaten me in anyway. No one from P.M.A. approached me. I worked nights for about a year and wasn't around when most of the men were there.

"I voted in the NLRB election in February, 1941. I am still at Mine B and am now digging coal at that place.

Re; JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

/S [redacted]

"Witnessed:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent F.B.I.
U.S. Dept. of Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] was contacted September 11, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his home.

[redacted] stated he was employed at Mine "B" sometime in 1940 as a timberman; that he did not see or hear of any organizing for UMW. [redacted] stated he would not furnish any information without advice of UMW attorneys; that he would furnish any information desired to UMW attorneys, who could in turn furnish the information to the F.B.I.

[redacted] stated he is at the present time employed by UMW, [redacted] as an organizer.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted] & [redacted] at which time it was noted he had a great deal of difficulty understanding the English language. [redacted] stated his information was limited as to anything that took place at Mine B. It is believed he would make a poor witness. There is being set forth below the signed statement executed by [redacted] at the time of the interview.

[redacted] Ill
Sept. 11, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born in [redacted] & came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a citizen in [redacted] I now reside at [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] for about two years and then went into the Army. After that I went to Panther Creek #1 and then to Peabody #54. I first met Falcetti in about [redacted] when he was [redacted] Mine which is no longer operating. I used to see him quite a bit at that time and used to see him a lot after the mine shut down. I have never woeked in a mine operated by progressive men. When the state went progressive in 1932 I was in a C.C.C. Camp and never joined their union. I went for over 8 years without working in a mine--I just worked at odd jobs. In the early part of 1940 I went out to see Falcetti three or four times before he finally gave me a job as a digger, and I'm still working at Mine B. Falcetti didn't ask me if I belonged to a union. He knew me quite well and knew I had been in the U.M.W. I believe I had worked there a few days when Sammy Albanese came to me and asked me to sign a U.M.W. card, which I did. I was never asked to join the progressive union. I heard about a lot of men being beaten up, but I never saw any fighting while I was there. Nobody ever threatened me or beat me up or forced me to join any union. I attended my last union meeting about a month ago.

"I worked at Panther Creek from about [redacted] and during that time Falcetti did not work for Panther Creek.

"This statement has been read to me by [redacted] & it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses
[redacted]) Special Agents, FBI
[redacted]) U. S. Dept. of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], also known as [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] September 8, 1943. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] would not make a good witness as he has a very difficult time speaking and understanding English.

[redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,
September 8, 1943.

"I, [redacted] also known as [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] emmigrated to the U. S. about [redacted] and became a citizen of the U. S. about [redacted]

"I became a member of UMW in [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. and I have been a member of UMW since that time.

"I was employed at the [redacted] Mine, Springfield, Ill. in about [redacted] and worked at that mine as a member of UMW until the strike at the mine in about 1937.

"I was unemployed from about 1937 to July 1940 at which time I obtained a job as a digger at Mine "B". I went to Mine "B" in July 1940 and obtained a job from OSCAR FALCETTI the mine supt. I was not asked what union I was a member of, but I showed my UMW union card to someone at the mine. I had the UMW card as I was a member of UMW at the [redacted]

"I have never seen anyone organizing for UMW at Mine "B" nor have I ever seen any fights at Mine "B" over union matters.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 for UMW. I think it was a fair election and I voted for the union I wished.

"I am at the present time employed at Mine "B" as a digger.

"I have had this statement consisting of two pages read to me and

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

(continued)

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED: -

[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.