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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"The man 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 these 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]

[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.

Witnesses

[REDACTED]
Special Agents
F.B.I.
U.S. Dept. of
Justice."

L7C
L7D

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

R. J. Lewis
Miner

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.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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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.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[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:

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"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

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INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(continued)

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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"

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] telephone [REDACTED] [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 in the 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

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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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"

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on August 28, 1943.

At the residence of [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 "nglish language in a fairly understandable manner. However, he cannot read or write the "nglish 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 an 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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

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 SCHRUEVIOUS 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 anythin' 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 SCHRUEVIOUS got up on a bench in the wash room and told us that we all should go and strike and he was talking somethin' 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 we 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 ~~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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b7dINTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

[REDACTED] 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 though [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 b cause 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] 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 DOLDRICH RASQUEL and WITH "EONG" JACK HAY 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 happening 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 meetin, 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 hopin, 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 protectin. 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 Eishoff 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 b fore, the same union scale. Everybody was glad to get back to work and I did not go to meetin's so don't know anythin' 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 PMIA. BILL SIRTOUT, 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 legs and sulphur were put on loads of coal by UMW men and once Eishoff called us and told us that no PMIA were doing it and we told them we were not doing it. I don't believe that PMIA 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 PMIA and in summer of 1940 joined up with UMW. I heard around the mine of other PMIA 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 LOTCH 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 PMIA during summer of 1940. I still liked PMIA 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 PMIA even tho I was then with UMW. The election was alright but at the mine there were so many new men there who were brought 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.

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 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 general 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] After Lewis signed the agreement for a lower
(continued) 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 knowledge, the men alleged to be responsible for the bombings are 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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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

"To the best of my recollection a strike occurred 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 miles 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 job 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.

Re: JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL

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.
Special Agent - F. B. I., Springfield, Ill."

Serial 8
Interview B

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[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 grievance committee of United Mine Workers Local #7469.

"I first joined United Mine Workers hereinafter referred to as UMW [REDACTED] Ill. & went to work at the [REDACTED] Coal Co. mine in

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[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.

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"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 miners 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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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed on August 25, 1943 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 referred 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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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

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"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 Albano
Andrew Schrilevius
Dominic Pasquale
Pete Carter
Frank Austin
Tony Plotch

John Ananias
John Sirtout
George Jacaway
Emory Jacaway
Charles Bohannan
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 more or less 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.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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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 UMW in Mine "B" tried to convert P.M.W members into UMW 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 claimed 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 believe 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 UMW 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 picket line of P.M.W workers had been formed & I was told by [REDACTED] and Glen Stoffelbeck 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

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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"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 controlling union at Mine "B". I was afraid 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."

006368

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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Copy thru CIO
notified FBI

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, 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 about [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 sympathizers. 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

Original
Confidential

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]

(continued)

UMW, and their sympathizers.

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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

"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."

006370

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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Reported by [redacted]

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, 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.

"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 a 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

Re: JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] 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 P.M. Committee told me that if I didn't sign over to PM. 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 the instead of the PM so in one way really never was with PM. I never took any active part in forming the PM at all as I was satisfied with the old UMW. I was just about forced to join over to PM., 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 PM officials got along alright with the management of Mine B. However, I recall that neither the PM 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 PM officials got along with the management of Mine B. If the PM 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 PM. I attended a special and regular meeting but after that I never attended any more meetings because I never approved of the idea of the miners splitting up like they did, that is, to have PM come in and take over. I don't know what went on with those PM meetings as after the split between UMW and when PM came in I never took any more interest in mine matters and just did my work and went home. While with PM. I don't recall of them ever assessing any special assessments except the death benefits assessments. I don't believe that the PM 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 PM. 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 literature being given out. Before the mine closed CHARLES BOHANNON, COTTON ANNALS, a little Italian named SAM, PETE CARTER, FRANK JUSTIN, 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 PM.. 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. LEIS, 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 didn'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. When 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 STUFFLEBECK (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 BOLTON, COTTON MULLINS 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 trouble of some kind. I think that around Easter, in 1937 or 1938, ED MARYEE(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 P.M. won the first election and I don't know why ELSHOFF would not sign a contract with P.M. 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 a list. 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 U.M.W. A month or 6 weeks later the paymaster stopped at my house and told me to come out and then I had to buy new tools as my old ones were lost in one of the cade-ins. I could not get any tools then [REDACTED]

[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 U.M.W. The P.M. and U.M.W. miners got along alright in the mine there when I went back to work. There was quite a few new U.M.W. 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 B. UNGERTNER, U.M.W., 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

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] was a PMA man and he was supposed to have been beaten up by BAUMER, RTNER, [REDACTED] Otherwise I never saw or heard of any fights between UM 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 UM. It was a good and fair election. I was not told how to vote and voted for UM because I like them better than PMA.

"I think that many of the PMA men voted for UM 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 UM 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 [REDACTED] 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 UM 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."

006375

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 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 Falsetti 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

(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.I.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.I.W. picketing
the mine or bothering the men any way. I saw no literature or leaf-
lets distributed by U.I.W. I dont know whether the alleged U.I.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.I.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.I.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 the strike 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 h-ppened 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 Albanose,
James Hale, Andrew Schrelevious, Domonic Pasqualo, Pete Carter, Frank
Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Geo. E. Emory Jacaway,
& Chas. Bohman 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 was
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] day is the only time I knew this happen.

(continued) *I remember that about 3 o'clock 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 remember 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 re-open 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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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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." Burgarner, 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 nowhere. 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 boat 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 Glasgow but I wasn't at the meeting where they kicked him out for saying something about money.

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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.L.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.)
[REDACTED] (St. Paul, Minn.)

Springfield, Ill
August 31, 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]
[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 to 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 FWA because all the other miners did and did not take any active part in the matter. It seems to me that FWA 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 FWA between 1932 and 1937. I was not an active member of FWA but did pay my dues and attended only a very few meetings. Between 1932 and 1937 I believe that the FWA 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 FWA 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.

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"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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RE: JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

to be O. K. according to my judgment and there
did not appear to be anything crooked about th

67C 62D

"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]

". WITNESS:

[REDACTED]
Special Agent, FBI,
Milwaukee, Wis.

[REDACTED]
Special Agent, FBI,
St. Paul, Minn.

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[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 everybody told me I had to stay with PMA and could not join 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. LEVIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(continued)

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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 [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 receiving 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 guard 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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

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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 lose 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 quit 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 their 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 those 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.

"Then 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

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RE:
JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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, GOERGE AND [REDACTED] JIGALY, CHARLES BOANNON 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) [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

[REDACTED]
Spec. Agt. FBI (St. Paul)

[REDACTED]
Spec. Agt. FBI (Milwaukee)

Springfield, Ill.
Aug. 30, 1943."

Youngster goes west

006387

RC: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

*Copy wanted
Intercepted 6/21*

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[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 F.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 office's 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 ticket line being set up by the U. M. W.

"A list of twelve names has been read to me by Agent [REDACTED] and I remember that I had heard all of these men were supposed to be working for

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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 petition 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 bargaining 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 attempt 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 NLRB election and everything

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

seemed to be on the square at that election.
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 favoritism 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"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

Original
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[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.

62 - 620
"August 30, 1948
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 F.M.A. 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 F.M.A. 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 F.M.A. 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.

b7c
INTERVIEW WITH

(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.W. 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 U.M.W.

"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 p.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.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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"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 initial ed the first six, and hereby sign this page. This statement 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.

Concluded
Summons

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[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:

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*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.

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.

INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(Continued)

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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 Falcetti.

"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

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

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The following investigation was conducted
by Special Agents [REDACTED] and

[REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on August 27, 1943.

*Very
interested*
At [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] in the presence of his wife, and he advised he has no criminal record.

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 Eishoff 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. Between 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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

for all of us.

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local very nicely and there never was any trouble over this matter. I favored the F.M.A local as they were doing a lot of good

"Between 1932 and 1937 there were about 14 men workin, in the Mine B who were F.M.A miners but everyone seemed to know that they were receiving money from U.M.W because these men were talking to the P.M.A miners about going over to U.M.W 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 swimmin, back to U.M.W. I heard that U.M.W had sent out literature and pamphlets but I never saw or received any.

"In regard to the P.M.A 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 F.M.A 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 knew of any parties or social affairs between B Mine officials and U.M.W.

"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 P.M.A 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 U.M.W from P.M.A. 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 U.M.W. F.LICETTI never said anything to me as to how he felt about the P.M.A and U.M.W. If the management would have fired these expelled men there would not have been any trouble at Mine B at all.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

"Shortly after the mine closed I recall that I signed a PMIA petition which was gotten up by PMIA. As I recall it I signed this petition on the highway near Mine B but most signed up for PMIA. 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 PMIA 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 PMIA at all times.

"I never was asked to join a UMW local in summer of 1937. I recall that in summer of 1937 H. RVEY WILLIAMS, who lived on Second St., was the PMIA engineer at Mine B looking after the equipment even tho the mine was closed. Williams was in favor of PMIA 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, H. RVEY 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 PMIA was in control that all PMIA 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 PMIA men were there and PELCETTI 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 JUSTIN, went down into the mine. The picketing started then the next morning after PMIA had a meeting in town. The next morning no one went down and we PMIA 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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RE: JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL

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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 brought 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]

[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 arround to the homes of PMA and was tellin' 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." [REDACTED]

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WITNESSES:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI, St. Paul, Minn.

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI, Milwaukee, Wis.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

*Priority
not otherwise*

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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]. He was born [REDACTED] in 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 U.M.W.A. 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 P.M.W.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 that at the time of the strike there was a majority of men signed up with the U.M.W.A. I do not know because I did not see the records, or talked to the men.

"In 1932 when the P.M.W.A. was formed, Elshoff seemed to favor the P.M.W.A. His favoritism seemed to follow for several years and then I noticed that he changed over to favoring the U.M.W.A. I do not recall any specific acts that occurred to favor the U.M.W.A. 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.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "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 P.M.W had, as not giving the men as much as the U.M.W contract. That is the reason that I think that many of the men had signed up with the U.M.W before the strike. I did not know that there was going to be a strike. I thought that the strike was called by the P.M.W officials in order to keep the rest of the men from signing up with the U.M.W. 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 U.M.W 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. Shift 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 in 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 occurred 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.

006402

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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b7d

INTERVIEW WITH
(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]
[REDACTED]
F.B.I."

006403

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

*b7c
b2*

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 con, [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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] understand English very well and I would go so they would not fine me.

(continued)

"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.

Re JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] on the morning of August 28, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [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 injunction 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.

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] [REDACTED] Another was [REDACTED] [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

R.
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Illinois, 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.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I do not remember a UMW picket line at Mine "B" between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 nor did I see any literature (continued) 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 remember 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 pickets 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.

006409

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I have had the four pages of this statement read to me
(continued) 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)

b7c
b2D

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

Interview with [redacted]

*b7c
b7d*

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 supposed 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,

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] except a few [REDACTED] were satisfied with the Progressives.
 (continued) 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 knew 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 those 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 election 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 PMA men were bothered a lot. "Cudge" (phonetic) was another who would talk to us about going 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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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 know 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:

/S/

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Special Agent, FBI,
St. Paul, Minn.

/S/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent, FBI,
Milwaukee, Wis.

006413

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] [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] could 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

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

being expelled for being spies for the U.M.W.F.
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 occasions. 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"

8/27/48

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was 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. These 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

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

work. I then had to join UMW after I had worked for a while.

[REDACTED] The above has been read to me by my wife, 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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VIA AIR MAIL
INTVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[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, "I".

"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 Fasquale, Frank Austin, Pete Carter, Jim Hale, Charlie Bohannon. We didn't want to work with these men because we knew they were trouble makers 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 ave 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 stri-

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

L-1
L-2
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(Continued)

and for us not to come to work the next day.
This was about 4:00 P. M.

"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.
[REDACTED]) Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[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.

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JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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"I know nothing of any relations between Mr. Elshoff and P.M.W. Nothing was ever said to me to indicate how the mine officials felt toward P.M.W. I do not recall any picket lines at Mine B nor did I ever observe any organizers for UMW there.

"I do not recall any P.M.W 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."

Re: JOHN L. LEIS, 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 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~~ 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 felt 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 Schrelevipus, Dominic Fasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Pletch, John [Cotton] Malone, John Sirtout, the Jackways, Es 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 Mine B on the wage question at Mine B during 1937. In
[REDACTED] regard to the meeting held just before the mine closed
(continued) I think it was a special meeting and not a regular
meeting and I do recall the 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 brought the blow off.

"During May, 1937 I signed a PMW petition 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 held 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] * "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 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 can't 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. Those men who contacted me never threatened me at all.

"In regard to NLRE 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

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW LITE
[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)

"..ITNESSES

[REDACTED] (signed)

"[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]

[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 cooperative 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 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 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.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

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I don't know anything about any parties being given by management of Mine B and the U.M.W. The P.M.A. 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 U.M.W. from the P.M.A. and I recall that some of the ones who wanted to go over to U.M.W. was Joe Albancese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquali, 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 U.M.W. then. Quite some time later Schrelevious told me that he had been getting paid by U.M.W. 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 P.M.A. before the mine closed. While at one of the meetings of P.M.A. just before the mine closed Pasquale talked about going over to U.M.W. 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 U.M.W. 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 P.M.A. officials [REDACTED] told us not to load full cars and that was once when P.M.A. did wrong and I told them then too they were wrong and they did that because the company would not fire those 5 men.

"I think I signed a P.M.A. 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 U.M.W. petition that summer and no one asked me to do it. I can't recall if I signed another P.M.A. petition or not, that summer. I did not sign up with U.M.W. 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 P.M.A. picketed the home of Elshoff.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "In fall of 1937 I went out to Mine B and think [REDACTED] went to work with the rest of the PMA men but I can't (Continued) 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.

"Then 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 have 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.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
(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

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John Lewis
Newspaper

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 10 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 not Elshoff favored one union over another.

"There was no trouble at Mine B from 1932 to 1937. During this time everyone was satisfied 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 knew 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

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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 ALEANESE, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Fletch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout (he is now in U.S. Army), Gco. Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale 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 we 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 expelled five of the above mentioned persons. PMA officials told us that those men were trouble makers and that was why they were being expelled and a standing vote was taken and they were expelld. We were told that these five men were trying to keep men from going to work in the mine. Some of the expelld men were at the meeting but they had nothing to say.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] *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 (continued) 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 expelod 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 expelod 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 fullled 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 expelod 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 peaceably 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.