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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 8, 1943.

At his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] and he advised he never has been arrested in his life.

It was noted that he is not an intelligent person and he had great difficulty in understanding questions and he stuttered when he answered the same. It is felt that he would make a very poor witness. He could not write his name so signed "X" on his statement and on all pages.

Agents obtained the following statement from him:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 8, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], give the following statement to [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises whatever have been made me to procure this statement.

"I am presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #5. I have been there about 3 month. I quite Mine "B" after being there about 16 or 18 years. I was born [REDACTED]. I came here when I was about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and have been a citizen for about [REDACTED] years now. I first joined a mine union [REDACTED] years ago. I have never been a union officer. There was never any trouble at mine B prior to 1932 the union always got along with the Co. I joined the Progressives at mine B in 1932 because everyone else did. From 1932 to 1937 every thing was all right between the Co. and the union. I never heard Elshoff or Falsetti say anything about not likeing the P.M.A. men and officials and the P.M.A. local was run by all the men. I only attended a few meetings during this time. There were not many special assessments and the men were always satisfied with the way the money was handled. I never saw any U.M.W. men picket mine B or distribute any literature there before the mine closed. I did not at that time know of any U.M.W. organizers in Mine B. I never heard of any parties being given by Elshoff for the U.M.W. men. I remember that in 1937 the union contract ran out. I heard talk of this but we worked any way. I don't know what agreement there was between the Co. and the P.M.A. I don't recall there being any trouble over this.

"I did not attend any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. I was working in the mine the last day it worked. About a quarter to three the mine started closing down. I worked the full day. I came on top and

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

then I heard the mine was closed I still do not know what the trouble was. I heard nothing about the wage question or expelling men. I did not see any cars loaded short and knew nothing about it. I do not remember signing any petition for either P.M.A. or U.M.W. the summer the mine shut down. I heard nothing about the U.M.W. forming a local in Springfield in the summer of 1932.

"I was at Mine "B" about a month after the sit down strike started. I was sick during the first part. While I was there there were no fights or other trouble. I was there of my own will. We were there to protect our jobs. I was there the night the Marshall came out, nothing happened except we all went home. We were afraid when they sent us home that someone else might get our jobs.

"I never went back in Dec 1937 and know nothing about it.

"I voted at the Armory at the first N.L.R.B. election. I voted for P.M.A. because that was the way I wanted it, no one forced me to vote. I went down to the Armory straight from home.

"I don't remember anything about the attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938.

"I knew nothing about any mine B men working at the Jefferson mine while mine B was shut down.

"I got a registered letter when the mine opened but I was sick and could not go back. [REDACTED] came out and saw I was sick. I went back in about a month. I went to work in box [REDACTED] before I had worked in box [REDACTED]. My tools are still in there. I wanted to get them but Falsetti would not let me get them. I was talked to in the mine to join the U.M.W. About 20 men came to see me in a day; they were all new men. I would see about 15 or 20 men who were new every day. Nobody ever came to my home to ask me to join the U.M.W. but the new men would ask me to join at the mine and told me if I did not I would lose my job. I joined the U.M.W. because I was scared and not of my own free will. The new men who were put on did no work but went all over the place trying to get men to join.

"I don't know whether or not I signed any cards for U.M.W. or P.M.A. in the summer of 1940. After the last N.L.R.B. election all of the new men left the mine.

"I don't know why now but I do know I just voted in one N.L.R.B. election. There were some falls in the mine but I have no idea how great the damage was. I know nothing about Jack Glasgow.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read the foregoing statement of 6 pages to me as I have trouble reading the english language. To the best of my recollection it is all true and correct. I am therefore signing it of my own free will."

/s/ "X" (his mark)

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, F.B.I.  
St. Paul, Minn!

[REDACTED] Special Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 3, 1943"

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED]. He was born [REDACTED] and is a naturalized citizen of the United States. It is not believed he will make a good witness due to his inability to speak English very well and his age.

[REDACTED] acted as interpreter during the interview. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He submitted the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 6, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to get me to make a statement.

"I was born [REDACTED] I came to U.S. in [REDACTED] and am a naturalized citizen of U.S. having received my citizenship papers [REDACTED]

"I first joined U.M.W. when I first started in the mines soon after I came to U.S.

"I began working at Mine 'B' about [REDACTED] I joined P.M.A. in 1932 because my local changed and we had to change to P.M.A. to work at Mine 'B', since P.M.A. had the contract with Mine 'B'.

"I had no difficulty with either U.M.W. or P.M.A. and as far as I know everything was ok between Elshoff and the unions or the miners before the strike in 1937.

"I was working at Mine 'B' the day of the strike and we were called out before the whistle blew and as near as I know the strike was called because we could not get back pay. No one contacted me about joining U.M.W. prior to the strike in 1937. I heard that some men were contacting the younger men and attempting to get them to join U.M.W. so they could get a higher wage scale. Some of the men talking to the younger men were Dominico Pasquale, Andrew Schrelevious, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Chas. Bohannon, and James Hale.

"I saw cars with not a full load of coal in them being taken out past me but I don't know why they were so loaded.

"I signed a petition shortly after the strike to show that the majority of the miners belonged to P.M.A.

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

"I remember I picketed at Mine 'B' in the fall of 1937. All the pickets were from Mine 'B' only. I never stayed at the mine picketing very long at a time and was there at the time the injunction was served on us.

"I voted in the election in 1937 conducted by N.L.R.B. and it was fair & square as far as I could see. I recall the P.M.A. won it by a large majority.

"About a year after the strike I got a job on W.P.A. I worked at this until the mine was opened with U.M.W. and P.M.A. workers. At the time the mine opened I was a member of P.M.A., but changed to U.M.W. a few months afterward when I saw that the majority were changing and I saw also that I could hold my job.

"I voted in the second N.L.R.B. election in 1941 and it was a fair election.

"I have had this 3 page statement read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Sp. Agt., F.B.I.  
[REDACTED], Special Agent, F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at the [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 7, 1943. [REDACTED] advised he had never been arrested in his life. He is the owner of this business and it was noted that he is an intelligent persons/<sup>and</sup> if his testimony is needed, it is felt that he would make a good witness.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 7, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] give this free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born [REDACTED] & came to U. S. in [REDACTED] & became a citizen thru my dad. When I was 16 I joined U.M.W. at [REDACTED] Before 1932 [REDACTED]. I started at Mine around [REDACTED] or so I guess. Elshoff & U.M.W. got along O.K. but there were preferences given to certain cases when they came up. I recall that some U.M.W. men got fired before 1932. In 1932 I wanted to change over to P.M.A. but did not take any active interest or part in going over. Elshoff & P.M.A. got along fine when they first started in 1932. I was a timber-man & worked from 4:30 P.M. to 1 A.M. so I didn't come in contact with men at the mine & did not know what was going on all the time. I don't recall of Elshoff complaining about P.M.A. or wanting U.M.W. P.M.A. men were satisfied with the way the P.M.A. officials ran the union and it was run by the men and not by the officers. I did not attend many meetings for P.M.A. as I was working nights. In regard to the P.M.A. men going to jail for the bombing the men felt they were framed & I do myself. When we were under U.M.W. they would frame men to gain their point if necessary & I recall of 4 men being fired & this was before 1932. As far as I know P.M.A. officers handled the money alright & I don't recall any unusual number of special assessments. I never saw U.M.W. picket Mine B or give out literature before the Mine B closed. But there were about 8 or 10 men who were P.M.A. but they tried to get the P.M.A. men to go back to U.M.W. They never contacted me as I was on night shift. Some of them were [REDACTED] Andy Schrelevious; Pasquale; Pete Carter; Frank Austin; & he was a bad one; Tony Plotch; Cotton Ananias; John Sirtout; Geo. & Emory Jacaway; Chas. Bohannon and Jim Hale. I don't recall of any parties that Elshoff gave for U.M.W. or U.M.W. for Elshoff. In spring of 1937 when our contract ran out our P.M.W. officials told us they had a temporary agreement & that it was retroactive

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] told us. Later I heard the Company said something about it & said there wasn't any agreement but I never (continued) read the contract. We sure felt that PMA could get as good a contract as U.M.W. could get. I don't recall any trouble over the wage issue. Some of the men mentioned above said around that the men would not get their back pay. I heard it from them too but I can't recall just who it was that told me. I can't recall of management saying anything just before strike about wages. I did not attend meeting night before mine closed. Some of the boys told me on 5-12-37 that mine was closed & that I shouldn't go to work on my night shift. I can't recall why [REDACTED] strike was called & 2 days later I went to work at Mine A till Apr. 1939 & then I went into [REDACTED] business. I recall signing a petition for PMA & no one forced me to sign it. I don't recall of signing any other petitions then. I don't recall of U.M.W. forming a new local. I never went to Mine B after it closed down & I quit as a P.M.A. at Mine A. I voted at N.L.E.B. election & went down from my home. It was by secret ballot. I saw a few men near the Armory giving out papers but I didn't take any. It was an honest election & I voted for P.M.A. I never attended the sit down strikes in 1937 as I was at Mine A and I don't know what happened as I left in May, 1937 at Mine B.

"I have read this 4 page statement and it is true & correct to the best of my recollection & I have signed it of my own free will.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, F.B.I.  
St. Paul, Minn.

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, F.B.I. (Milw)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 7, 1943"

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING UMW LABOR SPIES  
OPERATING IN FMA DURING SPRING OF 1937

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ALLEGED U.M.W. SPIES AT MINE B

A review of the file indicates that the following named individuals were expelled from Local #54 of the Progressive Mine Workers of America either before or soon after May 12, 1937 for allegedly being U.M.W. spies:

JOE ALBANESE  
ANDREW SKRELEVIUS  
DOMINIC PASQUALE  
PETE CARTER  
FRANK AUSTIN  
TONY PLOTCH

JOHN (COTTON) ANANIAS  
JOHN SIRTOUT  
GEORGE JACAVAY  
EMERY JACAVAY  
CHARLES BOHANNON  
JAMES HALE

Attempt was made to interview these individuals in quick succession on September 4 and 5, 1943. Appointments were arranged by Special agents [redacted] and [redacted] with these individuals for September 4, 1943:

JAMES HALE, 9:00 A.M.; FRANK AUSTIN, 11:00 A.M.; ANDREW SKRELEVIUS, 2:00 P.M.; and JOHN ANANIAS, 4:00 P.M.

Appointments were arranged with the following individuals for September 5, 1943:

ANTHONY J. PLOTCH, DOMINIC PASQUALE, JOSEPH ALBANESE, and EMERY JACAVAY.

Mr. HALE, Mr. AUSTIN, and Mr. JACAVAY were the only ones keeping their appointments, although at the time that each appointment was made each individual seemed cooperative and willing to come to the Springfield Field Office. Mr. HALE, Mr. AUSTIN, and Mr. JACAVAY were all cooperative and executed signed statements as set forth below. Mr. AUSTIN requested a copy of his statement at the time of the interview, but was advised that this could not be furnished to him by the Springfield Field Office.

Mr. PASQUALE, who resides [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was contacted by telephone on September 5, 1943, and professed to have forgotten the appointment, but expressed willingness to come to the office at some other time. JOSEPH ALBANESE, who resides at [redacted] was also contacted on September 5 by telephone and advised that he was a poor working man and did not want to get into trouble, and would not come to the office until he had seen his attorney.

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Mr. PLOTCH, whose correct name is ANTHONY J. PLOTCH, and who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was contacted personally at his residence September 6, 1943. He advised that on the morning of September 4, 1943 he, with JOE ALRANESE, and JOHN ANANIAS, were at the office of the United Mine Workers talking to RAY EDMUNDSON. DOMINIC PASQUALE was downstairs and may have come in later. There were some other men present whom PLOTCH did not know. EDMUNDSON called ARTHUR FITZGERALD, attorney, who came to the UMW Office, and advised each of the men that they should not make a statement to the FBI unless he was present at the interview, because they might incriminate themselves. Mr. PLOTCH believed that other persons were similarly advised, but did not know.

He was cooperative and willing to make any statement which his attorney might permit.

Mr. SKRELEVICUS, whose correct name is ANDREW ANTHONY SKRELEVICUS, and who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was contacted personally at his residence on the afternoon of September 6. He advised that on the afternoon of September 4, 1943 he had been approached on the street in Springfield by a man whose name he did not know, but whom he knew to be an employee of Mine B. This person gave him one of several typewritten pieces of paper containing the address of ARTHUR FITZGERALD, and told him that if anyone contacted him about what happened at Mine B to tell them that they should see this attorney. Mr. SKRELEVICUS was born in [REDACTED] and is not a citizen of the U.S. He presented alien Registration Card #1141937. He advised that he had been sentenced to 11 months at Vandalia Prison Farm, Vandalia, Illinois in 1937 for activity connected with the labor troubles at Mine B.

DOMINIC PASQUALE, who resides at [REDACTED] was contacted personally at his residence on September 6, 1943 and advised that he would give no information unless his attorney would appear. He advised that he had gone to the attorney on his own volition; that there had been no meeting concerning the matter of Mine B.

JOHN "COTTON" ANANIAS, who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was also contacted personally at his residence on September 6, 1943. He also refused to give any information, on the advice of his attorney, Mr. FITZGERALD. He advised he had contacted Mr. FITZGERALD on his own volition and without suggestion of anyone.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on two occasions by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] JK. The first interview took place at [REDACTED] home on the afternoon of September 6, 1943. At that time [REDACTED] was obviously suffering heavily from the effects of alcohol. The facts occurring at Mine "B" were discussed with him somewhat, but he repeatedly expressed himself as being unable to think and remember, and requested that the interview be continued at a later date when he was in a better physical condition. He suggested the morning of September 7, 1943, and assured that he would be at the Springfield Field Office at 9:00 a.m. for interview. He appeared anxious to give information and anxious to cooperate in every way in the completion of the investigation. He had known nothing of the present investigation.

The information [REDACTED] gave in this physical condition was incoherent and valueless to this investigation. In substance, it was that JOHN SCHNEIDER was trying to run the whole union, and boss everyone. He had nothing to do with the affairs of the Union and the mine until after the strike, although he was expelled from the Union because of association with TONY PLOTCH. The interview was terminated at this point at [REDACTED] request. During this interview [REDACTED] appeared at [REDACTED] home, and after learning that Agents were present, waited outside until Agents left.

Following [REDACTED] failure to appear at the Springfield Field Office for his appointment, [REDACTED] was seen on the street by the above Agents. He advised that he had not come to the office because his attorney, ARTHUR FITZGERALD, had advised him not to make a statement. [REDACTED] was found on the street about 3:00 p.m. which was during the hours which he would normally be working as a shot firer at Mine "B".

Later in the afternoon of September 7, 1943, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, came to the Springfield Field Office to advise that her husband, who is presently employed at Mine "A", had told her that BOHANNON with CUDGE BUMGARNER had come to the shaft at Mine "A", and were stopping former Mine "B" employees, and asking them if they had been interviewed by Federal Agents. When [REDACTED] said that he had not, BOHANNON told him not to tell them anything, and if he was asked why not, to say that it was on the advice of attorney ARTHUR FITZGERALD. This was following the time that [REDACTED] had given a statement to Agents.

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On September 7, 1943 [REDACTED] came to the Springfield Field Office with WALTER T. DAY, Attorney at Law. Mr. Day requested Special Agent In Charge, FRED HALLFORD, in the presence of Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to furnish him with copies of the statements.

Mr. Day advised that he was not representing AUSTIN [REDACTED] but that he was representing and assisting Mr. M. FITZGERALD, Attorney at Law, who was counseling UMW miners who were sent to him. Mr. Day expected that he would eventually know the identity of most of the miners who had executed a statement to the Bureau and would probably request copies of all signed statements executed by miners to agents. No assurance was given that copies could be furnished him, and it was suggested that he make any requests by letter.

On September 10, 1943 Special Agent In Charge FRED HALLFORD advised Attorney Day by telephone that all requests for copies of these statements should be directed to the Attorney General. Mr. RALEIGH AUSTIN and Mr. BROWN [REDACTED] were not interviewed and were not present during the interview with Day.

[REDACTED] Springfield, advised that on the morning of September 7, 1943 an attorney, whose name he did not know, addressed a group of miners at Mine B before work, and advised them not to talk to F.B.I. representatives when they called. [REDACTED] Springfield, advised that the attorney informed them that they need not talk to agents if they did not want to. CHARLES BOHANNON and LEE OMER "CUDGE" BUMGARNER, were at the shaft and evidently arranged this impromptu meeting.

JOHN SIRTOU was found to be in the United States Army and unavailable for interview.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were interviewed and executed signed statements as set forth below:

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was interviewed at the Springfield Field Office on the morning of September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] presently resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. [REDACTED] He was born [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He speaks fairly well, and can express himself adequately. He would be quite difficult to confuse on cross examination, and might be apt to be confused as to dates, times and sequences. He claims to have a poor education, but appears to have an intelligence at least equal to the average miner. [REDACTED] advised that in addition to the information set forth in his signed statement, that on the morning of May 12, 1937, when he was preparing to go to work, that [REDACTED] told him that he would be killed if he went down into the pit. [REDACTED] rode down in the cage with [REDACTED] and all the way down made high jinks with his fist into [REDACTED] back saying, "you ought to be dead." [REDACTED] started down into the pit on September 27, 1943, [REDACTED] himself had held out a can of red pepper, and said that he would do just that in [REDACTED] eyes. When signing the following signed statement [REDACTED] stated that he had never been threatened by a gun, and that there were no guns held on him the night of his hearing for expulsion from the union.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 4, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. It is all true and accurate, and I am willing, if necessary, to go to court, and repeat any part of this statement.

"I first went to Mine B on October 6, 1920. During all the time that I have been at Mine B, I have been [REDACTED] so I work in the wash house on top.

"When I first became a miner I joined the United Mine Workers. My father and brothers were all miners. They were all members of the United Mine Workers. I always went to the meetings, but was never an officer. In 1932 when the local at mine B went to the Progressive Mine Workers, I was told that I would have to join the PMW of A if I was to keep my job and be able to work. I was just married, and needed the money badly, so I went down and joined up with the PMW of A. However, I had always been a

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] UMW and my father and brothers were UMW. My  
(continued) father always said that in Union there is

strength, and I did not believe that there should be two unions. My brothers were still in the UMW, so I stayed in the UMW and paid my dues to both unions all of the time. I have never been out of the UMW all the time, that I have been a miner.

"When the P.M.F. of A was formed, I did not care much which union I belong to, whether I belonged to any or two unions, just so I could work. I went to the meetings of the Unions, of both unions all the time from 1932 to 1937. At first things went fairly well at the P.M.F. meetings, and then they got to quarrelling. They were fighting, and quarrelling among themselves all the time at the P.M.F. meetings, and having fights. It was always fighting as to who was going to have the officer etc. They were always complaining with the company, and causing a lot of trouble at the mine. I was pretty disgusted with the way the P.M.F. was carrying on, fighting and all that. I was pretty outspoken, and said quite often that I did not think that we ought to have two unions, even though I was going to both meetings, and was a member of both unions.

"In 1934, when there was martial law in this county, I was home one night when some men came and wanted to hide some dynamite in my house. My wife did not like that, and ever since then I did not get along very well with the Progressives who were active there because I made them take the dynamite away.

"During the time from 1932 to 1937 we had meetings at Redman's hall for the UMW. We had no charter, but we met regularly all the time. Joe Albanese, Dandrew Schrelevious, Pete Carter, went to the meetings regularly. Tony Pletch, Cotton Annias, John Sirtut, George Jacaway and Emory Jacaway, and Charley Bohannon used to go quite a bit. Sometimes there was only 10 or 15 of us at the meetings. Sometimes there were as many as 50 there. I used to talk to the men out at the mine about the situation in the unions. Some of the men were disgusted about the fighting, and the checkoffs, and I used to tell them that I thought they that they all ought to belong to just one union, and I invited them to come to the meetings at Redman's hall of the UMW. I used to joke about things and the unions, and once handed a man some cigarettes and told him to have a UMW cigarette. He preferred charges on me. I was tried about a week before the strike started in 1937. Some of the other men were tried later, and we were all expelled from the union. I did not particularly care. I just wanted to work. I think that is the way most of the men at the mine were. Most of them were willing to just work for Carl Elishoff, without any union, because the unions were causing so much trouble at the mine. I do not think they were complaining too much about the Progressives, they were just disgusted with all the unions.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "When the strike started, there had been a lot of trouble, and the strike started because Elshoff and Falcetti would not fire me and the other men who were expelled from the Union. I do not recall that there was any discussion or dissatisfaction with the wages or anything like that at the mine when the strike was called.

"On the day that the strike was called, I went to work, and was threatened many times. Falcetti tried to talk me into not working but I told him I had worked there for years and unless he would fire me I was going to work. When the strike was called, the men ran me off of the mine property. They also ran me off the next day after the strike was called. I used to go out frequently, and they would run me away. I took the mules out of the mine a few days after that and put them in the pasture. I had always had charge of the mules, bought the new ones, and broke them in.

"In asking men to go to the meetings at Redman's hall I was just acting on my own. No one ever told me to do that, or gave me many money for expenses, or anything like that. I was never at any meeting where Charley Bohannon, and Jack Glasgow talked about switching the Mine over to UMW. I was never given any money to help. I do not recall that the UMW had any petitions out either before or after the strike, any picket lines, or cause any trouble out there.

"Once a month or so before the strike started I talked to Carl Elshoff, and asked him which union he wanted us to have, and he told me that he did not care just as long as they would quit bickering, and would get to work.

"I was in the committee or something when the charter was obtained for the UMW local. I do not recall much about that. I asked men to join it, but was never given any money from the UMW or elsewhere to pay my expenses.

"In September when they tried to open the mine I went out and got four mules the day before and took them down into the mine. On the day that we were supposed to go to work, I was there, and went down into the mine. I was threatened, but nobody mistreated me. The men who were out there around the mine property were all men who had worked at the mine before the strike so far as I know. We tried to work two days, but couldn't get to the company property after the sit down started.

"I do not recall the exact date it was, but I went to work at the Jefferson mine. My half brother [REDACTED] came and asked me if I wanted to go to work and I told him that I would. He asked me if I knew of someone else, and I suggested Charles Bohannon. [REDACTED] I do not recall how long it was that we worked. We worked until the mine closed.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I voted at the election at the Armory for Mine B in December 1937. I think that was a fair election. The Federal man ran it real fair, and would not let us talk or anything. I think that the election was fair and would represent the way the men felt at the time. I do not know how the men felt then. I thought that most of them would be satisfied with any union if they could go to work.

"I do not recall but the one time that the mine tried to open during the time that it was closed.

[REDACTED]

... I was not around the mine, and do not know what was going on in the day of organizing. I heard that there were a lot of fights there, but I did not see any of them. I did not try to organize for either union. I think that maybe they would be better off with no union.

"The above statement on this page and four other pages has been read to me by [REDACTED] because I do not read very well. Everything which he read to me, which was read off of these pages, is true and accurate."

/s/

F B I

F. B. I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was interviewed at the Springfield Field Office on the morning of September 4, 1943, by [REDACTED] Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. He is [REDACTED] He is presently employed at Mine B.

[REDACTED] appears to be a person with an intelligence above that of the average miner. He makes a good appearance, can express himself well, would not be easily confused on cross examination and would make a good witness.

He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 4, 1943

"My name is [REDACTED]. I make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to have me give this statement. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court, and repeat any part of this statement.

"I first went to work at mine B in [REDACTED]. I worked a little while there, and then went to mine A. I came back to Mine B about [REDACTED] years ago. I do not recall exactly when it was that I went back to Mine B. I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America prior to the organization of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was never an officer of that union and did not attend the meetings regularly. In 1932 when the Progressive Mine Workers were being organized, I was a shot firer. Because of that I did not get out of the mine until late, and thus did not have too much chance to go to the Union meetings. During the organization of the PMW of A, and the strike which accompanied this formation, [REDACTED]. Consequently I do not know much about that situation, and did not care too much about it. When the local at Mine B went into the PMW of A, I was willing to go with the rest of the men, because I had my job there, and I had to work. I was not too anxious about it though, because I had been a member of the UMW for years, and did not feel that we ought to have two miners unions. However, it did not make too much difference to me.

"Before 1932 the local and the company got along pretty well. After that things did not go so smoothly. It seemed to me that the union was always demanding something. The new union ran itself pretty well for the first few months. After that there was discussion about the officials, and

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] the ruling in the constitution that the officials would go back to the "face" after their term was up. Quite a few men went to the meetings so far as I know. I was shot firing, and was not too interested in the affairs. I was not complaining about things in the union. I recall that about 1935 or 1936, I was making the rounds before the men left, in the afternoon. At that time the mine was not running regularly, and we were working just a few days every pay. John Schneider, who was a union official, had just got a new car, a new ice box, and fixed up his place, or at least, so I heard. I was making the rounds and heard the men talking about it, and some of the men asked me if I had heard anything about it. A couple of days later, Schneider came to me and said he had heard that I was talking about him at the mine, and that he was going to prefer charges against me. He did, and they fined me \$15, which was quite a bit considering the amount of work we were getting. I did not appeal because I was unable to get to Willespie, Ill. where the appeal board sat. They told me that there was nothing I could do about it. I was disatisfied with the way the union ran to prevent a hearing and so forth. That caused some dissension between Schneider and myself, but I continued to work at the mine. As I was making my rounds there often times men would ask me what I thought about the unions, and I usually told them that I did not think that there ought to be two labor organizations for miners. Several men asked me about it, and I mentioned it to several men. Early in the spring of 1937, there was some discussion about the contract and the men were talking about unions more than usual. One of the men I had helped to get his mine papers, preferred charges on me. Charges were preferred against me quite a while before the strike started. After that I did not talk about it at all, because I could not afford to have any more fines. I was not receiving any money or expenses from the United Mine Workers for talking about these things. I did not talk to any of the other men who were dismissed from the union because of their attitude towards the union. I tried to stay away from such things at that time. I was still shot firing, and thus did not go down in the mine until about 1 o'clock every day. I did not know that a strike was going to be called at the mine before it was called, but when I went out to the mine to go down on the day of the strike it was already called, so I got my pit clothes, and went on home. I do not know what the strike was about, but I heard that it was because the company would not discharge the men who had been dismissed from the union. I did not go back to the mine, and did not sign any petitions out there at that time.

"I was tried and expelled from the union sometime after the strike started, [REDACTED] because I did not think that I had a chance, and I did not care too much.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I had not been at any meetings with Charley Bohannon, and Jack Glasgow before the strike. I did not know about any organizing attempts before then. I did not see anything that the company was doing to favor one union over the other. As far as I know there were no picket lines or violence of any kind at the mine before the strike. There had been discussion about the wage rates, but I think the strike was over the union trouble alone.

"I was one of the men who helped organize the UMW local. Some men had talked to me about it before the mine went out on strike. I had done nothing but talk with the men who mentioned the matter to me about what I thought of going back into the UMW. When the mine was closed, I did go around and try to get men to join this local. I contacted several men at their home. No one paid my expenses. I did it in order to help get the mine back into operation.

"I do not recall when it was but I know that we were notified to come back to work. The company sent a man around to notify us to come back to work. I went out the first day, in the morning, to help clean up the mine, since there was no shot firing to be done. There was a big bunch of men out there, with their buckets, evidently ready to go to work. Only about 15 of us went down that day. Those of us going down were the ones who had been expelled from the PMA, and a few others. It looked to me as though some of the men wanted to go to work, but someone stopped them, but I did not see anything happen. No one bothered me. The next day there was a bunch out there too. When these men came out, they were the men I had seen at the mine. I heard that there were some there in the sit down who had not worked at Mine B before, but as far as I know, most of them were men who had worked at Mine B before,

"I do not recall any other attempts to open the mine until it actually did open.

"I voted in the election of the Unions in December 1937. That was a fair election as far as I know. When I went to vote early in the morning of the day of the election a man whose name I do not know handed me a pamphlet. It was PMA literature. When I got inside I told someone about it, and they told me that they would take him away. I do not know whether they did or not. The election looked fair to me. I do not think that the NLRB men were favoring any one union over the other.

"I think that that election was fair, and probably represented the feelings of the miners at Mine B. When the strike started, I do not know what the men thought about the union. I heard a lot of discussion about the check off being pretty high, and some men wondered about whether the union

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] officers were being entirely honest. There was not too much about that. I do not know of anything specific. I know when men asked me what I thought of the check off, I told them that they were checking off "too damn much."

"During the time of the strike at Mine B I worked about a year at the Jefferson mine. I heard that they were hiring over there, and went over with Emory Jacavay, and got a job. It was a UMW mine, I did not have too much trouble getting a job. Brewerton was running the mine then. No one told me to come over and work it. Eishoff had run the mine once before, but I do not know when that was.

"When the mine reopened in 1939 I went back to work the first day, helping to take the mines back in. There had been no big fires in the mine during the strike, but there had been several cavingins or falls. Some of them have not been cleaned out yet.

"I knew [REDACTED] during the time of the reopening of the mine. I do not recall when it was that he went to work there. He was an air check man. He had not worked at the mine before the strike. There had been some bad air at the mine when it reopened. [REDACTED] was working as an air check man as far as I know. We have a man doing that job now. His name is [REDACTED]. He was doing that sort of work before the mine closed, and while [REDACTED] was there, and also is doing that now.

"When the mine reopened, I did not go back to shot firing, but worked on a new mulc. That meant, in order not to danger the men, that I took the mulcs back off the main entries before the men came in. Thus I was the first man in the mine each morning, and one of the last to leave. I heard that there was some violence at the mine, but because I left early and came back late, I did not have a chance to talk to the men, or see what was going on. I did not see any fights, but I heard of them.

"I did not see any favoritism by the company for one union over the other. I never heard any talk about the company deliberately keeping the mine closed.

"Some of the men asked me what I thought about the UMW, and I told them that I thought we all ought to get into one union. I signed two men up with the UMW, but I did not make a point of talking to men about joining the UMW.

"I have read the above statement on this page and five other pages. It is all true and accurate."

/s/ [REDACTED]

F B I

F B I"

## INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is not considered by interviewing agents as a good witness. [REDACTED] and is therefore unable to express himself clearly. He has a very poor recollection of events, and their sequence, and because of that is considered to be unreliable, and probably easily confused. He gave information set forth on the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 6, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I am known and have been known for many years [REDACTED] I make the following statement to [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I have been at Mine A and B since [REDACTED] I was [REDACTED] at Mine B before Elshoff started to operate the mine. At the time of the strike in 1937 I was [REDACTED] I do not remember the events that occurred before 1937 very well. I do not recall what happened when the local at mine B joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. In 1937, I think, I was tried and expelled from the P.M.W.A. I was tried for associating with United Mine Workers. I had known [REDACTED] for many years and one night I was [REDACTED]

"I do not recall whether it was before or after the strike started that that meeting was held. It was after this meeting

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

that I was [REDACTED]  
I do not remember whether that was before the [REDACTED]  
strike started or not.

\*I was not doing any organizing for the UMW before the strike started. I do not know that any was going on. I know that there was some difficulty about a contract, and remember saying a few times to the men that they did not have any idea how much money they were making, because there was no contract. I do not recall what the strike started over. I was working on top that day, and when I came to work John Schneider told me that I was not going to go to work. I told him I was. I ran the switch engine on top that day, because [REDACTED] who usually ran it was not working then. Schneider did not directly threaten me that day. He had many times before, and several times had told me that he was going to throw me down the shaft. The day the strike started, the men were sending up very small cars. There was not enough coal coming up to keep me working, and so I had gone home before the men actually came up. I do not recall whether I went back to the mine to work the next day or not. I do not recall every passing or signing any petition for either union.

\*At the time of the strike, I had been expelled from the Progressive Mine Workers. There had been some dissesion about the way the men were running the local then, and the way the finances of the local were being operated. Until I was expelled from the PW of A, I did not care much which union I belonged to, as long as I could work. If I had not been expelled, I would just as soon have stayed in the PW of A. I did not attend the meetings. I did not make much difference to me. I do not know how the rest of the men at the mine felt about the local.

\*After I was expelled from the PW, naturally I had to be with the UMW if I was going to work at all. I had always thought that we ought to have only one union, and not have two unions, but I did not care particularly which union it was.

\*Before the strike I had done no organizing, and had received no money from the UMW for working or expenses. I did not know then that anyone else had been doing any agitating, or organizing at the mine, and did not know that they had been expelled. I had never heard anyone complain about the unions there.

\*After the strike, I went down to my folks place, and camped on the river. I did a little organizing then. That is, I took UMW cards around to men I knew and asked them about joining the UMW. I got some money for doing this. I do not know whose money it was,

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[REDACTED]

(continued)

but [REDACTED] gave it to me. I used it mostly for my personal affairs, and I guess [REDACTED] knew this. I went out with the cards several times, usually with [REDACTED]. I do not recall how many times I went with [REDACTED]. I do not recall how many times I got any money from [REDACTED]. It was every now and then when I needed some, and he would give me \$10 or \$25. I did not have anything to do with organizing or forming the UMW local at mine B. I stayed down there camping and did not come back until the mine reopened. I did not even come back to go to work on the day that they tried to open the mine.

"While the strike was on, and the PMW men were on the company property, I was not out there, but I did drive by several times. I could see where the PMW men had had a machine gun set up there and hidden in the trees, and I knew where the men were hiding with some guns, but I did not see any machine gun, or any guns out there.

"I do not recall whether I voted in the election at the Armory in December 1937. I voted there once, and I think I voted there twice. I am not sure. I do not think that the election was fair, because the PMW men were the clerks, and counting the votes and all around there, so they naturally would win.

"When the mine reopened in 1939 I went back to work, and started [REDACTED]. There had not been any big fires, or falls out there during the time that the mine was closed, that I know of. I do not know what was going on at the mine in the way of organizing. It was an open shop mine then. I did not do any organizing after the mine reopened. I do not know of any organizing that was going on on the company property. I do not think that the company preferred any union over the other. I am still not interested in the unions, and do not care which union I belong to as long as I can work, and as long as there is only one union, and not all of that trouble going on.

"I was threatened many times by men of the PMW, mostly John Schneider, but I was never actually molested or injured in any way. I was knocked out and was unconscious for three weeks about two and a half years ago. I do not know what happened, but I think I was hit. I do not know who did it. I was also injured in the mine when a big piece of coal was laid up against a door that I had just come through, and it caught the mule and I got some ribs broken. I do not know who did that either.

"I saw a few fights on the mine property, but I do not know why or what they were fighting about. I did not see anyone get beaten up

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

out there on the mine property. I think it was after the second election that I was just, but I am not sure when it was. I am not sure of any of the dates.

"I do not recall any favoritism of Falcetti or the company for one union over the other. I do not recall any meetings of the UMW. I went to a few meetings at Redman's hall for the UMW. I think that all of them were after I was expelled from the PMW. I was not at any meetings with Jack Glascock or saw him before the time I was expelled from the PMW.

"I have read the above statement on this page and four other pages. It is all true and accurate.

/S/ [REDACTED]

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## INTERVIEW WITH

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was interviewed on two different occasions. The first interview was started at his residence on the afternoon of Friday, September 3, but was discontinued by [REDACTED]. The interview was continued and the signed statement obtained at the Springfield Field Office. Interviews were conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] would make a good witness. He has a fair appearance, can express himself adequately, although his voice is rather weak. He appears earnest and sincere and would <sup>not</sup> be easy to confuse on cross examination. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 5, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement. I am willing, if necessary to go to court and repeat any part of this statement.

"I have worked at mine B since [REDACTED] I have been a driver most of the time during this period. I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America prior to 1932. I was never an officer, but I used to attend the meetings of the union quite regularly. In those days there was not a very large attendance at the Union meetings. In 1932 the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized. I think that it was organized because some of the men could not get offices in the UMW. That is the only reason that I can think of for organizing that union. When the local at Mine B went to the PMA, I went along with them. I did not especially care which union I belonged to, and was willing to go into the PMA of A. After the PMA of A was formed, and the local was PMA the local did not get along with the company as well as before. There was always some sort of difficulty going on. The union men were complaining about things, and there were many short strikes. I went to the meetings regularly. There was always a good attendance at the meetings. I was satisfied with the way the local and the Progressive Mine Workers of America was being run. I got along pretty well with it.

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## INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED]

I was satisfied with it in every way, and I think that most of the men at the mine were pretty well satisfied with the way the union was being run. I did not hear anyone criticize the union, even the men who were later expelled from the union. There was some criticism of the union because of the heavy fines the union was putting on the men who were working over \$35 a week. Other than that I think that most of the men were satisfied, and I, personally, would have preferred to continue in the Progressive Union as it was.

"On the day of the strike I came up, and went home as soon as the strike was called. I had not heard that there was going to be a strike. I had not been at the meeting of the union the night before. I did not know that there was one. The men were bringing out small cars that day. I do not know why the men were loading small.

"I did not know that there was to be a strike called, but I heard afterwards, that the strike was called because the men would not work with those men who had been expelled from the union, and who the company would not discharge. I was not one of the men who had been discharged from the union. I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers in good standing until shortly after the mine reopened in 1939. I had not attended any meetings at Redman's hall, or taken part in or heard of any discussions about switching unions. There had been some discussion at the mine about a contract, and that was what the men who were expelled from the union had been complaining about, but that was not the reason that the strike was called as far as I know.

"After the strike started I did not go back to the mine. I did not sign any petitions or papers of any kind that I can recall. I took no part in the organization of the UMW local for mine B. In September [REDACTED] and some man came to my home and told my wife that the mine was going to open. I went out to the mine the day that the mine opened with [REDACTED]. We went out very early, long before any men showed up so that we could have the mules all harnessed and ready to go when the mine opened. I stayed down all that day, hauling etc. When I came out that night all the men had gone from around the shaft. I heard that the Progressives

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

were not letting the men go to work there, so I did not go back to the mine to work. I did not go out and stay on the company property when the sit down strike was in progress. I had a job to do

[REDACTED] I later went on UTA. I did not vote in the election about the unions at mine B in December 1937, and did not go back to the mine or have anything to do with the mine until it reopened in 1939.

"Then I went back to the mine in 1939 I got the job or working on the bottom, repairing, and working on the machinery. I had to go down each morning at 6 AM, and oil the machinery etc, before the men got there to go down. So I did not see anything that happened around the pit on the top. I did not see any fights, or any violence of any kind, although I heard that there was some, and did help [REDACTED] out on the cage when he came down in a car, and said that he had been beaten up.

"Charly Bohannon was the only one who ever asked me to join the UMW. A week or so after the mine reopened in 1939 he came to me one day on top, and asked me what I was going to do, and which union I was going to go with. I told him that I did not know and would let him know later. That night I was talking to the fellow that I ride with, and he was a little disgusted with the PMW because of the fines they had put on him for working the sixth day in a week, and because he had not gotten the fines back as he expected to. He said he was going to go UMW, and I decided that I would go with him. I did not ask any one to join the UMW.

"I knew [REDACTED] slightly at the mine. I did not know who he was until later, but I saw him at the mine regularly. He was a sort of safety man. He had not been at the mine before the strike. There were men doing safety work at the mine before, but they stayed on while [REDACTED] was working there, and are still on. No one was hired to take [REDACTED] place when he left.

"I have known Oscar Falcetti personally for many years. I went out with him many times, and I never heard him say anything about which union he wanted us to have at the mine. I never saw anything at the mine indicating that they had any preference.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Those are the only offices I have ever held. I am satisfied with the way the local is being run now. There

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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is not much difference in the way the local is being run than when it was a PME local, except that not as many men attend the meeting as before.

"I have never been threatened, or mistreated in any way by either of the unions. [REDACTED] was never in any trouble with any unions, or been expelled. He was not particularly interested in the affairs of the union. He has not returned to work since the strike. My sons [REDACTED] never worked at mine B.

"I do not recall any literature ever being passed out at the mine. Some of the men had been skeptical about the contract with the company prior to the strike in 1937, and asked Falcetti about it. He would show the contract to them. That is the only thing that I ever saw handed out at the mine.

"I have read the above statement on this page and four other pages. It is all true and accurate.

(Signed) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] F B I  
[REDACTED] F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] he would make a good witness for what information he does have. He makes a good appearance, and can express himself well. He gave information set forth on the following signed statements:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 6, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement.

"I worked at mine B for [REDACTED] years. I rarely went to any union meetings. I did not care anything about unions, or which union I belonged to. In the spring of 1937 I had trouble with my eyes, and did not work for six weeks. I came back and only worked nine days when the strike started. I did not know anything about the strike, or that it was going to be called. I do not know what it was over, although I think it was because the company would not fire some men. I know these men. I had never heard them or anyone else say anything about switching unions, or anything against the Progressives.

"After the strike started I did not go to any meetings, sign any petitions, or have anything to do with the mine or the union. I voted in the election, and voted exactly as I wanted to vote. It was a fair election as far as I know.

"The rules of the PWU forbid a member from associating with members of the U.W. I did not pay any attention to it, because I had friends in both unions. After the strike started, they called me and told me to come up to the union hall for a meeting. I did not want to go, and did not go. I found out about two weeks after that I had been expelled from the union. I do not know what I was expelled for, or for how long. I did not care anything about it.

"I was never abused by any members of either union. I did not care which union I belonged to, I would have been just as satisfied with the PWU when they kicked me out. After that I did not see any reason for sticking with them, but it did not make any difference because I did not intend to work in the mines any more.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I have read the above statement on this page and one other page.. It is all true and accurate.

/S/ [REDACTED]

FBI

[REDACTED] F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

MISCELLANEOUS INTERVIEWS

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed on September 10, 1943, concerning his knowledge of the Mine "B" situation. [REDACTED] highly intelligent, careful in his statements, and should make a good witness.

Relative to [REDACTED] testimony if he is called as a witness it should be noted that he kept a diary of all events of any consequence happening throughout the entire period in question. He is able to refer to this diary and refresh his recollection giving a complete picture of what happened on each individual date. [REDACTED] was one of those convicted in the mine bombing case. He also was indicted early in the 1930's in Christian County along with others for rioting. The case was never prosecuted.

[REDACTED] has been seriously injured by gun fire, presumably by United Mine Workers on two occasions. In the fall of 1932 he was shot in the leg by a Union Mine Worker by the name of [REDACTED]. Later on March 6, of 1936, he was ambushed by an unknown assailant who shot him in the back, permanently injuring his right arm, the bullet striking him in the back and traveling down the upper arm. On two occasions, once on Christmas eve in 1933, and later on in the summer his home was riddled twice by gun fire. On Christmas eve both he and his wife narrowly missed being hit. On the second occasion no one was at home.

[REDACTED] diary contained much information of interest to this case to which he could not testify personally, and so is not included in the signed statement. Such incidents and conversations with Elshoff, Falcetti, and others as he could testify to personally are set out in the signed statement, which is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 10, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"My full name is [REDACTED] and I reside at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I was born in [REDACTED]

"I have been a miner and connected in various capacities with mining organizations since [REDACTED]. At that time, I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America, and for a period of time approximately [REDACTED] years ago was employed at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois. At the time the Break occurred in the United Mine Worker ranks in 1932, at which time the

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Progressive Miners of America was formed, I was employed at Peabody Mine No. 59 at Springfield, Illinois. Before the formation of the Progressives in 1932, I acted as a watcher, during which time the two referendums were held by the United Mine Workers to determine whether or not they would accept the contract agreed upon between the Scale Committee of the United Mine Workers and the Scale Committee of the Illinois Coal Operators Association. I was present at the time the ballots and vote tabulations were allegedly stolen by representatives and followers of John L. Lewis. In the succeeding reaction which followed, I took an active part in the organization of the Progressive Miners of America.

[REDACTED]

"One of the mines which was organized by the Progressive Miners and which came under my jurisdiction as a Board Member was the Mine B Coal Company located in Springfield, Illinois, and operated by Carl H. Elshoff. This mine was under the jurisdiction of Local No. 54, Progressive Mine workers of America and was a part of District No. 4, [REDACTED]

The Mine B Coal Company was organized by the PMA in the Fall of 1932, and from that date, up until the Spring of 1937, relationships between the management, Carl H. Elshoff and the PMA, were friendly and all grievances arising were settled in a satisfactory manner according to an established procedure and joint contract without any interference in production or strikes.

"The first knowledge of any trouble or controversy at Mine B was brought to my attention in April of 1937. On March 31, 1937, the contract which had been signed by Elshoff and the PMA in 1935 expired. At that time and prior, negotiations had been going on between the Scale Committee of the PMA and the Scale Committee of the Coal Producers Association of Illinois in order to arrive at a satisfactory contract for all mines being operated by the PMA. On March 31, 1937, Mine B was not a member of the Coal Producers Association, and it was necessary to enter into a contract with Elshoff as an independent operator. On April 2, 1937, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] signed an agreement with Elshoff extending the contract which expired on March 31 until such time as an agreement was reached between the Coal Producers Association and the Scale Committee of the PMA and ratified by the members of the Progressive Miners Union in this District. This extension of contract which was signed by Mr. Elshoff carried with it the

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agreement of record adopted March 29, 1931, which provided a retro-active wage scale if the United Mine Workers were granted one in Illinois.

"On April 5, 1937, the Pit Committee of Local No. 54 came to my office inquiring about the retro-active clause in the contract. This Committee was composed of [redacted]

[redacted] I told them what I knew and my understanding according to record made in joint scale on March 29.

"On April 6, 1937, I received a call early in the morning from [redacted] who informed me that trouble had arisen at Mine B, the company taking the stand that was contrary to the tentative contract which had been signed by Carl Elshoff. When I went to the mine, it was reported to me [redacted] that Falcetti had started an agitation that the company would not live up to the retro-active agreement. I found that the following men had been active in agitating this question: Tony Plotch, Charles "Bowling Green" Bohannon; Dominic Pasquale; Joe Albanese, also known as Sam Catalone; Frank Austin; George and Emery Jackaway; James Hale; Andrew Skelevieus; John "Cotton" Ananias, Jr; John Sirtout; and William "Pete" Carter. These men had been agitating among the men, stating that the superintendent of the mine, Oscar Falcetti, had stated that there was no retro-active feature in the agreement which had been signed by Elshoff.

"The mine did not work on April 6, 1937, because at the time I had arrived there and settled this trouble, the management stated that it was too late for the men to go down into the mine. The Coal Company claimed it was now almost 8:00 O'clock, claiming it was too late for the men to go down. I insisted that the men were ready to go to work as the starting time was 8:00 o'clock, but they refused to put the men to work.

"That morning, I talked personally to Tony Plotch, and he told me that the superintendent Falcetti had told him the company did not have any contract or agreement with the Progressives which provided for retro-active pay, and he was not in favor of working under such conditions. I told Plotch this was not true and that the Progressives did have a contract which provided for retro-active pay.

"On April 7, 1937, a meeting of the men at Mine B was called by [redacted] at my request. At that time, I explained when the new agreement was ratified, it would be retro-active to April 1, 1937, as far as any pay increase was concerned and instructed the men to go on down to work and that the company would have to live up to its contract. The men went on down to work. Later in the day I received a call from the Pit Committee who stated that they had been called out of the mine by what they thought at first to be the company, but upon answering the

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call, found that it consisted of Dominic Pasquale, Andrew Skelevieus, Joe Jarvis, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, Jr., and one or two others who had not gone down into the mine that day. These men had yellow slips which

they said were contracts [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for the Progressives, and [REDACTED]

for the operators. These pieces of paper which these men, whom it later developed were United Mine Worker opposition in our Progressive Organization, had nothing which reflected the agreement [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and it appeared that they were purposely trying to present a false picture of the actual situation in an effort to create trouble and to cause a strike at the mine. In this matter, the company made no effort to insist that these men go to their work. In fact, I noted that the bosses reported to the mine this day, April 7, 1937, without their dinner pails, which indicated to me that they did not expect to go to work.

"In view of the fact that it had been reported by these twelve spies that Falcetti had told them that there was no retro-active feature in the agreement signed with Elshoff, I personally talked to Falcetti, at which time he did not deny that he had told the men this, and I told him that there was a retro-active clause in the agreement and that the company would live up to it and that he, Falcetti, was not going to keep these men from going to work on this morning, which was April 7, 1937. From the attitude of the management and these twelve men on this morning and the previous morning, April 6, it was more or less apparent that the company was working with these men to strike the mine and put the Progressive Organization in a bad light.

"On April 5, 1937, the Joint Scale Committee arrived at an agreement that any wage increases will date from April 1, 1937. On April 9, 1937, I, [REDACTED] went to Mine B and talked with Elshoff and Falcetti on the second tentative agreement. At this time, [REDACTED] was spokesman for our group. No agreement was signed at this time, but the matter was taken under advisement by Elshoff and Falcetti.

"On Sunday, April 11, 1937, I went to Mine B in company with [REDACTED] to talk to Elshoff and Falcetti on the second tentative agreements. Elshoff claimed he saw no need of a second tentative agreement, he will abide by the one he signed on April 2.

"On April 12, 1937, I heard rumors that individual members of these twelve men mentioned heretofore were specifically soliciting membership for the United Mine Workers of America. This was later confirmed in fact, and these men were expelled from the Progressive Miners of America by appropriate action through the Local. I was advised of this by officials of the Local.

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"Early on the morning of May 12, 1937, I received a call from [REDACTED] PMA, to come out to the mine. When I arrived at the mine, [REDACTED] informed me that the Committee had demanded the discharge of five former Progressives who had been expelled because of their activity on behalf of the United Mine Workers from the PMA. The names of these men were Frank Austin; W.L. "Pete" Carter, Andrew Skelevieus; Dominic Pasquale, Joe Albanese, alias Sam Catalone. I took the case up with both Elshoff and Falcetti, but the company declined to write up joint evidence. They refused to stop these five men from working. When he refused to write up joint evidence, I asked him if we could refer this dispute, him to select a man and I to select [REDACTED] or someone else that [REDACTED] may select. Elshoff did agree to ask his lawyer about referring the case. At about this time, Falcetti was called out; he came back a few minutes later and stated that it had been reported that the cars were coming up not loaded or loaded short. Elshoff argued that he could not discharge these men because he would be liable under the Waggoner Act. That was the position he was taking. However, he agreed to get his lawyer's version of the situation. At my insistence, he called his lawyer at that time, whom he arranged to see, and agreed to meet me at 2:00 o'clock that afternoon with the Committee to give his answer.

"Then we left the office, and as we did so, Falcetti and Elshoff called my attention to the fact that cars were apparently being sent up not loaded to capacity. I suggested that he take that matter up with the Pit Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the joint contract between PMA and the Company.

"At approximately 2:15 that afternoon, I returned to Elshoff's office with the Pit Committee and [REDACTED]. Elshoff refused to do anything at all with regard to handling the dispute. He did say, "Put this mine in normal operation. Them cars are not being loaded properly." I told him that I came out here to get his answer regarding the case before us and that's what I was here for. He refused to do anything. At this point, negotiations broke off, and I notified the engineer and the check wayman that the company had refused to handle case in accordance with the contract. When the men were notified of his action, the work ceased, and the men came out of the pit.

"A meeting of Local No. 54 was held on the night of May 12, 1937, at which time, I told the members that the five men who had been expelled had a right to appeal and that if it were proved that they were innocent, Local No. 54 was responsible and these five men would be paid.

"I further recall with respect to my negotiations with Elshoff on that morning with respect to his liability under the Waggoner Labor Act that

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these men had a right of appeal and that if it were found that they had been wrongfully discharged, the Progressive Organization would underwrite any expense that Elshoff might have had to stand by stopping the men from working at our request. He refused to consider this offer and refused to discharge the men.

"After May 12, 1937, for a period of about three weeks, there was picketing at Mine B by the Progressive Organization. There was no violence, and it was during this time that a petition was circulated among the members of the Progressive Organization in which over 400 signed and which stated that they desired, as employees of Mine B, to be represented by the Progressive Mine Workers of America as Collective Bargaining Agency for Local Union No. 54. This petition was one of the three originals which were made at that time, inasmuch as when the men signed the petition, they signed three copies, one of which was presented to Elshoff, another to be retained with me as District Board Member, and the third furnished to the District President [REDACTED]. Upon receipt of the petition, Superintendent Falcetti, who was present, looked at each page of signatures, Carl Elshoff acknowledged the list of names and gave [REDACTED] a receipt typed out on letterhead of Mine B Coal Company, signed by Carl Elshoff, President. This letter acknowledged the receipt of the petition, but refused to acknowledge the authenticity of the signatures. At this time, Carl Elshoff stated that he had seen some cards which had been signed by United Mine Workers. However, he would not state as to who they were or how many they had seen or show anything to that effect. On almost every occasion that I went out to the mine, I generally noted that at least a few of the twelve men who had been expelled from Local Union No. 54 were hanging around the mine.

"On August 6, 1937, I went to Mine B with [REDACTED] and two others to present a tentative contract to Elshoff for his signature. Elshoff did not sign this contract or indicate in any way that he would. He stated that if he decided to sign the contract that he would get in touch with me.

"On August 14, 1937, I telephoned Elshoff, making an appointment with him. I proceeded to the mine with [REDACTED] and the Pit Committee, except [REDACTED] at which time [REDACTED] demanded the return of the petition which we had previously given to Elshoff on July 12, 1937. This was done in view of the fact that Elshoff had not acted upon the receipt of the petition in recognizing the Progressives as the Bargaining Agent with employees of that mine. I asked Elshoff about signing a contract at that time, and Elshoff stated that he was "up in the air. You have asked for the petition back." In the course of further discussion, Elshoff said, "When I sign a contract, it will be with a Union. I started in 1912 and have

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always been in charge or connected with Union mines." He did not say with what Union he would sign or that he would sign a contract with the Progressives. He stated that he would let us know on the following Monday whether or not he would return the petition.

"On September 8, 1937, I went to Chicago, Illinois, being driven in the car belonging to [REDACTED]. Accompanying me were [REDACTED] At Chicago, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and proceeded to the office of Mr. L. C. Bajork, who was the Regional Director of the Thirteenth Region, National Labor Relations Board. When we arrived at his office, Ray Edmundson, Provisional President of District No. 12, United Mine Workers of America, was already there. There were no terms of settlement arrived at to open the mine. Spokesman for our group was [REDACTED] who presented the petitions and evidence that the employees of Mine B desired to be represented by the PMA and requested that an election be held. Ray Edmundson objected to an election, stating that the United Mine Workers already had a contract with Elshoff. He claimed many names signed on cards requesting representation by the U.M.W.A. He claimed 357 names. However, upon request, he refused to submit any evidence of these signatures, saying that when the right time came, he would produce them. He insisted that employees of Mine B who belonged to the U.M.W.A. would put the mine into operation.

"The question also arose as to whether the men suspended from the Progressive Organization, which at this time had reached twelve, would be put back to work. Bajork did not commit himself at all upon this question. Edmundson insisted that these men should be put back to work. Our spokesman [REDACTED] stated that they should not be put back to work and insisted that an election be held to determine what organization would represent the employees of Mine B.

"On August 28, 1937, a contract was signed between the Scale Committees of the PMA and the Coal Producers Association of Illinois. This contract was formally ratified and state-wide referendum as of September 10, 1937, by the Progressive Locals. On September 10, 1943, a new petition was signed by members of Local No. 54 at the office of the PMA as they came in to vote on the referendum.

"On September 17, 1937, I attempted to locate Elshoff at his office about a new contract. I talked to [REDACTED] who advised that Elshoff was in Wisconsin. I again tried to locate Elshoff at the Mine B Office on September 18, 1937, without results. I attempted again to locate Elshoff September 20, 1937, at both Mine B and at his home. He was reported to be out of the city and would probably be back on September 21, 1937.

"On September 21, 1937, I, with the Committee including [REDACTED] and Attorney Dowell, conferred with the Governor of the State of Illinois,

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and he suggested that everyone be allowed to work at the mine, suspended members and all, until the National Labor Relations Board decision was completed.

"On September 22, 1937, I was able to locate Elshoff at Mine B, and upon instructions from [redacted] arranged for a meeting on the following day at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

"As agreed, on September 23, 1937, I, with [redacted] met with Elshoff and Falcetti at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel. [redacted] was the spokesman for our organization, and at that time, he again repeated the offer that I had previously made to Mr. Elshoff in that if the Labor Board recommended that the men who were expelled from Local No. 54, PMA, should be put back to work that the Progressive Organization would underwrite any expense in which Elshoff might be involved as a result. We insisted that all the Progressives of this Local were ready to go back to work, but not with the twelve men inasmuch as under the closed shop contract with the mine, they were not entitled to hold their jobs there if they were not members of the Progressive Miners of America. Contracts with Mine B expressly stated that only those who were members of the PMA were entitled to work at that mine. No agreement was reached at this meeting.

"On September 25, 1937, I received a call from [redacted] who advised that Dominic Pasquale, Charles Bohannon, Joe Albanese had run him off of the mine property. They had approached him about joining up with the UMWA and said that he must sign in order to work at Mine B. Williams advised me that they blocked his entrance to the engine room. I gave the Sheriff of Sangamon County this information. I, [redacted] proceeded to Mine B. When I arrived at Mine B, I saw Dominic Pasquale try to conceal a gun which he stuck in a box of chalk right next to the desk of Falcetti in the mine office. Falcetti at that time was at his desk.

"When we arrived at the office, Pasquale, Albanese, Bohannon were in conference with Falcetti, and our appearance apparently surprised them and Pasquale was not able to conceal his gun in time to prevent our seeing it. A few seconds later, three or four Deputy Sheriffs arrived. I picked the gun up and turned it over to the Deputy Sheriffs. This resulted in a search of the others present with the exception of Falcetti, and it was found that Joe Albanese was carrying a long barrel .38 revolver. Both Albanese and Pasquale were arrested at this time for carrying concealed weapons. I asked Falcetti if he were trying to stop [redacted] from working, and he said, "No". Falcetti did not reprimand any of these men for carrying weapons or for the situation that was created by their actions on this date. I instructed [redacted] to return to his work in the engine room.

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"Later in the day, I was again informed that [REDACTED] had been run off his job at Mine B. This time, it was supposed to have been done by [REDACTED] and two others with Charles Bohannon. I know that [REDACTED] was hired by John L. Lewis as an investigator for the United Mine Workers. [REDACTED] has told me that he was employed by John L. Lewis; that when Lewis told him to do a thing, he did it.

"In the local newspaper, we were advised that Mine B would open on September 27, 1937, for work. I addressed a meeting of Local No. 54, PMA, on September 26, 1937, at which time I told them all to report for work on that morning.

"On Monday morning, September 27, 1937, I went to Mine B with about 300 men of the PMA who were reporting for work with their dinner pails. I talked to Oscar Falcetti, who, at first, would give me no answer at all. Later he came out of the office and asked the UMWA to furnish 50 men for work. I told him these men who were members of the PMA were insisting on their rights under the National Labor Relations Act and are demanding pay for any displacement of men of our organization from their jobs. 10 so-called UMWA men went below to work, and three reported for work on top. I told the men that day to go in individually and report to work to Falcetti. Falcetti refused to take any of their names, and in less than a minute, left the office. However, the men continued to report for work, consulting [REDACTED] or anyone who happened to be in the office. When Falcetti asked for the 50 men, he said that he was only recognizing the United Mine Workers.

"It was about this time that I, along with others, heard that the UMWA was going to try to put the mine in operation with imported strike-breakers from downstate Illinois. There was also a rumor that they would bring some men in from Taylorville and the Midland Track, which is in Christian County, Illinois, and in which is situated four mines operated by the Peabody Coal Company and organized by the UMWA.

"On September 28, 1937, the men again went out to the mine to report for work and demanded their jobs. On this date, no one went down in the mine to work. In view of the rumor that we had heard about imported strike-breakers, the men determined to protect their jobs and simply stayed on the company property. At no time did we consider that we were striking against the company but at all times had informed the company that we were ready to go back to work. The men continued to stay at the mine until they were enjoined from doing so by an order of the United States District Court, Southern District of Illinois, on or about November 23, 1937. During this time, no violence of any sort occurred upon the mine property, and when the order was issued, the men complied with it.

"On October 8, 1937, I, with [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] had a meeting at Mine B with Elshoff concerning the entire Mine B situation. During this meeting, we felt that progress was made toward putting the mine in operation and holding an election fifteen days later to determine who would be the Bargaining Agency for the men at Mine B. This matter of fifteen days operation before an election was instituted by an Attorney, [REDACTED], for the United Mine Workers, and was simply delaying action as the United Mine Workers must have known that they did not have a majority of employees at this mine. At this meeting, Elshoff agreed to take our proposition regarding the election up with the other side. However, Elshoff failed to carry out his part in connection with holding the consent election.

"On January 4, 1938, which was the date on which the Labor Board certified the Progressives as the Bargaining Agency for Mine B, I went out to Mine B with [REDACTED]. We were stopped at the lane entrance to the mine by the company bosses. [REDACTED] United States Marshal, was also there at the entrance. [REDACTED] stated that in accordance with the injunction which had been granted in Federal Court, I could not go in on the mine property. However, the others were permitted to go in. These men later came back and reported to me that when they applied for work, Falcetti answered saying, "We have a UMW contract." After learning that PMA had been certified by the NLRB as bargaining agency I tried to contact Elshoff on this date, but later saw in the Springfield State Journal that Elshoff was going to close Mine B indefinitely. I again tried to locate Elshoff on January 7, but he was reported to be out of the city.

"On February 16, 1938, I went out to Mine B and saw [REDACTED] and served papers on him relative to the retro-active agreement of April 1, 1937, in the absence of Elshoff and Falcetti, and told him at that time that Progressive Mine Worker members only were entitled to work in the mine. Accompanying me were [REDACTED]

"Accompanied [REDACTED] I went to Mine B again on February 21, 1938, at which time I talked to Elshoff and Oscar Falcetti. I served notice on Elshoff concerning the demands for the retro-active scale due the members of Local No. 54 or certain employees who had worked continuously at the mine, such as [REDACTED] even though the mine had shut down on May 12, 1937. When Elshoff received the written demands, he said, "All right". I then asked him for a receipt and he said that he would have to see his lawyer. I then asked Elshoff about signing the contract with the PMA. He said, "The mine is shut down." I also told Elshoff I was ready at any time to sign a PMA contract. Elshoff wanted to know why I wanted a

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retro-active wages.

receipt to the demands for retro-active unpaid wages which had been presented to him. I told him if we could not settle, we may have to resort to the Civil Courts. He said that we had already entered a suit for the

"On March 14, 1938, [REDACTED] went out to Mine B to see Elshoff. Elshoff, when they appeared, told them to call up before they came out to the mine. During the conversation with Elshoff, they noted that the fan at the mine which circulates air was running at full speed, and six pit cars were loaded with props ready to send down. When these facts were reported to me, I called Elshoff, who said that the power was off and that the only juice for the lights and the fans was being supplied. He said that no work was being done in the mine.

"From then on until the expiration of my term as Board Member, I contacted Elshoff at various times trying to work out a contract without any results. I remember three or four times asking Elshoff how he was maintained the expense paying royalties and also the expense of opening the mine at some future date. He would never make a definite answer. At times, I accused him of favoring the UMW, which he never affirmed or denied.

"I have read this statement which consists of eighteen pages. All information and dates appearing herein were verified by notes kept by me in my diary, and to the best of my knowledge and recollection are true.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

After the execution of this statement a further review of [REDACTED] diary was made and it was found that on August 17, 1938, he attempted to call Elshoff at his office and was informed by [REDACTED] that Elshoff was out of the City. [REDACTED] again saw Elshoff on September 26, 1938, relative to opening the mine and signing a contract. At that time Elshoff said that market conditions were bad and that he did not know when he would open the mine.

Another attempt was made to locate Elshoff on October 8, 1938, and the last record of any conversation at all in his diary with Elshoff was on January 13, 1939. At that time [REDACTED] phoned Elshoff about a

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[REDACTED]

contract. He was again told that market conditions did not warrant the opening of the mine and that in the event business conditions in the future improved, and he considered opening the mine that he would get in touch with

Relative to the strategic importance of Mine B, [REDACTED] stated that it was the largest single mine in the Springfield Area. He stated that the Panther Creek Mines considered collectively employed more men. He considered Mine B as a strategic point of attack by UMW, particularly in the Springfield District, because it was the largest single mine under one owner.

In event any background information is desired as to the struggle between United Mine Workers and Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, [REDACTED] can give detailed information.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at the Springfield Office on September 10, 1943.

[REDACTED] has been engaged in the occupation of coal mining or associated in the activities of unions regarding same for the past [REDACTED] years.

[REDACTED] is intelligent and presents a good appearance, and will make a cooperative witness as far as the Government's case is concerned. During the pertinent periods which are covered by this investigation, he was an active official of Local 54, PMA, and attended many of the meetings in which attempts were made to reopen the mine and to negotiate a contract with CARL ELSHOFF and OSCAR FALCETTI. With regard to [REDACTED] it should be noted that he was one of those convicted in the mine bombing case during 1937, and served a two year term in a Federal institution from the middle of 1939 until September 1940.

The statement which was executed by [REDACTED] is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 10, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"My name is [REDACTED] and I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I was born [REDACTED] and ever since I was [REDACTED] years of age have been employed in coal mines or engaged in activity related to the coal mining industry. I first went to work for the Mine B Coal Company, Springfield, Illinois, under the management of Carl H. Elshoff in 1931. At that time and prior, I was a member of the United Mine Workers. However, when the Progressive Mine Workers of America formed their union in the fall of 1932 I joined them. At that time I was a member of Local No. 54, PMA, in Springfield, Illinois, which had jurisdiction over the Mine B Coal Company. In the fall of 1932 the entire membership of this local, except one man by the name of [REDACTED] voted to go with the Progressives.

"To the best of my recollection the relationships between the PMA and the management at Mine B were good from 1932 until the Spring of 1937. All grievances and difficulties arising were handled in accordance with settled procedure and there were no work stoppages or strikes during this period. I personally became aware of some agitation in Local No. 54 on the part of ten or twelve men early in April of 1937. The contract which the PMA had

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with Elshoff as an independent operator expired on March 31, 1937. Some of these men, namely, Andrew Skrelevious, Charles "Bowling Green" O'hannon, Dominic Pasquale, Tony Plotch, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Joe Albanese, "Cotton" Ananias, and perhaps a few others, were active. It was my understanding that these men were agitating among the membership, stating that the company would not recognize the retroactive pay features which might be subsequently executed in contract. I can recall that some of these men had yellow pieces of paper which were reported to have been obtained from the office of the company, principally from Oscar Falcetti, the Company Superintendent. These men were representing that this paper stated that no retroactive pay would be obtained from the company. I definitely recall that early in April the work of these men was so effective that they attempted to stop production at the mine.

"I recall that [redacted] came out to the mine and explained that the existing contracts would provide that retroactive pay would be in effect and [redacted] attempted to persuade the men to go back to work. The men were willing to go back to work. However, the company officials, namely, Falcetti, stated that it was too late and refused to send the men down into the mine. This was shortly before 8 o'clock; that starting time at the mine was 8:00 a.m. I recall that throughout the entire month of April these men continued to cause trouble, still arguing the contract question. Early in May of 1937 I remember attending one meeting at which five men were expelled. These men were Frank Austin, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Joe Albanese, and Tony Plotch. To the best of my recollection this was a regular membership meeting, the trials of these men having been held sometime previously by the trial board. This was simply a referendum to the membership of Local 54 to voice their approval of the trial board's decisions. The membership felt that the trial committee had taken the proper action. On May 12, there was a strike at Mine B. I worked in the mine all during that day until the early part of the afternoon when word came down that Elshoff had refused to recognize the closed shop contract between the Company and PMA in that he refused to fire the five men who had been expelled from the Union. I received more definite information on this matter when I came up out of the mine and talked to some of the men on top. Then for a period of approximately three weeks there was some picketing at the mine, and during this time a petition was circulated among the men in order to determine whether or not they wanted to be represented by the Progressive Mine Workers.

"Sometime in September I happened to be at the Board Office of the PMA when a call was received from [redacted] Board Member, from [redacted] saying that he had been run off the property at Mine B by Charles O'hannon, Dominic Pasquale, Joe Albanese, and others. As I recall it, [redacted] called the Sheriff of Sangamon County and I, with [redacted] drove out to the mine. We reached the mine just before the men from the Sheriff's Office

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arrived and as we went in I, together with [redacted] saw Pasquale take a gun and try to hide it in a box of some sort by Superintendent Oscar Falcetti's desk. If I remember correctly, Falcetti, Bohannon, Pasquale, and Albanese were in the room. [redacted] notified the Sheriff of what Pasquale had done and after the Sheriff found the gun a search was made of the other occupants in the room with the possible exception of Falcetti. It was found that Albanese was also carrying a gun, a revolver of some sort. These two men were arrested on that date for carrying concealed weapons. I do not recall that Falcetti said a single word during all the time that this was going on. It is my recollection, however, that [redacted] talked to Falcetti concerning returning [redacted] to work, and that [redacted] actually did go back on his job. Shortly after this in the latter part of September, 1937, there was an attempted opening of Mine B. I, along with the other employees of Mine B, reported for work that morning and I recall that Falcetti came out and told the men that they would have to be United Mine Workers to work at Mine B, inasmuch as the company had a contract with the UMW of A. Falcetti gave the explanation that he had nothing to do with the hiring of the men and that he was simply carrying out orders. On that date only ten or twelve fellows went down to work in the mine, these being the ten or twelve men who had been expelled from Local 54. There was no violence at the mine, although some words might have been passed.

"I also reported to work on the following day with a number of the men from Local 54. On this date no one went down into the mine and to the best of my recollection, the Sheriff of Sangamon County was present and requested the ten or twelve men who went down the previous day to stay in the cabin for their own protection.

"From that day on the men simply stayed out at the mine ready to go to work at any time the management would put them to work. It was about this time that we received word, more or less in the form of a rumor, that the United Mine Workers were going to try to put the mine in operation with imported strike breakers, principally from the Peabody Mines down on the Midland track in Christian County, which were all organized by the UMW of A. This picketing continued up until the latter part of November when a Federal injunction was obtained by Elshoff enjoining the men from coming on to the property. I left the mine about the middle of November and was not present when this injunction was served.

"I recall starting out to Mine B on the morning of January 4, 1938, at which time there was another attempted opening. I rode out with [redacted]. However, before we reached the mine some of the men coming back told us that the mine would not be put in operation, so we returned to Springfield.

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"In 1938 I was elected a member of the Pit Committee, together with [REDACTED] and it was part of the duties of my office to attend all meetings looking forward to negotiations with a contract with Elshoff in the settlement of grievances. I remember going out to the mine with [REDACTED] and other members of the Pit Committee sometime in February, 1938, and talking to [REDACTED] concerning retroactive pay for certain of the men, namely, [REDACTED], and possibly others, who had continued to work at the mine on May 12, 1937. I later returned in the same month with [REDACTED] and the Pit Committee at this time talking to Elshoff and Falcetti. As I recall [REDACTED] was more or less the spokesman for our group as this would naturally be his job as Board Member. Elshoff and Falcetti were approached relative to the opening of the mine and recognition of the contract. To the best of my recollection, Elshoff's answer was that the mine was shut down and there was no business so why sign a contract.

"In March of 1938 we received word that some work was going on at the mine and that mules were being brought up out of the mine. I went out to the mine with [REDACTED] was along. As we drove up Elshoff met us and asked us what we were doing out there and if we did not know that there was an injunction. We said that surely we could come out there on business. We went in to talk to Falcetti, stating that if there was any work going on at the mine we were claiming it for members of Progressive Local No. 54. I can recall seeing Frank Austin at the mine that day. Falcetti told us that there was no work going on at the mine and that these mules were to be used by Frank Austin, and they were simply performing that work as payment. There was to be no remuneration for the work they were doing outside of the fact that they were to get to use the mules. We noted at the time that the fan of the mine was in operation. We went into Springfield and reported what we had found to [REDACTED].

"I can also recall going out to the mine at least a couple of times after that with members of the Pit Committee to discuss the opening of the mine and signing a contract with Elshoff. The answer was always the same -- there is no business and the mine is shut down. I cannot recall the exact dates of these conferences. My office was necessarily taken over by [REDACTED] in the summer of 1939 during my absence, and I had nothing to do with the grievances and troubles arising at Mine B when it opened in the fall of that year.

"With respect to the Mine A situation and the switch on the part of employees of that mine from Progressive to UMW of A, I can remember attending at least one meeting in the PMA Hall in September of 1941. Several men, namely, [REDACTED] took the

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floor to make various addresses. In general their argument was that if they did not join the UMW of A, Elshoff would not open the mine. There was in fact a general rumor that Elshoff had said that Mine A would not be in operation under the Progressives. On that night I also heard that there was a fight on the floor of the Union and that [REDACTED] was one of those participating. The next meeting of this local was held in the Elks Club at which time it was my understanding that they voted to go UMW of A.

"I have read this statement which consists of seven pages, and to the best of my knowledge it is the truth."

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED] Special Agent F.B.I.  
[REDACTED] Special Agent, F.B.I."

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[REDACTED] Illinois, [REDACTED] appeared at the Springfield Office on several occasions to furnish information of interest to this investigation. His attitude is extremely cooperative and he is willing and anxious to testify concerning all matters within his knowledge. In spite of the fact that he is bitter toward LEWIS, EDMUNDSON and JAMES because of their dictatorial methods and because of his expulsion from UMW, nevertheless, he appears to have sufficient poise and intelligence to testify in an impartial manner. It is anticipated, of course, that an effort would be made to discredit his testimony on the ground of bias.

With reference to [REDACTED] statement that he went to Mine "B" September 27 and 28 and December 13, 1937, it is noted that he has an automobile mileage diary which reflects his travel to Mine "B" on those dates. This diary also reflects travel to Mine "B" on January 4, 1938.

[REDACTED] executed the following signed statement which is dated September 7, 1943, but which was actually signed by him September 9, 1943:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 7, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I understand fully that I cannot be required to make or sign any statement in connection with this matter.

"I reside at [REDACTED] Illinois. I am presently employed as [REDACTED] My office address is [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I was born in [REDACTED]

"From [REDACTED] until November 20, 1942, I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America, except from 1917 to 1919, during which time I was not employed as a miner.

"[REDACTED] From that time until November 20, 1942, I fulfilled the duties of District Board Member. The offices I held throughout this entire period were elective offices.

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"As District Board Member my duties were handling grievances that arose between the members of the UMW and the management of the different mines within the jurisdiction of the Board Member; also, internal grievances that arose from the application of the Constitution of the United Mine Workers of America. My duties also included organizing local unions and installing officers of whatever local unions might be set up by the United Mine Workers of America.

"During the Spring of 1937 over a period of several months I had several conversations concerning Mine "B", a coal mine located near Springfield, Illinois, with RAY EDMUNDSON, who was President of District 12, UMW. EDMUNDSON stated during these conversations that he was very much interested in eliminating the Progressive Miners of America at this mine and in bringing the miners employed there into the UMW. EDMUNDSON stated that if the membership of Mine "B" could be won over, the strength of the Progressive Miners of America in the Springfield area would collapse. EDMUNDSON commented that this was one of the largest locals the Progressives had in the Springfield area.

"During this period of several months in the Spring of 1937, EDMUNDSON from time to time introduced me to various individuals at the UMW Headquarters in Springfield. He stated these men worked at Mine "B" but were interested in becoming members of UMW. I recall the following persons as being among those introduced to me by EDMUNDSON during this period: FRANK AUSTIN, HETE CARTER, DOMINIC PASQUALE and PASQUALE's son, 'COTTON' ANANIAS, JAMES HALE, TONY PLOTCH, ANDREW SKRLEVICUS, EMORY JACKAY, GEORGE JACKAWY, and JOE ALBANESE - also known as SAM CATALONE. My conversations with these men during that period revealed that they were attempting to induce other employees of Mine "B" to desire affiliations with the UMW. I do not know whether these men were being paid for their work on behalf of UMW at that time.

"I recall that my conversations with EDMUNDSON and also my contacts with these men, all of which I have related above, occurred prior to a strike at Mine "B" on May 12, 1937. I also recall that during the several months prior to this strike I frequently saw CARL H. ELSHOFF at UMW Headquarters and on numerous occasions I saw him entering or leaving RAY EDMUNDSON's office.

"A short time subsequent to the strike at Mine "B", EDMUNDSON instructed me to attend a meeting with the men I have mentioned above, which meeting was held in a vacant room next-door to Scotty's Tavern, which was located at the corner of 18th and Adams Streets in Springfield. I cannot place the date of this meeting definitely but I know that it took place in the Summer of 1937 and was not more than a few weeks after the strike. As nearly as I can recall all the men whom I have listed above attended this meeting, and CHARLES 'BOWLING GREEN' BOHANNON, a Mine "B" employee was also

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present. I believe several other persons also attended this meeting but I am unable to recall their names.

"EDMUNDSON had instructed me to ascertain from these men what could be done to obtain for UMW a majority of the men employed at Mine "B". Accordingly, I took this matter up with these men and their proposition was that if they were given \$10,000.00 they felt confident they would be able to swing a majority of the men to UMW. They stated they would have to spend a good deal of money to work their way into the PMA membership. BOHANNON was the principal spokesman for these men in presenting this proposition.

"In the presence of these men I telephoned to RAY EDMUNDSON and, after I explained their proposition to him, he instructed me to turn it down, commenting that he could buy the mine for \$10,000.00. Accordingly, I informed the men that their proposition was not satisfactory to EDMUNDSON.

"During the next few weeks I saw various individuals mentioned above around UMW Headquarters from time to time, but I had no further formal discussion with them concerning the Mine "B" matter.

"Near the end of July, 1937, I was instructed by EDMUNDSON to install the officers of a new UMW local which had been organized at Mine "B". I had nothing to do with the organization of this local and did not know it had been organized until EDMUNDSON instructed me to install the officers. About 25 members attended the meeting when the officers were installed and I understood that all these members had been employed at Mine "B" prior to the strike.

"On August 20, 1937, I signed a working agreement for Mine "B" with CARL H. ELSHOFF. This contract was signed at UMW Headquarters. I had nothing to do with the preparation of this contract and I merely signed as Board Member at EDMUNDSON's instruction. ELSHOFF was there at the time the contract was signed but I do not recall that we had any discussion concerning putting the mine in operation. Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have displayed to me a photostatic copy of a contract dated at Chicago, Illinois, August 18, 1937, which contract was signed by RAY EDMUNDSON and CARL H. ELSHOFF. I wish to state that I have never seen the original of this contract and did not know of the existence of this contract until the photostatic copy was displayed to me by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

"Prior to the time the contract was signed on August 20, 1937, I had understood that ELSHOFF had applied for membership in the Illinois Coal Operators Association. I do not recall exactly how this information came to me but I think possibly I was told by [REDACTED]

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"On September 20, 1937, I again signed a contract with ELSHOFF concerning Mine "B". As I recall this contract was also signed at UMW Headquarters. I had no part in the preparation of this contract and I merely signed as a Board Member at EDMUNDSON's instruction. With reference to the purpose of signing this second contract with ELSHOFF, it is my recollection that his failure to become a member of the Illinois Coal Operators Association had something to do with the necessity for signing the second contract.

"I wish to state that prior to the signing of the second contract it became known that the Progressives had instituted some sort of proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board. I recall that I signed certain documents in connection with this matter which were presented to me for signature, but I had nothing to do with preparing these documents and I don't recall the technicalities involved.

"At the time the second contract was signed nothing in particular was said about operating the mine. However, it appeared to be the general understanding that the purpose in signing the contract was to get a basis for commencing operations.

"A few days after September 20th, EDMUNDSON left town but before he left he informed me it had been decided to attempt to operate the mine under the UMW contract on September 27, 1937. He instructed me to take the necessary steps to attempt to place the mine in operation on that date. Inasmuch as it was well known to both EDMUNDSON and myself that the UMW local at Mine "B" had not over 25 members, I assumed that he intended for me to obtain a sufficient number of UMW members from wherever they might be obtainable in order to put the mine in operation. Accordingly, I made arrangements to have between 75 and 100 miners sent to Springfield from the so-called 'Midland Track' mines, that is, Peabody Mines No. 7, No. 8 and No. 9, which are located in Christian County, Illinois. I had these men report at UMW Headquarters at about 2:00 A. M., September 27th.

"Early on the morning of September 27th, ELSHOFF and his Superintendent, OSCAR FALCETTI, came to UMW Headquarters to make sure that all arrangements were complete before attempting to operate the mine. When they saw this large group of men around the Headquarters, they seemed surprised and asked what the men were doing there. I told them that UMW had a contract to operate the mine and I had simply brought in enough men to fulfill UMW's end of the contract. I also pointed out to him that it was no 'Tea Party' to open a mine which had been operated by a rival union. ELSHOFF then said he did not want these men to go out to the mine because there might be trouble. He said he simply wanted to start cleaning up the mine with the few men among his employees who belonged to the UMW with the hope that after these men went into the mine the others would gradually sign up with UMW in order to be able to go to work. He said he thought

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that in this manner there would finally be enough of his employees go over to UMW that the mine could be operated again. ELSHOFF then telephonically contacted RAY EDMUNDSON, who was in Chicago. I believe EDMUNDSON was staying at the Morrison Hotel. He told EDMUNDSON he did not want any trouble to be caused by taking these men out to the mine and I then talked to EDMUNDSON on the telephone and he instructed me to tell the men to return to Christian County without going to Mine "B".

"Accordingly, on the morning of September 27, 1937, only about a dozen UMW men, who were formerly employees of Mine "B", went down into the mine. These were the men I had met at UMW Headquarters prior to the strike on May 12th. About 100 other employees of Mine "B" were congregated along the Jacksonville Road about one-half mile from the mine but, although the atmosphere was tense, there was no violence and the men who went into the mine to work were not molested.

"On the morning of September 27th, I stayed in the mine office until about 9:00 o'clock and it was apparent by that time that no further employees intended to go down into the mine. Accordingly, I returned to UMW Headquarters and reported to EDMUNDSON in Chicago that the attempted opening was a 'flop'. EDMUNDSON just passed the matter off by commenting that it was simply the type of thing which will happen once in a while.

"I don't recall whether ELSHOFF blew the whistle for work next day but I do recall I went out to the mine the morning after. The handful of men who had worked the previous day came out to the mine office but they did not attempt to go to work. However, I think possibly FRANK AUSTIN went below for the purpose of feeding the mules. A considerable number of Mine "B" employees were on the Jacksonville Road again that morning and believe there were also about a dozen of them standing around on the mine premises, apparently merely for the purpose of watching. There was no violence that morning.

"During my conversations with FALCETTI and ELSHOFF at the mine office on September 27th and 28th, FALCETTI named over various employees whose names I cannot recall whom he stated were men having prestige among the employees. He indicated that if these leaders could be won over there was a good chance that most of the men would then follow them into the UMW. However, no plans concerning contacting these men were made. I might state that my conversations at this time with ELSHOFF and FALCETTI were not very comprehensive, inasmuch as this entire matter had been handled more or less as a private deal between ELSHOFF, EDMUNDSON and WALTER J. JAMES, who was Secretary-Treasurer of District 12, UMW. As I have indicated before, these men did not consult me for advice on the various steps involved in this matter. They simply gave me routine instructions whenever the occasion made this necessary.

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"On one occasion in the Fall of 1937, subsequent to the attempted opening on September 27th, EDMUNDSON called me and said he wanted to see me at UMW Headquarters. When I met him at UMW Headquarters he asked me to drive him out to ELSHOFF's residence for a conference. At ELSHOFF's residence we started to talk about the question of getting enough men to operate Mine "B", but shortly after the conference started EDMUNDSON said he wanted to talk to ELSHOFF in private and, accordingly, they left the room and held a confidential conversation for about ten minutes. EDMUNDSON then asked me to drop him off at the Leland Hotel. He did not inform me concerning the details of his discussion with ELSHOFF.

"Subsequent to September 27th, I had nothing further to do with the Mine "B" matter aside from the incident related in the preceding paragraph until the early part of December. However, during this period I did occasionally see the men who were trying to convert the employees of Mine "B" to UMW and the reports of these men indicated they were not making much headway.

"Two or three days prior to December 13, 1937, EDMUNDSON told me they were going to try to operate the mine on December 13th to see how many men would report for work, inasmuch as an injunction had gone into effect removing the PMA picket line. He asked me to go out to the mine on the morning of December 13th to see what happened. I went to the mine that morning but only about a dozen men showed up for work and these were the men whom I had met at UMW Headquarters prior to the strike on May 12th. There was no one around to stop men from reporting for work and the small attendance simply indicated that the UMW drive to convert members had failed. After this EDMUNDSON stated the UMW would not participate in the election which was to be held by the National Labor Relations Board on December 15th. EDMUNDSON said that it was apparent that UMW would get very few votes. He said that he had ascertained that the Progressive employees of Mine "B" intended to report at their Headquarters and vote in a body.

"I understood from indirect sources that after December 15, 1937, ELSHOFF and EDMUNDSON had a big argument. I understood that ELSHOFF told EDMUNDSON that if he could not make any better progress in breaking down the Progressive local he would simply have to sign a contract with the Progressives and operate with Progressive personnel. I understood that at this time EDMUNDSON was angry about the matter because he claimed he had already thrown away a good deal of money in the Mine "B" matter and had nothing to show for it. However, I did not hear any reports at that time as to whether EDMUNDSON and ELSHOFF had come to any understanding concerning further financial arrangements.

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"On or about January 1, 1938, EDMUNDSON advised me it had been decided to make another attempt to operate the mine on January 4, 1938. He instructed me to go out to the mine that morning and see what happened. I went to the mine that morning and only the usual group of about 12 men appeared for work. However, in addition to this group there were also present [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The other men brought lunch buckets and work clothes as though they intended to work, but [REDACTED] appeared in business suits. At that time both of these men were employed at Peabody Mine #59, but it was generally understood in Springfield that they were on the UMW payroll, at least part of the time, as field workers. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] did most of the talking with ELSHOFF and FALCETTI that morning. [REDACTED] talked in an officious manner and it was perfectly evident that they were present as official representatives of the UMW rather than as candidates for employment at mine work. To my knowledge, both ELSHOFF and FALCETTI had previously been acquainted with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

"I simply reported to EDMUNDSON that only about a dozen men appeared for work the morning of January 4th and he gave me no further instructions concerning Mine "B" at that time. He did not disclose to me what his plans were concerning this situation.

"I had nothing further to do with the Mine "B" matter. This mine opened up in the Fall of 1939 on an open shop basis but EDMUNDSON specifically instructed me to stay out of the matter, inasmuch as it would be handled by 'the office'. By this he meant that it would be handled by himself, and WALTER J. JAMES.

"Sometime during the Spring of 1941 I met [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told me that District 12, UMW, had advanced ELSHOFF a large sum of money. I do not recall definitely the figure he stated but it is my impression that the amount he stated was \$400,000.00. He said ELSHOFF had been paid \$3,000.00 per month for keeping his mines down for the Summer months and \$5,000.00 during the Winter months. He also told me that because of the money paid to ELSHOFF, the International had authorized District 12 to retain in its own treasury both the regular International assessment and all special International assessments which otherwise would have been paid into the International treasury.

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[REDACTED] After  
this story broke in the Post-Dispatch, EDMUNDSON was quoted in a later article as stating the matter had the approval of the District 12 membership. JAMES was quoted as admitting the payments to ELSHOFF were in the form of a loan. ELSHOFF was quoted as admitting receipt of the money but as denying that it was a loan.

[REDACTED]

"Thereafter, RAY EDMUNDSON and WALTER J. JAMES charged me with violation of Section 3, Article 21 of the International Constitution.

"On the night of November 19, 1942, I attended a meeting of UMW Local 906 which covers the membership at Peabody Mine #59. This meeting was held on the 7th floor of UMW Headquarters. EDMUNDSON and JAMES were present. A large delegation from Mine "B" was present at this meeting. EDMUNDSON took the floor and condemned the Internal Revenue service for starting an investigation of the matter and he even stated he was going to start a law suit against the Government. He also stated he was going to demand a congressional investigation of the affair. JAMES took the floor and said the purpose of the payments was to put Mine "B" in operation under the banner of UMW. He said it had been a good investment. He pointed out that as a result of the payments, UMW had acquired in the neighborhood of 500 new members and he said that already the dues and assessments from these new members amounted to a sizeable figure. I believe he said that over \$80,000.00 had been received from these new members. Neither he nor EDMUNDSON said anything to indicate they were looking to ELSHOFF for payment and neither of them made any comment whatever concerning ELSHOFF's ability to repay. However, they did refer to these payments as a loan.

"On the following day, November 20, 1942, I was suspended from UMW for six months and barred from holding office for two years.

"I wish to add that in the early Fall of 1932 I was present in a room in the Leland Hotel in Springfield where ELSHOFF and JOHN L. LEWIS were also present. At this time ELSHOFF personally assured LEWIS that he would

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] never sign a contract with the Progressives. However,  
(continued) as nearly as I can recall ELSHOFF did sign a contract with  
the Progressives a few hours after this meeting.

"I have read the foregoing statement, consisting of thirteen type-written pages, and I acknowledge that the information set forth herein is correct to the best of my recollection.

[REDACTED] (signed)

"WITNESSES:

[REDACTED] Special Agent FBI /S/  
[REDACTED] Special Agent FBI" /S/

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REINTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Upon the telephonic request of Special Agent [REDACTED] WILLIAM M. RYAN [REDACTED] Mr. WILLIAM M. RYAN, the former owner of Mine "A", Springfield, Illinois, came to the Springfield Office. At this time Mr. RYAN was approached by Special Agent [REDACTED] and Special Agent [REDACTED] relative to a signed statement regarding his conversations with EDMUNDSON in the early part of 1937 and the complete details of the sale of Mine "A". Mr. RYAN flatly refused to execute a signed statement unless he consulted his attorney. He said that he was willing to testify in the instant trial and that he would be glad to confer with those handling the prosecution before taking the witness stand.

Mr. RYAN was interrogated in minute detail relative to this conversation with EDMUNDSON in 1937 in an effort to get the exact words or their essence. It appears that EDMUNDSON did not reach the point where he made a definite proposition to RYAN to close down his mine in order that the United Mine Workers could organize it. Neither was any offer made to RYAN to subsidize him in case any financial losses were sustained and the mine had to be shut down. To the best of his recollection, Mr. RYAN stated that EDMUNDSON called him in the early part of 1937 approximately three months before Mine "B" actually closed down, requesting him to come down to the United Mine Workers' office.

Mr. RYAN stated that he complied with this telephonic request and in the initial part of the conversation with EDMUNDSON there was a general discussion about the weather and other non-controversial issues. EDMUNDSON at length asked RYAN what he thought of the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers. Mr. RYAN stated he sensed a proposition was in the offing and in order to forestall this he definitely stated his position, saying: 'I do not see any difference between either one. They have the same contracts, the same grievance procedure and the operator experiences the same grief with both.' RYAN stated that he was already treating with one union and did not see why he should consider any other. He told EDMUNDSON that if he should commit himself in that fashion, by and by these two unions would go back together, compare notes and then they would really put the pressure on him. EDMUNDSON then asked RYAN how he thought GEORGE SOLOMON of the Panther Creek Mines, Inc., would feel about the United Mine Workers and Progressive Mine Workers. He also asked RYAN the same question concerning CARL H. ELSHOFF. Mr. RYAN advised that he told EDMUNDSON that he did not know how either of these two men felt about that question and if EDMUNDSON wanted to know he would have to see ELSHOFF or SOLOMON.

In Mr. RYAN's explanation of the conversation, he advised that due to their background in the mining industry and labor relations, a great deal was understood between them without the actual expression in words. RYAN was certain that he was being approached by EDMUNDSON in order to make a deal with the United Mine Workers. However, it is difficult for

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WILLIAM M. RYAN  
(continued)

Mr. RYAN to understand why, in the event he is called to testify, his conclusions as to the unspoken effort on the part of EDMUNDSON could not be introduced in evidence.

It is anticipated in case Mr. RYAN is called to testify that some difficulty may arise in this situation and with respect to Mr. RYAN's attempting to state his conclusions and inferences from his conversation with EDMUNDSON.

Mr. RYAN advised that he expected to go to California within the near future and in the event he did, he would notify the Springfield Office of his address. He expected to go to Los Angeles and advised he generally stayed at the Biltmore Hotel.

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The investigative notes which were taken by Special Agent [redacted] during the interview are being retained in the files of this office.

With respect to the details of the sale of Mine "A", the narrative of these events, as set forth in the investigative report of this office dated September 4, 1943, was reviewed with Mr. RYAN and he stated that this was correct.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

REINTERVIEW WITH ROBERT C. SOLOMON      Mr. ROBERT C. SOLOMON, President of Panther Creek Coal Mines, Inc., after some reflection, advised Special Agent [redacted] that he had called for the facts concerning the attempted purchase of the Panther Creek Coal Mines by CARL H. ELSHOFF and desired to see Special Agent [redacted] again.

Mr. SOLOMON from his attitude and cooperation is well-disposed toward this investigation and is willing to testify. He advised that he got along very well with ELSHOFF from 1932 up until the time that he became involved with JOHN L. LEWIS in 1937. Since that time, however, Mr. SOLOMON has experienced considerable difficulty in dealing with ELSHOFF and has heard that ELSHOFF blames him for the success of the organizational efforts of the Progressive Mine Workers of America in the Springfield area.

Mr. SOLOMON was reinterviewed and the following statement was submitted by him:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 9, 1943

"STATEMENT OF ROBERT C. SOLOMON, PRESIDENT OF THE PANTHER CREEK COAL MINES, INC.

"As President of the Panther Creek Coal Mines, Inc., I recall the following facts, circumstances and conversations relative to the attempted purchase of these properties by CARL H. ELSHOFF of Springfield, Illinois, during the years of 1941 and 1942:

"It is my understanding that the original approach to purchase these properties was made by Mr. HARRY ALLEN, representative of the Alton Railroad Co., to Mr. HARRY MORGAN, Secretary-Treasurer of the Panther Creek Co. during the summer of 1941. It was these two gentlemen who eventually brought Mr. CARL H. ELSHOFF into the picture as a possible purchaser. In the early stages of these negotiations they were carried on more or less secretly with Mr. MORGAN. However, due to Mr. MORGAN's ill health he was not able to continue actively in the business, and these parties were eventually forced to come to me.

"I had several telephonic conversations with ELSHOFF concerning the possible purchase of the Panther Creek Mines, and eventually I told him that if he were actually interested that we should sit down and go into the details in a serious and business like manner. Consequently, a conference was arranged on June 11, 1942, which was attended by myself, my attorneys, Mr. CLAYTON J. BARBER and L. G. FLIFFERLE, and CARL H. ELSHOFF.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

REINTERVIEW WITH  
ROBERT C. SOLOMON  
(continued)

"During that conference various propositions were formulated, one of them being that possibly ELSHOFF could purchase the capital stock of the Panther Creek Mines, Inc., and thus gain control of the corporation. ELSHOFF did not entertain such a proposal as this, inasmuch as the corporate set-up of the Panther Creek Mines would remain intact, and as such it would still retain its obligations including labor contracts, which at that time and at present are with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. It was then proposed that ELSHOFF lease the properties. This was discussed more or less at length, and it was agreed that the proposition should be drawn up in a letter of some sort. ELSHOFF stated that before accepting any proposal he would have to consult his people in Washington. Mr. BARBER then kidded ELSHOFF to some extent stating that he probably meant that he would have to go to see the man with the 'big bushy eyebrows'. ELSHOFF did not respond either negatively or affirmatively to this statement of Mr. BARBER's but sort of smiled when it was passed.

"During this interview ELSHOFF made it plain that he wished to gain control of the entire properties, and that in the event he did so he would change the name of the corporation.

"As the result of this conference a letter was drawn up which is dated June 11, 1942, addressed to Mr. ELSHOFF and beginning:

"This is to confirm our discussion this morning, wherein it was indicated that Panther Creek Mines, Inc. is willing to lease to you all of its coal mining properties, with the option to purchase or to renew, all on the following basis.'

"I am not advised as to whether or not definitely ELSHOFF did go to Washington, D. C. to consult with JOHN L. LEWIS. However, I have received information from various sources that trips were made to Washington possibly with Mr. HARRY ALLEN.

"On July 6, 1942, ELSHOFF by letter answered our proposal of June 11, 1942, stating that the proposition which was outlined is not satisfactory, and 'we decline to accept it in its form'. ELSHOFF indicated in his letter that he desired to discuss the matter further, and to possibly make a counter proposal. However, instead of doing this these parties, particularly ALLEN and CARROLL, attempted to apply pressure in order to force a transfer of the properties through officials of the Marine Bank of Springfield. ALLEN and CARROLL intimated that if the mines were not open, particularly the Auburn, they, meaning the Alton Railroad, would have to cut down on orders. I stated that I was unable to finance an opening of the Auburn Mine, but was willing to sell or lease it at the right terms,

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

REINTERVIEW WITH  
ROBERT C. SOLOMON  
(continued)

were actually made.

and gave them an oral proposition based on the one made June 11, 1942, in a modified form. They seemed to think this was all right. However, this apparently did not meet with the approval of ELSHOFF for no further negotiations

"In his letter dated October 30, 1942, ELSHOFF again indicated an interest in the purchase of the Auburn Mine at Auburn, Illinois. He proposed to purchase this mine by paying royalty of 10¢ per ton for a given period of time. In this manner he would obtain complete title to all property. This was the last that I heard of this matter.

"Read above  
and to best of my  
recollection is  
correct.

R.C.S."(signed)

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
L. G. PEFFERLE.

On September 4, 1943 Special Agents

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed L. G. PEFFERLE,

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Attorney, Reisch Building, Springfield, Illinois, concerning information furnished by ROBERT C. SOLOMON, recorded in report of reference. Mr. PEFFERLE confirmed that he represented SOLOMON in connection with negotiations between SOLOMON and ELSHOFF. In these negotiations CLAYTON J. BARBER was also present. Mr. PEFFERLE advised that at no time during these negotiations, which concerned the possible purchase of Panther Creek mine properties by ELSHOFF from SOLOMON, did ELSHOFF ever mention where the money for this purchase would come from. It was the opinion of PEFFERLE that ELSHOFF or the Mine "B" Coal Company would not have sufficient funds to enter into any negotiation as large as the one under discussion. SOLOMON and PEFFERLE were discussing a sum of approximately \$900,000, while ELSHOFF was discussing a sum of approximately \$400,000. During these discussions at different times ELSHOFF said to PEFFERLE that he would have "to see my people". PEFFERLE stated that he never questioned ELSHOFF as to who his people or financial backers might be. "I more or less assumed that it would be either District 12, United Mine Workers or the International United Mine Workers, or JOHN L. LEWIS, but of course my assumption was based upon common gossip and upon matters incidental to the negotiation."

PEFFERLE said that at no time during the negotiations in connection with the Panther Creek properties did RAY EDUNSON or JOHN L. LEWIS ever contact him or to his knowledge any of the parties involved. "During the negotiations it appeared to me that ELSHOFF would not be able to secure sufficient money to purchase the Panther Creek properties at our figure of about \$900,000. Because of this fact and because of the desire on our part to save money in connection with the payment of income tax, not only for ourselves, but also pointing out it would save money in connection with income tax for ELSHOFF, we suggested that a lease arrangement might be worked out. This lease arrangement would provide for a certain yearly payment on the lease over a period of ten years, and if the lessee decided to purchase then the payments of annual lease rent would apply on the principal. I felt that this was a rather attractive offer and since ELSHOFF did not accept the offer and from his general demeanor and attitude at the time, it is my opinion that he really did not want to personally buy the Panther Creek properties at all." ELSHOFF apparently objected to the lease proposition because it might give rise to what ELSHOFF felt was a bad feature, namely that if ELSHOFF secured the property on lease that might leave the Progressive Mine Workers of America some claim to job rights under their existing contracts. The Panther Creek mines were Progressive Mine Worker mines at the time. ELSHOFF stated that it would have to be an exceptionally clean-cut proposition, apparently referring to complete severing of all rights, including those of labor.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
L. G. PEFFERLE.  
(Continued)

Mr. PEFFERLE stated that the feeling pervading in the negotiations was that the successful outcome of these negotiations would mean the end of the Progressive Mine

Workers of America in the mine. Nothing was mentioned by any of the parties directly on this point however.

PEFFERLE pointed out to Agents that EDMUND BURKE, attorney from the firm of Gillespie, Burke and Gillespie, Reisch Building, Springfield, Illinois, first became attorney for JOHN L. LEWIS in about 1929 or 1930 during the time that injunction proceedings were initiated against LEWIS by the officers of District 12, United Mine Workers. Since that time and up to date EDMUND BURKE has remained attorney for JOHN L. LEWIS. PEFFERLE believes that BURKE is retained by LEWIS for a fee of approximately \$150.00 per month, plus additional costs when particular matters arise, and that his services are paid from the International United Mine Workers. His reason for believing that BURKE'S retainer fee and other fees are paid from the International is that BURKE represented RAY EDMUNDSON in connection with a murder charge as a result of a shooting in Springfield, Illinois on an Easter Sunday about eight or nine years ago. At that time RAY EDMUNDSON told PEFFERLE that none of BURKE's attorney fees in connection with the defense of RAY EDMUNDSON showed on the books of District 12 or Local #50, but rather were all taken care of through the international union.

PEFFERLE also stated that one E. S. PERRY, manager of the Leland Hotel, Springfield, purchased his coal for the Leland Hotel from ELSHOFF prior to 1932 when ELSHOFF was operating a United Mine Workers mine. After ELSHOFF's mine became a Progressive Mine Workers mine PERRY, apparently desiring to retain the business of the United Mine Workers officials for his hotel, and which apparently he considered lucrative, discontinued purchasing coal from ELSHOFF and began purchasing coal from Peabody Coal Company, which was a United Mine Workers operated mine. Thereafter PEFFERLE stated that JOHN L. LEWIS made a long distance call to PERRY, asking him why he had stopped buying coal from ELSHOFF and requesting him to again buy coal from ELSHOFF. PERRY's reply to LEWIS allegedly was that since ELSHOFF's mine was no longer a United Mine Workers mine, he had purposely switched coal companies in order to favor United Mine Workers with his business. PEFFERLE is unable to state the source of this information, other than to say that it was a story which came to him from various people in the coal industry, the veracity of which he has no doubt.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
L. G. PEFFERLE. On September 8, 1943, in view of additional information furnished by CLAYTON J. BARBER, and in view of  
(Continued) the fact that he stated he had talked with PEFFERLE in

b7c an attempt to refresh their minds correctly on the matter, Special Agent [redacted] re-interviewed Mr. PEFFERLE.

In addition to the information already reported, Mr. PEFFERLE after examining a copy of a letter addressed June 11, 1942 to CARL H. ELSHOFF and containing the offer by the Panther Creek Mine Company to make a lease to ELSHOFF, recalled that this was one of the main meetings of the parties in connection with ELSHOFF's negotiations for Panther Creek. He recalled several other meetings before this meeting, the exact number, time and place of which he could not recall. He did remember one instance, however, previous to the meeting on June 11, 1942, when he met ELSHOFF at ELSHOFF's office, at which time ELSHOFF exhibited a large pile of photostatic copies of information pertaining to an appraisal which the Panther Creek Mines had had made. The Panther Creek Mine had previously contemplated attempting to secure a loan from Reconstruction Finance Corporation and for this reason had had the appraisal made. ELSHOFF had undoubtedly secured photostatic copies of the appraisal from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and in this connection claimed that the Panther Creek people had to some extent misrepresented Panther Creek Mines.

Mr. PEFFERLE recalled that the main meeting, at which an offer of lease was made, took place in the forenoon in the office of CLAYTON J. BARBER, attorney for the Panther Creek Mine Company. Present were Mr. ROBERT SOLOMON, President of Panther Creek Mines, Mr. BARBER, representing Panther Creek Mines, Mr. PEFFERLE, who represented the Panther Creek Mines in connection with compensation claims, and Mr. CARL ELSHOFF. Mr. PEFFERLE recalled that the suggestion was made that CARL ELSHOFF secure control of Panther Creek Mines by purchasing the capital stock. He would thus obtain all the assets and liabilities and contracts of Panther Creek Mine. ELSHOFF stated that he was not interested in purchasing the capital stock because all rights of the corporate entity and all contracts of it would be included and he would be tied up with a contract with the PMA Union.

Mr. PEFFERLE further recalled in addition to the information set out above, that ELSHOFF stated that the lease proposition would carry with it the labor contracts and that "I don't want those." ELSHOFF wanted to buy only the physical property. On June 11, 1942, ELSHOFF also stated, to the best of PEFFERLE's recollection, "I've got to have it in writing to take to my people in Washington." Here he meant the proposition or offer of Panther Creek Mines.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
L. G. PEFFERLE.  
(Continued)

PEFFERLE stated that it was his understanding that the "people in Washington" was JOHN L. LEWIS, but ELSHOFF did not say so.

During the conversation Attorney BARBER, according to PEFFERLE, kidded ELSHOFF about the "man with the heavy eyebrows", as being the financial backer of the purchase. To this ELSHOFF never admitted or denied anything. PEFFERLE stated that the original discussions, considerations were for all Panther Creek mine properties, but that they also talked about Panther Creek Auburn Mine No. 1.

Mr. PEFFERLE was unable to recall any statement at any later meetings with ELSHOFF wherein ELSHOFF said that his people in Washington turned the proposition down. He said that at one time during the conference on June 11, 1942, when the price question was being discussed that it was his (PEFFERLE's) information that the money was available to which ELSHOFF replied that he could get the money.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH Special Agent [REDACTED] interviewed CLAYTON H.  
CLAYTON J. BARBER. BARBER, attorney, 10th Floor, First National Bank

Building, Springfield, Illinois, on September 7, 1943. Mr. BARBER advised that he has been attorney for the Panther Creek Coal Company over a long period of time; that in this capacity he knew of negotiations between the Panther Creek Mines and CARL H. ELSHOFF, which began, to the best of his recollection, sometime during May of 1942. He stated that on June 11, 1942 a meeting was held in his office between ROBERT SOLOMON, President of the Panther Creek Mines, PEPPERLE, another attorney for Panther Creek Mines, CARL H. ELSHOFF and himself. He refreshed his recollection in connection with this date by a copy of a letter addressed to CARL H. ELSHOFF, dated June 11, 1942, and beginning, "This is to confirm our discussion this morning, wherein it was indicated that Panther Creek Mines, Inc., is willing to lease to you all of its coal mining properties \*\*\*".

During the conversation Mr. BARBER recalled that when the proposition was made to ELSHOFF he stated, to the best of BARBER's recollection, "I will have to go to Washington to see my people about it," that as a matter of fact the offer to ELSHOFF was written at ELSHOFF's request as ELSHOFF stated that he wanted a sales talk "for Washington". Mr. BARBER stated that during the conference he kidded ELSHOFF about "the man with the big eyebrows", as being the real purchaser. ELSHOFF neither admitted nor denied this and at no time during the conference did ELSHOFF actually indicate who would furnish the money. Mr. BARBER understood from ELSHOFF's financial status that ELSHOFF would not be able to finance the deal himself. During the conversation it was suggested that ELSHOFF obtain control of Panther Creek Mines by purchasing the capital stock. ELSHOFF stated that he was not interested in this because to obtain control of the company in that manner would retain the name, identity, assets, liabilities and contracts of the corporation and ELSHOFF plainly stated that he did not desire to take over the PMA labor contract of the Panther Creek Mines, Inc.

In connection with the proposition a document entitled "Savings to Lessee as Compared with an Immediate Purchase" was prepared in Mr. BARBER's office. This was at the request of ELSHOFF and was to be part of his sales talk for his people in Washington. Mr. BARBER's file in this connection reveals the original and a copy of this document so that he is unable to state whether the information contained therein was ever furnished to CARL H. ELSHOFF. The information which is contained in this document is information showing a savings to the lessee by entering into the proposed lease agreement previously mentioned and copies of which have been furnished to this office by ROBERT SOLOMON.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
CLAYTON J. BARBER.  
(Continued)

Mr. BARBER states that thereafter he received a signed copy of a letter dated July 6, 1943, addressed to ROBERT C. SOLOMON, President, Panther

Creek Mines, Inc., and signed by CARL H. ELSHOFF. This letter, on the letterhead of Mine B Coal Company, states that the agreement suggested is not satisfactory. Mr. BARBER calls attention to the editorial "we" used in the letter, namely,

"We decline to accept it \*\*\*. I am still interested.  
\*\*\* First we hope in a discussion \*\*\*"

Mr. BARBER states that Mr. ELSHOFF at no time ever mentioned who was actually meant by the "we" used in the letter. A copy of this letter is retained in Mr. BARBER's files.

Mr. BARBER pointed out that ELSHOFF purchased his home on the corner of Bates and South Grand Avenue in cash; that after he purchased this home he stationed an armed guard in the alley in the rear of his home.

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Mr. BARBER stated that shortly after the negotiations for Panther Creek Mine fell through an injunction was brought by the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor in the Federal District Court at Springfield, Illinois. Mr. BARBER advised that the legal method of bringing this injunction by the Wage and Hour Division was extremely unusual and he believes is the only type of case of its kind in the country. He pointed out that it was brought by the Wage and Hour Division without that division talking over the matter with the company or its attorneys. The company was never able to find out what complainant brought the matter to the attention of the Wage and Hour Division and the company had never received any complaints in connection with this Wage and Hour matter from its employees. He felt that this complaint originated with JOHN L. LEWIS or the UMW for the purpose of causing financial embarrassment to Panther Creek Mines, Inc., thus perhaps forcing a sale, knowing that Panther Creek Mines at the time was indebted in the sum of approximately \$400,000. The title in Federal District Court in Springfield for this matter was heard under Civil Docket #191, PHILIP B. FLEMING, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor. IRVING J. LEVY, ALEX ELSON and HERMAN GRANT of 222 West North Bank Drive, Chicago, Illinois, represented the Department of Labor. The complaint was filed November 6, 1941 and was dismissed July 1, 1942.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
CLAYTON J. BARBER.  
(Continued)

Mr. BARBER recalled that one JOHN CARROLL,  
General Freight Agent for the B & O and Alton  
Railroad in Chicago, Illinois, was interested

in this negotiation for the purchase of Panther Creek Mine, probably in  
order that these railroads might secure additional business.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH Mr. FRED SCHAEFFER, who is Secretary of the Coal Producers  
FRED SCHAEFFER Association of Illinois located at Pana, Illinois, was  
interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] of the  
Springfield Office relative to the membership of CARL ELSHOFF in the  
Mine "B" Coal Company during the years that this company was dealing with  
the Progressive Miners of America as a labor organization. It should be  
noted that the Coal Producers Association is composed of officials of  
operating mines who are organized by the Progressives.

Mr. SCHAEFFER produced his file on CARL ELSHOFF, which reflected  
that ELSEOFF became a member of the Coal Producers Association in the Fall  
of 1932 and was considered a member until August, 1935. During this entire  
period, numerous letters were written to ELSHOFF requesting him to pay his  
dues to the association. It was noted that he was delinquent on several  
occasions and at the time when he was dropped from the association he had  
not paid dues for February, March, April, May, June and July of 1935.  
Mr. SCHAEFFER advised that, according to the rules of this organization,  
any member could be dropped from the association if he was delinquent in  
his dues for two months or more. Upon the evidence obtained in the file,  
Mr. SCHAEFFER stated that ELSHOFF was dropped because of his delinquency  
in dues payments. He had no information relative to ELSHOFF and his  
ceasing to be a member of the association which would be pertinent to this  
case.

Mr. SCHAEFFER stated that for a number of years he was on the  
Board of the Illinois Coal Operators Association, which deals with the  
United Mine Workers of America. He advised that any operator could become  
a member of this association through formal application after it had been  
approved by the Board of the Operators Association. A prerequisite for  
membership was not that the individual operator's mine should be absolutely  
free of any labor trouble at the time of the application. Admission to  
membership rested solely with the Board, who simply decided whether or not  
the operator was reliable and would meet his obligations as a member of the  
association. Mr. SCHAEFFER had no information as to whether or not ELSHOFF  
applied for membership in the Coal Operators Association or, if so, why he  
was refused.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN W. HINDMARSH was interviewed at his residence JOHN W. HINDMARSH. in Riverton, Illinois, on September 5, 1943, by Special

b7c Agents [redacted] and [redacted] Mr. HINDMARSH is presently CIO representative in the Springfield district of Illinois. He travels extensively and can best be located through Mr. FULLERTON FULTON of the CIO Regional Office in Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. HINDMARSH was active in the UMW organization up until 1930 or 1931, when he became inactive, and as a matter of fact let his membership lapse because of extremely poor health. He did not again engage in union activity of any kind until about October 1940, when he applied to Ray EDLUNDSON and had his membership reinstated. Thereafter for five weeks he worked for UMW as an organizer in small, independent mines around Springfield, commonly known as "trucking" mines. During this time he expressed himself strongly against JOHN L. LEWIS' failure to come out in support of President ROOSEVELT prior to the national election. As a result of this HINDMARSH was advised by District 12 that his application for the renewal of his membership had been disapproved, notwithstanding the fact that he had already been on the payroll for some five weeks and had a certificate from the union as a paid organizer.

In view of HINDMARSH's inactivity in connection with union matters during the pertinent period he was unable to furnish any probative information, other than the signed statement hereinafter quoted. As a matter of record, MR. HINDMARSH makes a good appearance, is forceful and it is believed that he would make a better than average witness. He is very cooperative in connection with instant matter.

"September 5, 1943

b7c "I, John W. Hindmarsh, make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Some time during January 1941 I went to The Mine 'B' Coal Co. for the purpose of attempting to secure a job for a good friend of mine. At the mine I saw Oscar Falcetti and asked him if he could give my friend, whom Falcetti conceded would be a good miner, a job. Falcetti said confidentially: 'Jack, it is not all together up to me. The other party has to be consulted.'

"Falcetti did not say who the other party was but I understood he meant officials of U.M.W. of A. I later went to see [redacted] of the U.M.W. of A. and asked him for a job for my friend. [redacted] answered that he could not do anything about it then.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN W. HINDMARSH.  
(Continued).

"Just previous to this time I had been employed by District 12 U.M.W. of A in organizational work, Ray Edmundson signing the certificate as representa-

tive of District 12, U.M.W. In a meeting with Edmundson I requested that men who might be thrown out of employment at the mines I was engaged in organizing, through their activities for the union, would be given transfer cards so that they could be employed in mines under the jurisdiction of U.M.W. of A. This man was one of several that were thrown out of employment because of their activities in assisting in organizing a mine.

\*The above statement consisting of two pages in the handwriting of [REDACTED] is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

b  
7 "Signed JOHN W. HINDMARSH

7  
C /S: [REDACTED]

Special Agents  
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

STATUS OF MINE "A" LEASE

Special Agents [REDACTED] and

[REDACTED] personally, and with the assistance of

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the Clerk of the Recorder's Office, Sangamon County Building, Springfield, Illinois, checked the records of that office for the purpose of locating the transfer of the lease hold estate from the Mine "A" Coal Company, owned by WILLIAM RYAN to the Mine "B" Coal Company and CARL ELSHOFF or EDMUND BURKE. A thorough search of the records revealed that the transaction was not a matter of record.

For a further check the same Agents interviewed Mr. G. A. OSTERMEIER of the Abstract and Title Company, 411 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois. A search of the records of that company failed to reveal instant transaction was made a matter of record. This search did reveal, however, that the lease in connection with Mine "B" was made a matter of record by CARL H. ELSHOFF.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH R. M. MEDILL,

R. M. MEDILL, Director of the Department  
of Mines and Minerals, State of Illinois,

was interviewed at his office in the Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 3, 1943 by Special Agent [REDACTED]

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Mr. MEDILL advised that under the laws of the State of Illinois a mine is required to have a mine examiner examine the mine daily before the men are permitted to enter the mine. This is done, therefore, at night, usually after midnight. The person making his inspection must be certified by the State as a mine examiner. He further advised that a company would be permitted to make such examinations during the daytime, and if the law were complied with at night, the daytime inspector need not be a licensed mine examiner, although they usually were, due to the fact that the unions required the same wage scale as if he were certified. Mr. MEDILL stated that in the Southern Illinois fields, where the mines were gaseous, the mines often employed examiners in the daytime to check on air conditions at the fringes, and in the new workings, and so forth. He advised, however, that in the fields surrounding Springfield, there is no necessity of this as these mines are usually considered non-gaseous.

Mr. MEDILL stated also that the records of his office reflecting mine examinations have been destroyed for the years prior to 1941, the beginning of his administration. He said his records did show that [REDACTED] was issued a certificate of a mine examiner on March 31, 1925. At that time [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] years of age and had [REDACTED] years experience in the mines.

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Mr. MEDILL advised that the requirements for a certificate of mine examiner were fixed by statute, and were that a person must be 21, a citizen, and have four years experience in a mine, together with passing an examination. The examination, according to Mr. MEDILL, would not be too complicated, and the information necessary could be learned in a very few lessons under an experienced mine examiner.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

On September 8, 1943, Special Agent [REDACTED] and the writer contacted [REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED], Illinois.

[REDACTED] was questioned in regard to instant case but failed to answer any questions directly and generally "beat around the bush". [REDACTED] did admit working in the Mine "B" from about July to December of 1940, at which time, he informed, he was fired. He stated he had been framed by the PMA Pit Committee. [REDACTED] stated that after being laid off for approximately two months he was rehired at Mine "B" and worked until approximately the Fall of 1941. [REDACTED] stated that his job while working in the mine was that of driver, and he informed that because there was so much coal to haul and because feeding his mules took so much time he had no opportunity to observe any organizing, if any had been going on at Mine "B". [REDACTED] stated he had seen no organizing attempts at Mine "B", that he was not hired as an organizer and that he never organized at Mine "B". [REDACTED] informed that he would talk up the UMW at every opportunity because he believes the UEW to be a great organization and respects JOHN L. LEWIS very much.

Further attempts to commit [REDACTED] to definite statements met with negative results. [REDACTED] was asked if he would sign a statement containing the information which he furnished but [REDACTED] informed that he would sign no such statement until he had consulted with his attorney, JAMES BURKE, Attorney for the United Mine Workers Union, and if BURKE stated it was all right for him to sign the statement, he would then sign such statement.

[REDACTED] advised that he is presently employed as an organizer for the United Mine Workers and is operating out of the Chicago area, upon occasion going up into Wisconsin.

In answer to most all questions put to [REDACTED] by the writer and Agent [REDACTED] method of evasion would be to start talking about [REDACTED] and his life career. Most of LANSKY's conversation dealt with the incident concerning the time his house was bombed back around 1935 when there was trouble between the UMW and PMA in Springfield. [REDACTED] claims that the PMA Union was responsible for the dynamiting of his home.

[REDACTED] was advised that if he desired to furnish any information to the FBI, he should call at the Springfield Office.

The original notes of Special Agent [REDACTED] prepared immediately after the interview, are being retained in the file of this case.

P E N D I N G

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION

At Springfield, Illinois:

Will continue the investigation of this matter in accordance with the various instructions and suggestions which have been received from the Department of Justice through the Bureau.