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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 10, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He is now employed at Mine A and is presently an officer of the UMW local. He would be a good witness because of an apparent intelligence above that of the average miner and a fine ability to express himself, if he would give any information. It appeared to interviewing agents that [REDACTED] was deliberately withholding information in his possession. He was not cooperative, and appeared to be distinctly antagonistic to the questions placed to him. He at first denied all knowledge and understanding of the circumstances surrounding the change of unions of the Mine A local, and said that he had only been to two meetings before the change was made and was not elected one of the new officers. Upon questioning he admitted being present at every meeting held wherein the matters concerning change of unions at Mine A was concerned, and was also present at the meeting when EDMUNDSON and FALCETTI discussed a contract. He was present also when the contract was prepared and signed but he professed to remember nothing of the conversations taking place or any understanding of the reasons for the change of unions. The information which he gave was set forth in statement form, which [REDACTED] read, but which he refused to sign. He at first stated that it contained what he said and then that it was true to the best of his knowledge. The statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 10, 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 am presently employed at Mine A. I have worked there since I was an officer in the PMW local #51 there, [REDACTED]

"In September 1941, Elshoff purchased the mine property. At that time the mine was closed down, due to seasonal closure. The local of the men mining Mine A was a PMW local. Up until Elshoff purchased the mine, the men were well satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America, as far as I know. I did not hear any talk about changing unions. The men were satisfied with the way Ryan and the union got along. I heard of no ideas of changing until after Elshoff purchased Mine A.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I went to all the meetings held after the announcement of Elshoff's purchase of mine A. I went to both meetings at the Progressive Hall. I do not remember what was decided at those meetings. About all that was done was to discuss the matter of changing Unions. At one of the meetings a committee was appointed to see Elshoff, but they reported back that they could not get ahold of him.. I do not recall what else the committee was supposed to do. I was not on that committee. During that meeting I understand that there was a fight downstairs. [REDACTED] and some of the other boys were trying to keep the men from changing to the UMW, I guess. I do not know what happened. Most of the men seemed ready to change to the UMW at that time.

"There was no discussion that I knew of about mining Mine A by taking the coal out of Mine B. The men all wanted to work. They did not care particularly which union they belonged to, just as long as the mine reopened, and they could work. They seemed to think, I guess that if they were UMW that the mine would be reopened. I do not know why they thought this. I do not remember anyone talking about that at all. I had never heard of any talk about joinintg the UMW before Elshoff purchased the mine.

"There was a meeting at Redman's hall. It was not called by the local. There were about 50 or 60 men there. They did not do much but talk about chaning unions, and decided to have another meeting when more of the men culd come. I do not remember what was said that night.

"Then there was another meeting held at the Elk's Club. [REDACTED] presided at that meeting. There was some talk about changing unions, but I never heard anyone say that they had any reason to believe that the mine would be opencd if we went UMW. We voted to join the UMW, and elected some officers. The new officers were [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] someone I do not recall, to the pit committee. After the election Edmunson came to the meeting and talked to us. I do not know what Edmunson said that night.

"After the meeting, we went over to the UMW building, and were sworn into the UMW. Elshoff and Falcetti came to the meeting there a little later. I do not know why they were there, but I suppose that they were called. I do not remember what any of them said that night. I do not remember what discussion there was about the mine being re-opened. Late that night Elshoff signed a contract with the UMW. I was there when he did. I do not remember what was said or done that night.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

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

/S/

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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 10, 1943.

[REDACTED] Agents interviewed [REDACTED] and he advised he never has been arrested.

He appeared to be an intelligent individual but it seemed that he did not know much about everything that went on during the pertinent period at Mine A. It is felt he told the truth as to what he knew and he would make a good witness if his testimony is necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 10, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., give the following information to Special Agents [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this information.

"I was born [REDACTED] I started at Mine A [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. & I joined P.M.W. then as a company man down below. About [REDACTED] when Mine A turned over to U.M.W. in fall of 1941 I kept the same job &

[REDACTED] Between 1934 and 1941 the miners leaned toward P.M.W. because it was a P.M.W. & it didn't make any difference to me what union I belonged to. The miners could come and go then at Mine A if they didn't like the union. To my knowledge there was no group or persons who were trying to swing P.M.W. over to U.M.W. just before 1941 but back when I first started I don't recall of any rivalry out at #51 & it was a regular P.M.W. local and the men were glad to work. During April, 1941 or so Mine A closed down as usual and they generally re-opened in fall of same year. In 1941 I got a job at [REDACTED] for 2 weeks or so. Two or three weeks before Mine A was to re-open in fall of 1941 I first heard of a movement that the Mine A was going over to U.M.W. I also heard there had been some "Special" meetings during the summer but I never attended them and was not invited altho I should have been notified. In fall of 1941 the [REDACTED] called a meeting or two or three of them and a discussion was had to determine if #51 should go over to U.M.W. and there were some who favored in going over

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] to U.M.W. They must have been "Special" meetings & I think the meetings were called by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] I think I missed 2 or 3 of those "Special" meetings & believe I attended 2 or 3 of them. I don't recall of any reasons given why #51 should go over to U.M.W. Around that time the papers said that Elshoff was going to or did buy Mine A. I don't recall any committees being appointed to go & see Elshoff & it is possible that happened at the meetings I did not attend.

[REDACTED] I never attended any meetings at the Redman's Hall but I did attend the ones at the Progressives & at Elk's Club. At the P.M.W. meetings no representatives of U.M.W. were present. At the several P.M.W. meetings the discussion was whether Mine A was to reopen as P.M.W. or as U.M.W. As time went on the feeling of the P.M.W. was that they should go over to U.M.W. At the meetings there were no fights or speeches & I think that decisions were made at the Redman Hall meetings which I did not attend. No one ever told me that Elshoff would not open Mine A except under U.M.W. but I myself felt that Elshoff would open Mine A as U.M.W. because his Mine B was U.M.W.

"I attended the meeting at the Elk's Club on a Sunday & it was a meeting for both #51 & U.M.W. I went just as a member of #51, & not as an official and I don't recall who got that meeting together. The only question taken up was whether the P.M.W local 51 would turn over to U.M.W. I don't recall of any committee making a report at this meeting. Before the vote no speeches were made and it was a rising vote that was taken & it was unanimous & it was decided to go back to U.M.W. [REDACTED] was on the platform and took a part in this meeting. I don't recall of hearing any statement at the Elk's Club meeting that if the men in Mine A went over to U.M.W. that Edmundson would see to it that the two mines would be operated as separate mines & I don't recall any issue at any time about joining Mine A & B as one. As far as I know the issue was just whether or not we P.M.W. should go over to U.M.W. & I never attended some of the previous meetings so I don't know if any reasons were given then or not as to why they wanted to change over. After the vote was taken at Elk's Club Mr. Edmundson came in and talked about the immediate opening of the Mine A. There was rumor around that Elshoff might not open Mine A again & there were other rumors around too & no one seemed to know just what it was all about. However, Mine A always did re-open in previous years in the fall. After the meeting at Elk's Club was over about six to ten of us went over to Mr. Edmundson's office in the U.M.W. While in his office Edmundson phoned Mr. Elshoff & a short time later Elshoff & Falcetti came into the office. Some present were the P.M.W. president; [REDACTED] Falcetti or Elshoff were asked if Mine A was able to re-open & they said it could

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

[REDACTED]  
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

be opened in a week or so & I think it was so opened. No contract was signed then in Edmundson's office. Afterwards I went home & later went over to the Leland Hotel and a bunch was there & about mid-night some of us went to the office of Carl Elshoff & a contract was signed. It was a standard U.I.W. contract. I think some newspaper reporter was at the Leland Hotel & also at Elshoff's office. As far as I know I don't think that any previous arrangements had been made in regard to what happened that Sun. night but that things just went off as a result of the action taken. I don't know of any entry being made between Mine A & Mine B. I never got any form letter from U.I.W. to join them before we voted at the Elk's Club. I first met Elshoff at Edmundson's office & he seemed to be all business & did not appear to over-happy or anything of the sort. I don't know who paid for the bills at the Leland Hotel. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I never heard any remarks made as to where Elshoff got the money to buy Mine A. I didn't care which local I belonged to. I have read this six (6) page statement over & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Spec. Agt. F.B.I.  
[REDACTED] Spec. Agt.,  
F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.  
Springfield, Ill  
Sept. 10, 1943\*

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] can hardly be understood, and the gist of his information is that if he didn't join U. M. W., he could not work at Mine A. It is noted he has been a citizen for only a few months. He is not recommended as a witness. His statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 18, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] knowing them to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement. I reside at [REDACTED] and am presently employed at Mine A.

"I was born in [REDACTED]. I came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED]. I have worked in the mines most of my life and joined U. M. W. when I first started mining. I started at Mine A in about [REDACTED] and in 1932 I joined Progressive.

"In September of 1941 I got a letter from Ryan telling that he had sold Mine A to Elshoff. I did not feel very good about this because things had been good under P. M. A. and we got along well with Ryan.

"I went to several meetings, I do not understand English very well, but I remember they said they would close Mine A if we didn't join United. We older men could not get jobs and we wanted to work at Mine A. They said they might take coal from Mine A through Mine B. The men liked Progressive but the company liked United better.

"At another meeting, maybe at the Elk's Club, the men all held up their hands for United and the local all joined with U. M. W.

"No one ever threatened me or beat me to make me join a union. I like Progressive because I think it is better for the working man.

"This statement has been read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true and correct to the best of my memory.

/s/ [REDACTED]

\*Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]  
/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, F. B. I.,  
U. S. Dep't of Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks brokenly and is difficult to understand. He cannot understand questions put to him and would make a poor witness. Therefore, he is not recommended as a witness. He furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a citizen in [REDACTED] I have been a miner all my life and have been employed at Mine A since [REDACTED] I live at [REDACTED] I was a member of UMW until I joined PMA in 1932. I didn't have anything to do with the start of the PMA, but just joined because all the rest did. As far as I know there isn't much difference between the two unions.

"I got a letter from Ryan in the fall of 1941 and all the men said he had sold his mine to Elshoff and that maybe Elshoff wouldn't open the mine. A lot of the men said that maybe Elshoff wouldn't open the mine and there was some talk about hauling coal from Mine A thru Mine B.

"I heard that Progressive had some meetings in the fall of 1941 and I knew that I went to a meeting at the PMA hall, but since I don't understand much English I don't know what they were talking about. The only thing I know is that everybody said we had to join United if we wanted to work.

"I went to a meeting at the Elks Club & at that time I joined United. I joined because everybody said we should join. I know there were some speeches, but I can't remember what they were about. Nobody ever beat me or forced me to join any union. Since I don't go to many meetings & can't understand much English I can't say anything about why the PMA men voted to join United except that we all wanted to work.

"This 2 page statement has been read to me by [REDACTED] and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]  
/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, F. B. I.,  
U. S. Dep't. of Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Jr., at [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, on September 16, 1943. He appeared to be a person having an intelligence above the average miner and can express himself well. It is believed that he would make a good witness if he had any information of value. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill  
September 16, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am an American citizen. I am presently employed at Mine A. 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 have worked at Mine A since 1932 or 1933. I was working at Mine A in 1941 when the mine closed down for the summer. At the time that the mine was actually sold, it was closed. I was tending bar at that time. I had tried to get a job in a Progressive Mine, but could not. Before Ryan sold the mine there had been no talk about changing. I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America and would have preferred to continue to work under the PMW.

"I attended only one meeting of the local when the matter of changing from PMW to the UMW was discussed. That was the meeting held at the Elk's hall, when the men voted to go back to the UMW.

"I voted and signed up with the UMW that afternoon because I needed work very badly. I had tried to get a job at other mines but could not. I knew that Elshoff had a UMW contract for Mine B. I did not think that he would run one mine as PMW and one as UMW. I voted for the UMW because I thought that that would hurry Elshoff into opening the mine. I did not attend the whole meeting, and do not know what was discussed. I did not hear Ray Edmundson talk. Things are as soon at the mine now as they were under the PMW.

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

/S/ [REDACTED]

/S/ [REDACTED]

F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED]  
Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 18,  
1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED] is a person having an intelligence above that of  
the average miner. He has an accent but is not difficult to understand.  
His inability to read the statement set forth below is due to an eye  
deficiency, rather than an understanding of the English language. He gave  
information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED].  
I am now employed at Mine A. I make the following state-  
ment to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified them-  
selves 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 a citizen of the United States.

"I have worked at Mine A about [REDACTED] years. I was employed at Mine A  
at the time that Mine A was sold. I do not know why the men changed unions  
about that time. Before Ryan sold the mine, there was not talk about changing  
the union. As far as I know, the men were satisfied with the Progressive  
Mine Workers of America at that time. I was satisfied with that Union. I  
did not go to any of the meetings where the matter of changing unions was  
discussed. I work on my farm most of the time and do not have time to go to  
the meetings. I do not go to the meetings because I am so busy, and also  
because there has been so much trouble, and so many men hurt on the union  
trouble. I did not go even to meeting where they voted to go to the UMW.  
I knew what had happened at Mine B. So I did not go to any meetings. I  
joined the UMW when I went back out to the mine to work. I was satisfied  
with the PMW, but wanted to work, and the mine had already changed over to  
the UMW, and I had to join the UMW if I was going to work there.

[REDACTED] has read the above statement on this page. It is  
true and accurate.

/s/ [REDACTED]

FBI

[REDACTED], FBI.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has an intelligence above that of the average miner. He has a strong accent, but he is not too difficult to understand. [REDACTED] attempted to interfere with the interview, and tried to persuade [REDACTED] to refrain from signing the statement. [REDACTED] said that it was true, and he would sign it anyway. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am an American citizen. I am now employed at Mine A. I make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement.

"I have worked at Mine A since [REDACTED]. I was working at Mine A in 1941 when Mr. RYAN sold the mine to ELSHOFF. When the mine was sold, we had a meeting at the Progressive Hall. At that meeting [REDACTED] told us that the mine would be reopened if we joined the United Mine Workers. The mine had been closed for a long time, and we wanted to get to work. After that there was another meeting at the K of C Hall, I think. At this meeting EDMUNSON talked, and told us that if we joined the United Mine Workers he would see to it that Mine A reopened. I signed up with the UMW at that time.

"Prior to the sale of the mine by RYAN there was not much talk at the mine about changing unions. Some of the men were complaining about the high dues and things, but most of us were satisfied. I preferred the Progressive Mine Workers of America, myself. I would meet men on the street, and they would ask me what they should do. They did not want to join the UMW any more than I did, but they told me that they could not get a job at any other place. They did not know what to do. They could not do anything else than join the UMW. They had heard of all the trouble that had happened at Mine B and we did not want any trouble and wanted to work. So we joined the United Mine Workers. That is the reason that I joined the United Mine Workers.

"At the time, I did not want to join the United Mine Workers and would have rather stayed in the Progressive Mine Workers, but I did not know what else I could do.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH "After the mine reopened, nothing unusual happened. The  
[REDACTED] conditions there now are as good as they were before.

(CONTINUED) "The above statement on this page and one other page has  
been read over by [REDACTED] It is all  
true and accurate. I have read this over myself, and it is all true.

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI

[REDACTED] FBI"

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his place of employment, [REDACTED], on September 10, 1943. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and is employed as [REDACTED]. He speaks and understands English well, and would make a satisfactory witness for the information he has to offer. He advised he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was executed by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Sept. 10, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [REDACTED]. I first started working in coal mines in about [REDACTED] when I went to work in the Mine "A" at Springfield, Ill. I then joined the United Mine Workers of America Union. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America because of the majority of our UMW local changed to PMA. I took no active part in organizing the PMA. In about 1937 or 1938 I became [REDACTED] and held that job for about [REDACTED] years. Then I became a member of the Mine Committee and was on it for about four or six months before the Mine "A" shut down in the Spring of 1941.

"In about Sept. of 1941 we learned that Elshoff had bought Mine "A" from Ryan and then we became worried as to whether Mine "A" would open and we of PMA would be given our jobs. There was talk among the men that Elshoff would operate Mine "A" thru Mine "E", and that we of PMA would therefore not get our jobs back.

"In Sept. of 1941 I was working the night shift at the [REDACTED] in Springfield, and so had little time to go to Union meetings. At a regular PMA meeting early in Sept. 1941 many of the fellows expressed the desire to go back to work at Mine "A" and indicated they would go back to UMW. At this meeting they decided to hold an "outside" meeting, that is a meeting away from PMA. The men wanted me to go to that meeting but I didn't go.

"About a week before Mine "A" opened, I heard it was going to open under UMW and so I joined UMW because I wanted to go back to

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

work in Mine "A" to make more money. I had heard that most of the men had joined UMW and I had received a letter which sounded like it came from Edmundson saying the Mine "A" was going to open and telling me my job was open. No one tried to organize me in UMW in any way, and I cannot remember who told me we would have to join UMW in order for Mine "A" to re-open. Maybe it was because we had seen what had happened at Mine "B" in connection with organizing and we knew they could operate Mine "A" thru Mine "B" and there were a bunch of old men at Mine "A" who didn't want all that trouble. I heard one fellow named [REDACTED] whose name I cannot spell, was beat up by UMW men after the Mine "A" re-opened. [REDACTED] told me he was going to work one morning when a car pulled up with UMW men and they held a machine gun pistols on him and then beat him up badly. That was the only beating I heard of at Mine "A".

"I saw [REDACTED] who was a Board Member of UMW at Mine "A" a lot, but he didn't work at Mine "A". I did not see any attempts to organize at Mine "A" either by UMW or P.M.W. I worked for about two months and quit because I had a bad room and I didn't like the way UMW was running us. I have not been back in the mines since.

[REDACTED] were the men who wanted that open meeting to be held. I didn't care much because all I wanted was for these old men to get back to work. I do not know what happened at subsequent meetings or how the developments went along.

"I have had this statement of three pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/[REDACTED]

Witness

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 11, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED]. He has been an American citizen since [REDACTED]. It is believed that [REDACTED] would make a very good witness. He has a pronounced accent but is not difficult to understand. He has an intelligence well above that of the average miner. He is stubborn and precise. It is believed that it would be difficult to confuse him on cross-examination. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 11, 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 off and on at Mine A since [REDACTED] and steadily from [REDACTED] until last May. I was never an officer in the UMW before 1932. In 1932 the local at Mine A joined the Progressive Mine Workers, and I went over with the rest of them. I was elected by the membership of the Progressive [REDACTED]

"In 1941, Mine A closed about April 1. This was the usual custom for Mine A, as it was a seasonal mine. At the time that the mine closed, the men so far as I know were all very much satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers, and would not have wanted to change to the UMW. I think that that is the way the men thought, and I know that that is the way that I felt. Up until the time that the announcement was made in the paper that Elshoff was going to operate Mine A, I heard no talk about changing unions. There had been some rumors during the summer that Mine A was to be sold, but there was nothing definite. After the announcement in the paper that Elshoff was going to operate Mine A, the men held some meetings to see what they should do. The first meeting was held at the Progressive Hall. It was a special meeting, and about the only business was to leave it to the District officers to see what they could find out from Elshoff about what he was going to do with the mine. There had been rumors going around that Mine A was going to be abandoned. There were also rumors, which I did not believe, that they were going to put a Skip in and take the coal out from Mine A through mine B. The men seemed to think that the law was such that when a new

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

operator took over a mine, that he did not have to hire the same men back. I think that is the big factor, because the men wanted to work and get their jobs very badly. At the second meeting, the District Officers were able to give very little assurance of any help. [REDACTED] talked to the local that night. His talk was very discouraging to the men, and he was not able to assure us of much help, except moral and financial help to those who lost out on their jobs. As I recall, these District officers had been unable to get ahold of Elshoff and learn anything about his plans. The night of the second meeting, another committee was appointed, to get in touch with Elshoff and see what was going to be done with Mine A. I was not on that committee. I left that meeting, and did not hear of any fights or disagreements that were had at that meeting.

"I understand that there was another meeting, held some time later at Redman's hall. I was not at this meeting, and did not know anything about it until afterwards.

"There was a meeting at either the Elks's or the K of C hall. I was at that meeting. [REDACTED] presided, but the committee made a report. The committee report was made by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said that they had gone to the mine, and could not find Elshoff and then they went to see Edmunson. He said Edmunson had said that Mine B had a contract with UMW, and that if the men went as a body, as charter members into the UMW, that he would use his influence to get the mine reopened.

"They then held a vote, and the men voted to go back to the UMW. They voted to go back to the UMW. I think that the main factor in the men voting to go to the UMW was that they wanted to go back to work. They would have been just as well satisfied to stay in the Progressive Mine Workers as go into the UMW if they could keep their jobs. They seemed to think that they had to join the UMW, because of their understanding of the law, and they could not afford to go through any sort of trouble, because the mine had been closed down too long.

"The elected officers that night, and [REDACTED]

"The men had voted to go back to the UMW provided the mine would be reopened, and provided there would be no discrimination. After voting

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

to go into the UMW, Edmunson was invited to the hall. I do not remember if this was before or after the election of officers. He talked to the men. He told us that he would welcome the men back into the UMW. He said that if they were to come back that they would have to sign an application to return to the UMW. He said that if all the men came back to the UMW as charter members, that he would use all of his influence to see that the mine was reopened. There were some questions placed to him about exonerated members, and discrimination and after that the men went up and filled out the application blanks. They had already taken a voice vote to join the UMW.

"After the meeting, I went over the UMW building with Edmunson and the other local officers. We were sworn in to the UMW. After that Edmunson called Elshoff. An hour or so later, Elshoff and Falcetti came to the office. Edmunson told them that the union had gone over to the UMW, and that he wanted a contract signed so that the membership could go back to work. Falcetti said that he had examined the mine, and that he did not know how soon it would be possible to open up the mine. Elshoff said that he did not want any trouble at the mine. He wanted assurance that the men had joined the UMW. He did not say in so many words that he would not open the mine unless the men joined the UMW, but he did want the assurance that they men had all joined the UMW before he would open the mine, because he did not want any more trouble. There was more discussion of the matters and they did not sign a contract then because it was Sunday. I came home and did not go to the meeting when the contract was signed.

"There was no trouble at the mine after the mine reopened. I think it was the next day after this meeting that the fans were turned on, and a few days later when the men were able to go down into the mine.

[REDACTED] was around the mine in the mornings for a while after the mine reopened. I saw him there frequently, but I do not know what he was doing there. [REDACTED] was also around the mine for a few days after it opened. I do not know what he was doing there either.

"I never got any letter from anyone about changing unions or reopening the mine. I recall only one letter, and that was from Ryan, saying that he was sorry that he had to close the mine at that time.

"The reason that I joined the UMW was that I felt that I needed to do this to work at Mine A. I thought that when a new operator took over that he did not have to hire the same men back that had been there before.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)  
PLW of A.

I also thought that Elshoff would have to hire UMW men at Mine A because he had a UMW contract at Mine B. I wanted to work, and so I joined the UMW to get my job back, even though I would have just as soon stayed in the

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

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed) F.B.I.  
[REDACTED] (signed) F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of employment on the morning of September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He is a person having an intelligence above that of the average miner. He can express himself well, and it is believed that he would make a good witness. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am now employed at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. 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 given to me to make this statement.

"I worked at Mine A from 1937 until the time that the local at mine A joined the United Mine Workers. I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, but I was never an officer in the local. Up until the time that Ryan sold his interest in Mine A there was no talk at all about joining the UMW. The men were very much satisfied as far as I know with the operation of the local, and also of the international.

"Just after the announcement in the paper of the sale of the mine, I heard about men talking about changing unions. I did not attend the first meeting when this matter was discussed. [REDACTED]. I went to the second meeting of the local. All that I can recall was that they talked about what they were going to do. At that time the regular mine committee, [REDACTED] and one other who I do not recall, made a report that they had attempted to see Eishoff, but that he had refused to recognize them, and had said that he was going to operate as a United Mine Workers mine. We discussed the matter. Most of the men wanted to go back to work so we decided, and I think even [REDACTED] told them too, to go back to work as UMW, and then when the matter came up to a vote, to vote for the Progressives. That is what happened as far as I know. The men went back to work. On the first or second day after the mine opened, [REDACTED] I went around to the miners' homes after that asking them to vote for the Progressives when they came to vote. I also tried to get my tools out of the mine, but when I went out to the shaft, [REDACTED] and some of the other UMW men there at the shaft would not let me down to get my tools unless I joined the UMW.

"I did not go back to work at Mine A because I would not join the United Mine Workers. I had planned on going to work, and did not have any

RE: JOHN L. LENIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] other job at that time, but I would not go back to work under the United Mine Workers.

(continued)

"I think that the reason that the men went and joined the UMW was because they were told that they would not get to work at Mine A unless they were UMW. They also had heard about what had happened at Mine B, and thought Elshoff favored the UMW because of what happened there. They did not want to go through all of that trouble. I did not want to work under those conditions, so I did not join the UMW.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI

[REDACTED] FBI"

RE: JOHN W. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at [REDACTED] Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] does not read English and does not relate a very clear story. He does not have any information concerning details of the switch to United. He expresses himself poorly and is not recommended as a witness. His statement is as follows:

[REDACTED] Illinois  
September 17, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] both of whom I know to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"My address is [REDACTED] Illinois and I am now employed at Mine A as a track layer. I was born in [REDACTED] came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen in [REDACTED]. I have worked in the mines nearly all of my life and I joined U.M.W. when I first started mining. I started at Mine A in 1935 and at that time I joined P.M.A. I was working at Mine A in 1941 and the mine closed down for the summer. That fall, about September, I got a letter from Ryan telling that he had sold Mine A to Elshoff. I did not feel good about that, I thought that he wouldn't start Mine A and I saw in the paper that Elshoff might pull the coal through Mine B.

"I went to a P.M.A. meeting at Progressive Hall in Springfield which was called to see what was going to happen at the mine. We were told that the mine wouldn't open unless under U.M.W. and there was some more talk. The men said we should fine out what was going to happen at Mine A.

"I went to another meeting but I don't remember what happened there.

"I went to a third meeting, at the Elk's Club, and at this meeting we were told that if we joined U.M.W. the mine would open. I don't remember what else was said, but we had a vote and the men all voted to join United Mine Workers. I joined U.M.W. that time because I wanted to get my job back. I had been told that Elshoff would not open the mine unless the men joined U.M.W.

"No one ever threatened me to make me join any union. Unions are about the same but I know some of the fellows didn't join U.M.W. and never went back to Mine A.

"The above statement has been read to me by [REDACTED] and is true

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

[REDACTED]  
INTERVIEW WITH

and correct to the best of my memory.

(continued)

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

[REDACTED] Special Agents, FBI, U.S. Dept. of Justice.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield,  
[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September  
15, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] who speaks and understands English  
very well. He is willing to testify. He said he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943.

"I [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to  
[REDACTED], whom I know to be Special Agents of the  
Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free will, with no threats or  
promises made to me.

"I am living at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. and  
am working as [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], Springfield,  
I was born [REDACTED] and joined the P.M.A. when I  
began working in the mines in 1939. I began working at Mine A in December  
of 1940, and worked until it closed down in the spring of the next year.  
I had decided to quit, because my health was bothering me, and I didn't  
plan on going back to work in the mines. I didn't go to any union meet-  
ings, and don't know anything that went on in the summer of 1941. However,  
in that summer, [REDACTED] saw me at the tavern one day and asked me to  
join the U.M.W., that Mine A would open up much sooner if I did. I told  
him I wasn't going back to work in the mines, and he didn't say anything more.

"I have read the foregoing, and state that it is true to the  
best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

witnesses:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agents, F.B.I.  
Springfield, Ill.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a person having an intelligence about that of the average miner. He has a heavy accent, but is not difficult to understand. He gave information set forth on the following statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED]. I am an American citizen. I am now employed at Mine A. 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 have worked at Mine A for about [REDACTED] years. I was working at Mine A at the time that RYAN sold the mine to ELSHOFF. I do not remember anybody talking about changing unions before the sale. The men were satisfied as far as I know with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was satisfied with the PMW. I did not attend meetings of the PMW very regularly. I attended only one meeting when the matter of the change in unions was discussed. I think that it was at Redman's hall. As I recall [REDACTED] told us that night that they were going to close, and dismantle Mine A, and take the coal out through Mine B. As I recall the thought that we would be better off if we joined the United Mine Workers. I do not recall the details. I do not think that I went to the meeting when the men voted and signed up with the UMW. I think that when I joined the UMW, that about 200 men had already joined up. I joined up because I needed to work, and the men had already joined the UMW.

"The above statement has been read to me by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] It is true and accurate.

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI  
[REDACTED]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of [REDACTED] September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a person having an intelligence about equal to that of the average miner. He is difficult to understand, and does not understand English very well. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am an American citizen. I am now employed at Mine A. I make the following statement to [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 have worked at Mine A since 1933 or 1934. I was employed at the mine when RYAN sold the mine. Before that time the men belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. Before the sale of the mine, there had been no talk that I know of about the men wanting to change unions. They were all satisfied, as far as I know, with the Progressives. I was satisfied. I did not go to the PMW meetings very often, and was not interested much in the affairs of the union. I cannot understand English too well, and when things go on at the meetings, I have to have them explained to me.

"I think I was at the meeting when the men signed up for the UMW. There was some talk about going to work if we joined the UMW. The rest of the men were signing up with the UMW, so I did, too. I would have been satisfied to have continued to work as a PMW.

[REDACTED] has read the above statement on this page to me. It is true and accurate."

He declined to sign this statement because he could not read it personally.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence on the afternoon of  
September 16, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]  
and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has an intelligence above that  
of the average miner. He has an accent which makes him difficult to under-  
stand, but furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED] I am an American citizen. I am now employed at Panther Creek  
Mine #5. 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 A for 5 or 6 years until Ryan sold the mine.  
In 1941, the mine was closed down for the summer. I got some work  
on the outside and was working. I intended to go back to work at  
the mine when it opened. I heard that the mine had been sold, and  
that the union had gone over to the United Mine Workers. I was a  
member of the Progressive Mine Workers at that time. I decided that  
if the mine was going to work as a U.M.W. mine that I would not go back.  
I did not want to change unions, and did not go to work because I  
did not want to join the U.M.W. I did not attend any meetings where the  
matter of changing of unions was discussed. I do not know why the  
men changed. I am a Progressive Miner now. Before Mr. Ryan sold  
Mine A there was no talk about changing unions. Everyone was satis-  
fied with the union as it was, as far as I know.

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

/S/ [REDACTED]

/S/ [REDACTED]

F.B.I.

[REDACTED]  
FBI"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised that he is a foreman at Mine A, and is not eligible to belong to any labor union. He has been a foreman for [REDACTED] years. He had no information pertinent to this investigation, and no statement was attempted. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed [REDACTED] by Special Agents [REDACTED] at which time it was noted that [REDACTED] was noted to speak very poor English. He is apparently below average in intelligence and it is believed he would make a poor witness. There is set forth below the following signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ill  
Sept 14, 1943

"I. [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make any statement.

"I was born on [REDACTED] and have been a U. S. citizen since [REDACTED]. I am now working at Mine A and reside at [REDACTED]. I have been a miner all my life and joined the U.M.W. in about [REDACTED]. I joined the progressive union in 1932 when the rest of the state went progressive. I was a member of progressive when I started at Mine A in 1937. I have never held any union office.

"Everything was going along fine in the spring of 1941 when the mine shut down for the season. Sometime in the early fall or late summer I got a letter from Ryan saying that he had sold Mine A to Elshoff. I heard that the mine was going to be operated by united men. I went to a couple of the meetings held by progressive, but don't remember anything about what was said those times about how the mine was going to operate. I didn't go to any meeting at the U.M.W. hall and joined the U.M.W. union just before I started back at Mine A in the fall of 1941. They told me I couldn't work unless I joined united. Nobody hit me and nobody forced me to join any union. I do not know how Elshoff felt about the unions.

"I have read over this statement of 2 pages and it is true to the best of my memory.

/S/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, F.B.I.,  
U.S. Dept. of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] telephone [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence on September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a digger at Mine "A", was born in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED]. He cannot speak or understand English well, has a very poor memory and would not make a satisfactory witness. He advised he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat force or promise of any kind.

"I work as a digger at Mine "A", & was born in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED].

"I started to work in Mine "A" Springfield about [REDACTED] & was then a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Union because our whole local did because John L. Lewis stole the ballots.

"In late summer of 1941 I read that Elshoff bought Mine "A" from Ryan. I heard people talkin' that "A" would not open unless the men went UMW. I also heard talk that they would pull coal from Mine "A" thru Mine "B". No one told me I had to join UMW and no one forced or threatened me in any way.

"I cannot remember much about what happened during this time, but one night [REDACTED] told me there was going to be a meeting and that Edmundson had said if we would go UMW the Mine "A" would open. I went to the meeting that night, which I think was held at the UMW hall. We voted to join UMW, Edmundson talked and told us the Mine "A" would open in two weeks, and I joined UMW. No one forced or threatened me in any way to join UMW, and I joined to keep my job at Mine "A". I would rather have stayed PMA had I have noticed no difference at Mine "A" under UMW than under PMA. I prefer PMA to UMW.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "This statement of two pages has been read to me and it  
[REDACTED] is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

(continued)

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witness

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home September 18, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak and understand English well and would make a good witness.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 18, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats, or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [REDACTED]

"I was employed at Mine "A" about [REDACTED] and I am employed at Mine "A" at the present time as a digger."

"I joined UMW in [REDACTED] Ill. I remained a member of U.M.W. until 1932 at which time I joined PMA as UMW wanted to cut the wage scale.

"In Sept. 1941 I read in the newspaper that Elshoff bought Mine "A". I thought at that time that Mine "A" would operate as always as a PMA mine.

"Prior to the time Elshoff bought Mine "A" the employees were satisfied with P.M.A. I thought PMA was a good union being operated for its members.

"I prefer to be a member of PMA rather than UMW because the members of PMA elect the officials and delegates whereas they are appointed in UMW.

"I heard from someone that Elshoff was going to operate Mine "A" through Mine "B". I did not pay any attention to this because I did not think it would happen. I also heard that Elshoff would not open Mine "A" unless the employees joined UMW. I do not know where I heard this. I decided I would not do anything to prevent the change from PMA to UMW and that I would wait and see what happened.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I attended one meeting at PMA hall a few days after Elshoff bought Mine "A". I knew of this meeting as notice was in the newspaper. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the local PMA was in charge of this meeting. Someone stated at this meeting Mine "B" employees were working at Mine "A" and Elshoff was to start an UMW union at Mine "A". A committee was appointed to call Elshoff to find out what was going to happen at Mine "A". The committee was unable to locate Elshoff. I was not told at this meeting that I should join U.M.W.

"I did not attend any meetings after the one I attended at PMA hall, although I read in the newspaper that there was going to be a meeting at the Elks Club and I later read in the newspaper that the employees of Mine "A" voted at the Elks Club to join UMW.

"No UMW organizer attempted to get me to join UMW.

"About two days before Mine "A" opened in Sept. 1941, I went to the UMW building and joined UMW so that I could return to work at Mine "A".

"Conditions at Mine "A" have been about the same under UMW as they were under PMA.

"From time to time from 1932 to 1941 I was a pit committeeman for PMA and I was [REDACTED] during that period of time. I did not hold any office in 1941.

"In 1941 I would have preferred to have remained a member of PMA and I joined UMW only so that I could work at Mine "A".

"I have had this statement consisting of four pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home on September 17, 1943 by  
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] finds it difficult to speak and understand English and would not make a good witness. It was obvious from the interview that [REDACTED] was not in sympathy with the investigation although he stated no one told him not to furnish any information or talked to him about the investigation.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [REDACTED] emmigrated to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and I became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill.

"I became a member of UMW in [REDACTED] and I remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I became a member of PMA because my local UMW union changed to PMA.

"In about Sept. 1941 someone told me that Elshoff bought Mine "A" from Ryan. I thought at that time that Mine "A" would become an UMW mine because Mine "B" which was operated by Elshoff was UMW.

"Before Elshoff bought Mine "A" the men were satisfied with PMA. I thought PMA was a good union, but it made no difference to me whether I was a member of UMW or PMA.

"I did not hear anyone say that Mine "A" could be operated through Mine "B".

"A few days after Elshoff bought Mine "A" I attended a meeting of PMA at PMA hall. [REDACTED] said at this meeting that if the miners at Mine "A" did not join UMW, Mine "A" would not be opened. I do not remember what else went on at this meeting.

"I attended a meeting at Elks Club on a Sunday in Scpt. 1941. [REDACTED] was in charge of this meeting and told us that if we did not join UMW, Mine "A" would be closed. I voted that day to join UMW so that I could work

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] at Mine "A". I joined UMW that day. I do not remember who spoke at this meeting other than [REDACTED]. No one (continued) asked me to join UMW. I joined voluntarily.

"I did not attend or know of any other meetings between the time Elshoff bought Mine "A" and the time I joined UMW.

"I do not see any difference in the conditions at Mine "A" under UMW than they were under P.M.A.

"I was employed at Mine "A" in about [REDACTED] as a digger and I am employed at Mine "A" at the present time.

"It makes no difference to me whether I am a member of UMW or P.M.A.

"I have had this statement consisting of three pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:--

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home September 18, 1943, by  
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is unable to speak  
and understand English very well and would make a very poor witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 1943.

"I [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., make the  
following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom  
I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No  
force, threats, or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and  
I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [REDACTED] emmigrated to the U.S.  
about [REDACTED] and became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in about [REDACTED] in  
Petersburg, Ill.

"I was employed at Mine "A" about [REDACTED] and I am employed at  
Mine "A" at the present time as a digger.

"Someone told me in about Sept. 1941 that Elshoff bought Mine  
"A". I thought at that time that Mine "A" would become an UMW mine as  
Elshoff operated Mine "B" as UMW.

"Before Elshoff bought Mine "A" the employees were satisfied  
with PMA. I thought PMA was a good union, but it made no difference to me  
whether I was a member of PMA or UMW.

"Someone told me that Elshoff would operate Mine "A" through  
Mine "B" and that Elshoff would not operate Mine "A" unless the employees  
joined UMW. I do not know who told me this. I dedided to join UMW so that  
I could work at Mine "A" but it made no difference to me whether I was a  
member of UMW or PMA.

"I did not attend any meetings between the time Elshoff bought  
Mine "A" and the time I joined UMW in Sept. 1941. I do not know whether  
I had notice of such meetings or not. I took no interest in union activities.

"Someone told me that if I wanted to work at Mine "A" I would  
have to join UMW as Mine "A" was an UMW mine. I went to the UMW building  
and voluntarily joined UMW so that I could go to work at Mine "A" in Sept.  
1941.

RE: JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"Conditions at Mine "A" have been the same under UMW as they were under PMA.

"I find it difficult to speak and understand English, therefore, I do not know what takes place between unions and I do not take any interest in union activities. No UMW organizers attempted to get me to join UMW.

"I have had this statement consisting of three pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. was interviewed at his home on September 16, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak English well, but would not make a good witness as he is an old man and he has no information to offer.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [REDACTED]

"I was employed at Mine 'A' in about 1932 and remained in the employment of Mine 'A' until Feb. 1942. I stopped working at Mine 'A' on account of my health. [REDACTED]

"I became a member of [REDACTED], a miners union, in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and I joined U.M.W. in about [REDACTED]. I remained a member of U.M.W. until 1932 at which time I joined P.M.A. I changed from U.M.W. to P.M.A., because U.M.W. wanted to cut the wage scale. I took no active part in the formation of P.M.A. I was not active in union activities and I have never held office in any union.

"In about Sept. 1941 I read in the newspaper that ELSHOFF bought Mine 'A' from RYAN. I thought at that time that ELSHOFF would make Mine 'A' an U.M.W. mine as he changed Mine 'B' from P.M.A. to U.M.W. It made no difference to me that ELSHOFF bought Mine 'A'.

"Before ELSHOFF bought Mine 'A' the employees of Mine 'A' were satisfied with P.M.A. I thought P.M.A. was a good union, being operated for its members, but it made no difference to me whether I was a member of P.M.A. or U.M.W. as both unions were alike.

"No U.M.W. organizer attempted to get me to join U.M.W.

"I heard a rumor from an unknown source that Mine 'A' could be operated through Mine 'B'. I thought at this time that Mine 'A' would be operated through Mine 'B' if the employees of Mine 'A' did not join U.M.W. I also heard from an unknown source that ELSHOFF would not operate Mine 'A' unless the employees of Mine 'A' joined U.M.W. I decided at this time that I would join U.M.W. if it would make it possible for me to go back to work.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I did not attend any meetings between the time ELSHOFF bought Mine 'A' and when Mine 'A' started to operate in Sept. 1941. I heard that there were meetings at the P.M.A. hall, but I did not attend as I did not want to take an active part in the union and I would do anything majority of the members wished to do. I did not attend or know of the meeting at the Elks Club in Sept. 1941.

"About two weeks after Mine 'A' opened in Sept. 1941 I returned to work and joined U.M.W. that day, as I had heard that the employees of Mine 'A' voted to join U.M.W. I joined U.M.W. to get a job at Mine 'A' and it made no difference to me whether I worked under U.M.W. or P.M.A.

"Conditions under U.M.W. at Mine 'A' were the same as they were under P.M.A.

"I have had this statement consisting of three pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(signed) [REDACTED]

WITNESSED:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield,  
[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special  
Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on  
September 16, 1943. [REDACTED] stated that he did not have a criminal re-  
cord. He was unable to speak or understand English very well and would  
not make a good witness. [REDACTED] refused to sign a statement as to the  
information furnished by him because he could not read the statement.

[REDACTED] furnished information as set out in the following  
statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 16, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill.,  
make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of  
Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining  
this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court  
of law.

"I was born in [REDACTED] emmigrated to the  
U. S. in [REDACTED] and I became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in [REDACTED] in  
Springfield, Ill.

"I was employed at Mine 'A' in about [REDACTED] and I am at the pre-  
sent time employed at Mine 'A' as a digger.

"I joined UMW in [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and I remained a  
member of UMW until 1932. I changed from UMW to PMA in 1932 because  
my local UMW union changed. I do not know why my local UMW union changed.

"I read in the newspaper in about Sept. 1941 that Elshoff  
bought Mine 'A'. At the time I read this I thought Elshoff would force  
Mine 'A' to become an UMW mine as he operated Mine 'B' as an UMW mine.

"The employees at Mine 'A' were satisfied with PMA prior to the  
time Elshoff bought the mine. I thought PMA was a good union being  
operated for its members, but it made no difference to me whether I was  
a member of PMA or UMW.

"I heard a rumor from an unknown source that Mine 'A' could be  
operated through Mine 'B'. I thought at this time that if the employees  
of Mine 'A' did not join UMW, Mine 'A' would be closed and operated  
through Mine 'B'. I also heard from an unknown source that Elshoff  
would not open Mine 'A' unless the employees joined UMW. When I heard  
this I decided to join UMW so that I could work at the mine.

"A few days after Elshoff bought Mine 'A' someone told me that  
PMA was to have a meeting at PMA hall. I attended this meeting, but I do

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEWED WITH

(Continued)

not know what occurred at the meeting as I find it difficult to understand English. I did not hear of any other meetings at P.M.A hall nor a meeting at Redman hall. On a Sunday in Sept. 1941 I attended a meeting at the Elks Club. [REDACTED] was in charge of this meeting. I voted at this meeting to join U.M.W. because all the others present voted to join U.M.W. and I wanted to keep my job at Mine 'A'. Edmundson of U.M.W gave a talk at the end of the meeting. I do not know what was said at the meeting as I could not understand what was said. I joined U.M.W after the meeting, at the Elks Club. I did not go to the U.M.W building at the end of the meeting.

"Conditions at Mine 'A' are the same under U.M.W as they were under P.M.A.

"I have had this statement consisting of three pages read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Witnessed:-

[REDACTED] refused to sign this statement because he finds it difficult to understand English and he could not understand why the investigation was being conducted. [REDACTED] stated that the statement was correct; that no one at Mine "A" or elsewhere told him not to sign a statement.)

/S/ [REDACTED] Special Agent F.B.I

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

RE. JOHN I. DENNIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 17, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] works as a digger at Mine "A". He was born [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois. He does not speak or understand English very well and would make an unsatisfactory witness. He advised he has never been arrested.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I am employed as a digger at Mine "A". I was born in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen in [REDACTED]. I became a member of UMW in [REDACTED]. I started to work in Mine "A", Springfield, in about [REDACTED]. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Union because we did not want the reduction in wage scale which UMW wanted to give us. No one forced or threatened me in any way.

"In early fall of 1941 I read in the paper that Ryan sold Mine "A" to Elshoff. At a PMA meeting right at that time, [REDACTED] told us that Ryan had said Elshoff said if we went UMW, Elshoff would open Mine "A" and if we did not the coal could be hauled from Mine "A" thru Mine "B". No one from UMW or the Company told us we would have to join UMW and no one forced or threatened me in any way to join UMW. I felt if I wanted to work at Mine "A" I would have to join UMW. It made no difference to me if I was PMA or UMW, just so I could keep my job.

"This first PMA meeting was at the PMA hall, and then on Sunday, I believe Sept. 13, 1941, [REDACTED] I went to a meeting at the Elks Club where we voted to join UMW, and right after the meeting I signed up with UMW. The committee told us at this meeting that they had seen Elshoff who said if we would go UMW the mine would open. I joined UMW because I wanted my job. Edmundson talked to us and welcomed us to UMW.

"I notice no difference at Mine "A" under UMW or PMA except PMA could settle things with the committee, but UMW has to go to higher officials but I do not care which I belong to, just so I work.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"At the PMA meeting a committee had been appointed to see Elshoff and this committee was the one which reported at the PMA meeting which was held about a week later.

"This statement of two pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed: -

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

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] He is employed as a digger at Mine "A". He can speak and understand English fairly well, but has a poor memory and therefore would not make a satisfactory witness. He advised he had never been arrested.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill.  
make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED]  
whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I  
make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [REDACTED] I am employed at Mine "A" as an entryman. I first started working in coal mines when I started at the Mine "A", Springfield, in [REDACTED]. I then joined the United Mine Workers of America Union. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Union because the majority of my local did.

"I did not, and I do not, care what Union I belong to. One is just the same as the other to me, just so I have food for my children.

"I read about Ryan selling Mine "A" to Elshoff in about Sept., 1941. I didn't think very much about it. I went to two meetings at PMA hdqtrs, one at Redman Hall and one at the Elks Club.

"The men at Mine "A" didn't seem to talk much except they all wanted to work. At this first meeting they all wanted to know whether Mine "A" would open. So they appointed a Committee to see Elshoff to see if he was going to open Mine "A". I did not hear any one say that Mine "A" would not open if we did not join UMW.

"At the second meeting at PMA hdqtrs, [REDACTED] talked, but I cannot remember what he said or what else was said.

"At the meeting in Redman Hall the men talked about going back to work, but I cannot remember much about that. I heard some talk about the company pulling coal from Mine "A" thru Mine "B". I do not remember anyone saying that Elshoff or anyone else said if we joined UMW he would open the Mine "A". Everyone was talking and it was so confused I cannot remember what happened. [REDACTED] I heard there was to be a meeting at the EIK'S Club, on a Sunday, September 14, 1941, at 2:00 o'clock, so I went. We voted then to join UMW and then Edmundson talked.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

or he may have talked before we voted. I cannot remember. I then signed up for UMW, and then went back to [REDACTED]

"It didn't make any difference to me which union had control, and I still don't care.

"This statement of two pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

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

P

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 17, 1943. [REDACTED] is employed at Mine "A" as a top man. He was born in [REDACTED]. He speaks and understand English well, and would make a satisfactory witness. He advised he has never been arrested. [REDACTED] gave the following signed statement to agents:

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of investigation. I make it without fear of throat, force or promise of any kind.

"I am employed as a top man at Mine "A". I was born in [REDACTED]. I first went to work in coal mines in about [REDACTED]. I then joined UMW. I started to work at the Mine "A" in about [REDACTED]. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Union because the rest of the UMW local changed to PMA and I wanted to keep my job. I would have preferred to stay with UMW, but no one forced me in any way to join PMA. I was never satisfied with PMA and I always preferred UMW.

"In about Sept. of 1941 I read that RYAN sold Mine "A" to ELSHOFF. I immediately felt that we would have to join UMW if we wanted to work at Mine "A" because ELSHOFF was operating Mine "B" and that was UMW. No one from UMW or the company ever told me I would have to join UMW nor did they tell me that Mine "A" would not open except under UMW.

"But the men who worked at Mine "A" talked and they said ELSHOFF would not open "A" unless the men went UMW. I also heard [REDACTED] that if "A" did not go UMW, they would not open "A" and would pull coal from "A" thru Mine "B".

"I never have hold an office in any union and I was not interested in union activities. After I read that ELSHOFF bought Mine "A" and until the Mine "A" opened in about Sept. of 1941, I only attended one meeting of any kind - and that was at the Elk's Club. Some of the men told me about this meeting and they told me if we would

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

go UMW the Mine "A" would be opened.

"At this meeting I do not remember any one talking, except the man saying that Mine "A" would not open unless the men joined UMW. There was a vote and the men voted to go UMW. EDMUNDSON talked after the vote and welcomed the men. I then signed up with UMW, and then went home.

"I prefer working out at "A" now under UMW than I did under PM&W. I prefer UMW over PM&W.

This statement of two pages has been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED]  
"Witness:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

Men who were PMA miners at Mine "A" in April 1941, but who are now deceased:

CHECK, JOSEPH NICHOLAS  
DANIELS, FILLIPO  
DERUY, GEORGE  
FLAMINI, CONCETTO  
GYER, HARVEY SYLVESTER  
HANKLEY, WALTER GUY  
KOZAK, JOHN KANTY

MLAKER, BERT JOSEPH, JR.  
MULLEN, HARRY HENRY  
NORTON, JOHN WILLIAM  
PALUMBO, JOE  
RITZ, RUDOLPH  
STRAUS, WILLIAM  
WALUNTUS, TONY

The following men, who were PMA miners at Mine "A" in April 1941, have previously been interviewed, inasmuch as they were also PMA miners at Mine "B" in May 1937:

Investigation failed to indicate that the following persons who were PMA miners at Mine "A" in April 1941, are presently located in the vicinity of Springfield, Illinois:

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

The following persons who were PMA miners at Mine "A" in April 1941, advised upon interview that they had never returned to work at Mine "A" after April 1941, and consequently had no information concerning the switch in union affiliations by the mine employees:



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

REVIEW OF ILLINOIS STATE REGISTER AND  
ILLINOIS STATE JOURNAL NEWSPAPERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

REVIEW OF ILLINOIS STATE REGISTER AND  
ILLINOIS STATE JOURNAL NEWSPAPERS OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

A review of the Illinois State Register over the pertinent period with which this investigation is concerned was made by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. Pertinent information obtained from this review is set out as follows:

Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1932 7-2	*p.1, c. 7	No immediate accord on mine scale likely between Illinois coal miners and operators.
7-7	Headlines	Agree to report on mine scale. Agreement reported reached; scale expected to be considerably higher than previous offer of \$4.
7-11	p. 1, c. 1	Miners vote Saturday on wage scale; sentiment appears divided.
7-12	p.1, c.1	Protest \$5.00 mine scale referendum. Southern Illinois miners protesting.
7-13	p. 1, c. 2 & 3	State union officials reject demand that wage scale vote be set aside; speeches against the wage agreement.
7-14	p. 1, c. 1	Mine chief asks vote for scale. JOHN H. WALKER urges member to vote "yes".
7-15	p. 3, c. 4	300 locals to participate in mine wage vote.
7-17	Headlines	Local miners reject scale. Opposition leading in whole state; in some districts as much as 4 to 1 against.
7-18	p. 1, c. 3	Tellers here for count of Miners' vote. Defeat of scale admitted.
7-20	p. 1, c. 7 & 8	Miners final vote shows 25,792 against wage pact to 12,124; 40,00 union miners.
7-23	Headlines	Renew efforts for mine pact. LEWIS made member of committee.

(\* p. -- page; c. -- column)

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1932 7-24	p.1, c. 7 & 8	Mining agreement nearer as State and International officers work in harmony.
7-25	Headlines	Operators offer new proposal. Number of objectionable features eliminated. LEWIS sees hope for a settlement.
7-26	p.1, c. 5 & 6	Vote next week on new mine pact. No change made in wage scale of \$5.00. Miners say \$5.00 is "slow starvation".
8-1	p.2, c.1	Local miners to meet here on wage pact. JOHN H. WALKER stoned from platform at Johnston City on previous Saturday.
8-2	p. 1, c. 5	LEWIS urges approval of wage scale, saying no better agreement can be obtained. 300 deputies needed to curb radicals at meeting.
8-3	p. 1, c. 3	Claim outlook for mine pact much brighter. WALKER and LEWIS campaigning. WALKER at Taylorville, Illinois 8-3-32 -- "save the miners' union of Illinois from destruction by voting for the proposed scale".
8-4	p. 1,,c. 7	WALKER mails final plea to 40,000 miners. Protest meeting at Benld.
8-7	Headlines	Miners again reject wage scale. 118 out of 240 locals show the count to be 17,268 against and 13,429 for Lewis local rejects.
8-8	p. 1, c. 1	Union heads claim scale is approved. A. T. PACE, International Auditor, gives 223 majority in favor of the \$5.00 wage. DAN McGILL local 921 of Springfield said, "The proposition won't carry by correct vote". Tabulated vote 14,705 for, 19,510 against.
8-9	p. 1, c. 1	Mine vote tabulation is started. Three "watchers" allowed.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1932 8-10	Headlines	Wage Scale Signed 8-10-32. Mine tally sheets disappear. Tellers say they were robbed while miners cry "hoax"; more than 200 election result slips and tabulations disappeared. Tellers BLACKMAN and GEE claimed that they were robbed in an alley back of the Ridgely-Farmers State Bank where records were placed for safe-keeping. DAN McGILL, a watcher, claims teller handed package to an auto on Sixth Street. At the time of the theft the "NO" votes were leading by a big majority.
8-11	Headlines	Many Mines Prepare to Reopen. Wage scale signed as an "emergency measure"; 1,275 ready to work in Springfield.
8-12	Headlines	LEWIS acts to squelch disorder; threatens miners who won't work; loss of rights as union members.
8-13	p. 1, c. 1	Miners here idle; defy LEWIS' order. Protest meeting at Reservoir Park; not enough miners appeared; picket in evidence.
8-14	p. 1, c. 5 & 6	Springfield miners vote sub-district on "strike" at mass meeting in park. Allegation that a high union official drove the car that the tellers sheets were given to. Big protest meeting at Benld.
8-15	p. 1, c. 5	Guard roads to halt invasion of mine area. 1200 special deputies sworn in to prevent "march on Taylorville". 22 mines working at new wage scale..
8-16	p. 1, c. 2 & 3	Miners to prepare plans for future at mass meeting. Meeting at Reservoir Park. Estimate 27,000 miners back at work.
8-18	p. 1, c. 2 & 3	Striking miners convene at Tovey; troops held in readiness for hurry call. 6 airplanes in readiness. About 400 cars of miners unarmed. JOHN L. LEWIS revoked charters of locals 790 and 4069 at Zeigler.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1932 8-19	p. 1, c. 2 & 3	Striking miners map plans to close pits in Southern Illinois. Miners closed all mines in Taylorville. Dan McGill of Springfield one of the leaders. No bloodshed. About 15,000 picketers.
8-20	p. 1, c. 4	Walker says Strikers in "dual move". Walker scores movement and leaders.
8-22	p. 1, c. 4 & 5	One dead, several hurt in Illinois mine clash; all quiet in this area. Miners dispersed with machine gun fire. Taylorville mines at a stand still.
8-24	Sub-headline	Miners march on Southern Illinois, 2500 - 3000 from Springfield. Stopped by sheriff at Swanwick, Illinois. Carl H. Elshoff of Mine B Coal Co. is one of 4 signers to statement that miners would be better off if they would return to work under the new scale. The signers were local coal operators all idle.
8-25	Headlines, c. 7 & 8	Miners leave scene of attack. Miners repulsed by Franklin County sheriff; 12 seriously injured, about 20 bruised. Miners denounce action of deputies. Miners returning to their homes.
8-26	p. 1, c. 5 & 6	32 mine strike leaders indicted at Taylorville on charges of rioting. DAN MCGILL of Springfield one of thos indicted. Miners planning new invasion of mining fields.
8-28	Headlines	Miners may act to curb LEWIS; say he violated permanent injunction to prevent his interference with Illinois affairs. 2-13-31 injunction restraining LEWIS from interference with District 12 officials in the performance of their duties.
8-29	p. 1, c. 7 & 8	Springfield miners meet Tuesday to pick delegates to statewide conference. Figures show new net wage to be \$1.67 under \$5.00 wage.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
<u>1932</u>		
8-30	p. 1, c 7 & 8	Local striking miners name delegates to state conference on situation.
9-1	Headline	Miners condemn union leaders; meet at Gillespie; ouster of state officials sought. Three delegates by each of 200 state locals.
9-2	p. 1, c. 2 & 3	New miners' union to ask operators to sign for work at old scale. New union formed at Gillespie Friday, 9-2-32, Progressive Miners of America -- CLAUDE PEARCH, President; T. J. JONES, Vice-President; WILLIAM KECK, Secretary-Treasurer.
9-3	p. 1, c 2 & 3	Officials of UMW indicted on counts of: 1. refusal to adhere to majority decision of membership. 2. refusal to carry out the mandates of the district convention. 3. Discrimination v. foreign born members of our union. 4. The outright robbery of referendum vote on wage scale. 5. Use of gangsters, police, sheriffs, state highway patrolmen, and all agencies of force and oppression in murdering and terrorizing loyal members of UMW of A.
9-4	p. 1, c. 2 & 3	New union to meet in October; LEWIS threatens members with expulsion. New union wants contract on old \$6.10 wage scale. Election of permanent officers and writing of constitution to be October 5.
9-5	p. 1, c. 2	Miners draft program for pit contracts, encouraged by prospects of signing local mine on old scale. New organization alleged to comprise 90% of the Illinois miners.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1932 9-7	p. 1, c. 6	Springfield mine owners back UMWA; 5 companies 21 mines, 10,000 workers. J. M. RYAN, Central Illinois Coal Co., CARL H. ELSHOFF, Mine "B" Coal Co., two of the signers, will give "no consideration" to PMA. 14 mines sign up with PMA.
9-11	p. 1, c. 6	Expect all for UMW voting soon. Regular elec- tion of District 12. Purpose of new union to get away from JOHN L. LEWIS and WALKER.
9-13	p. 1, c. 1	Charters of five locals are revoked; steps taken to reopen Springfield mines. No. 2403 Mine "B" Coal Co. Officers: CHARLES BOHANNON, President, ELMER POWELL, Vice-President; JOHN J. KEELY, Recording Secretary; ANTON J. PLOTCH, Treasurer. (2 of these were among the 12 dis- missed).
9-14	p. 1, c. 7 & 8	Progressive miners planning fight against LEWIS action in revoking local charters. (Note) ANTON J. PLOTCH resigned his new office (above) even before he accepted it.
9-19	p. 1, c. 2	State troops restore quiet in Taylorville, Taylorville bombing.
9-20	p. 1, c. 2	300 picketers force Lincoln mine to close. JOHN L. LEWIS revoked five more charters.
9-21	p. 3, c. 1	Lincoln mine to hoist coal at lower wage. PMA picketers leave.
9-26	Headlines	SMITH denies riot killing. State seeks eye witnesses; launch probe as 23 men are held in prison. DAN McGILL shot in left leg. 9 casu- alties in all; one policeman killed. McGILL blames LEWIS men for start of riot. PMA were picketing meeting of UMW.
10-4	p. 1, c. 7 & 8	Progressives begin work on new mine wage scale; delegations appear split. 95 locals represent- ing 29,982.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1932 10-7	Headlines	Delay Mine Union Recognition. Scales are the same as UMW.
10-8	p. 1, c. 1	PMA near end of its convention. Basic wage scale \$5.00 and \$0.68 per ton for hand loaders. Constitution completed.
10-9	p. 1, c. 3	Operators to meet PMA today. Work looks for miners in vicinity. W. M. RYAN of Citizens Mine "A" employing 320 men, to meet. No definite steps taken by Mine "B" Coal Co.
10-10	p. 1, c. 1	1,000 miners back to work in pits here. 3 Panther Creek mines at work under an agreement with PMA. Negotiations between CARL H. ELSHOFF of Mine "B", and W.M. RYAN of Central Illinois Coal Co. Mine "A" broken off.
10-11	p. 1, c. 1	Third firm here signs with PMA. Mine "B" still negotiating with union for operation. Mine "A", WILLIAM M. RYAN signed last night.
10-12	p. 1; c. 4	Springfield coal prices are reduced as result of mine wage scale.
10-13	p. 1, c. 3	Mine "B" signs contract with Progressives. All independent operators in Springfield are now at work with the new union. 2,000 miners employed in all. \$5.00 scale. To start Friday.
10-17	p. 1, c. 4	Find auto riddled by .38 caliber bullets; car believed to be that of PAT ANSBOURY, PMA leader.
10-24	p. 3, c. 5 & 6	Near riot starts as PMA men attempt to present case to Franklin county miners. EDMUNDSON and UMS break it up with fist fight.
11-11	p. 1, c. 3	First mine pay day to be Saturday; first since April -- includes Mine "B".
11-14	p. 1, c. 8	PMA seeks writ to permit union meeting at Taylorville. Sheriff had made UMW men special deputies to stop the meeting.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1932 11-18	p. 1, c. 8	McGILL among men seized by officers for picketing Cora mine.
12-15	p. 1, c. 4	MARCY, KECK unopposed in PMA voting. "Progressive Miner - GERRY ALLARD, editor. Local executives: LESTER DOUGLAS, DAN McGILL and J. J. ROBERTS.
12-17	Headlines	Vandals Blast C & I M bridge span in zone patrolled during mine strife.
1937 4-6	Headlines	PMA on Strike at Mine "B". Seek wages on par with United men. \$5.50 was \$0.50 a day under new contract of UMW \$6.00. ELSHOFF displayed an agreement signed last week by PMA officials for \$5.50 and ordered the men to the pits, pending the signing of a new contract.
4-7	Headlines	PMA miners back to work at "B" shaft after one day strike on promise that new contract with coal operators shall be retroactive to April 1.
4-19	p. 1, c. 4	Mine owners meet UMW for new pact. UMW delivers bitter attack on Progressives at meeting.
4-28	p. 1, c. 6	Reach accord on mine wage for Illinois; tentatively \$6.00 and time and one-half for overtime
5-2	p. 3, c. 1	Miners get \$5,000,000 wage boost. Gain \$.50 daily on wage scale. NOTE: Both PMA and UMW got this scale. RAY EDMUNDSON heads UMW. JOE OZANIC heads PMA. Old agreement of \$5.50 expired March 31.
5-3	p. 1, c. 3	Progressives to ballot on joining A. F. of L. OZANIC predicted a vote would be highly in favor of joining. PMA claims 160 locals with a membership of 35,000.
5-12-37		Nothing about strike at Mine "B".

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1937 5-28	p. 1, c. 7 & 8	Progressive miners granted Federation of Labor charter. District 12, UMW of A to be ousted.
5-29	p. 1, c. 6 & 7	Progressives given A. F. of L. charter; will start drive against LEWIS in Illinois. PMA expects to become sole bargaining agent for all Illinois miners.
6-4	Headlines	United Miners quit Federation. EDMUNDSON withdraws by letter.
6-17	p. 2, c. 1	OZANIC denies statements of United Miners; declares Progressives sole bargaining agency in Illinois. The Associated Press of 6-16 reported a mine agreement signed by committees of the Coal Operators Association and District 12 of UMW of A. 2 year contract.
7-10	p. 1 Headlines	UMW of A Board to Expell GREEN, for granting a charter to PMW.
7-16	p. 2, c. 1	PMA local is opposed to UMW of A meet. States in last five years more than 20 members of PMA have either been shot or their homes bombed and RAY EDMUNDSON's aim is to destroy PMA.
7-17	p. 1, c. 8	Set date for PMA protest. National Bituminous Coal Commission to hear petition of 7-22 of PMA that it rather than UMW represents the majority of workers in Illinois coal fields.
7-19	p. 1, c. 3	PMA airs future of Local #1 who wanted to meet with UMW.
7-22	p. 1, c. 4	Rival mining unions before Federal board for the right to represent miners of Illinois. PMA claims 27,000 members.
7-31	p. 1, c. 7	Progressives get orders to stop working. PMA and operators disagree on contract, adjourn conference. Two major mines closed in Springfield; the rest, probably including Mine "B", previously closed for repairs and usual summer

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
<u>1937</u>		(cont'd) layoff. Scale conference between PMA and Coal Producers Association of Illinois adjourned. In conference since Feb. to replace contract expiring 3-31-37. Argument over a $7\frac{1}{2}$ hour day which UMW had agreed to, also an extra 7 hour shift.
8-1	p. 3, c. 5	Mine owners will operate individually; PMA authorizes tentative working agreements.
8-5	p. 5, c. 1	55 companies in tentative PMA pacts. Central Illinois Coal Co. 342 men. OZANIC says practically all mines to operate by end of week.
8-7	p. 2, c. 4	Joint miners' parley called by EDMUNDSON, UMW and PMA #1.
8-8	Headlines	Progressive Miner Slain In Auto. Shot as autos meet on Route 66. CARL ELSHOFF, operator of Mine "B" Coal Co. said that he recalls STUFFLEBEAM (the killed man) as an employee of his mine, which has been closed down for several weeks. SCHNEIDER in car with victim; two guns also found in victim's car.
8-9	p. 1, c. 5	Miner blames union trouble for \$400 fire; garage at home of A. J. PLOTCH burned. Blames mine trouble. PLOTCH was one of a group of 13 men recently expelled from the PMA on charges prejudicial to the activities of the union. While the nature of the charges was never made official it is understood that miners charged PLOTCH with endeavoring to influence Progressives employed at Mine "B" to switch over to UMW.
8-9	p. 1, c. 6	Blame union enmity for man's death. Belief is that GLENN STUFFLEBEAM's killers were out to get SCHNEIDER. Several shots fired into EDMUNDSON's home, 1146 West Lawrence Ave., 6-6-36.
8-10	p. 1, c. 3	SCHNEIDER and MOODY to face arms charges. Guns in these cars were sent to Northwestern Crime Laboratory to check against slugs fired into EDMUNDSON's home. SCHNEIDER, organizer for PMA; MOODY, special investigator for UMW. He was accused of the above shooting.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1937 8-11	Headlines	United Miners Claim Mine "B". EDMUNDSON's claim false, OZANIC says. Rival unions debate status of ELSHOFF mine which has been closed down for several weeks. EDMUNDSON claims miners met last week and petitioned UMW for a charter. A demand made upon the coal company for a contract. OZANIC says a deliberate lie. 98% of men PMA; 357 men signed a petition designating PMA.
8-12	p. 3, c. 5 & 6	Rival mine leaders lay claims to majority of members in Mine "B" local. 450 men at Mine. PMA claimed petition with 413 names; Local #54 UMW claimed petition with 357 names.
8-14	p. 2, c. 1	Intimidation is charged by PMA miners. Demand slayers of GLENN STUFFLEBEAM be brought to justice.
8-19	p. 1, c. 2	Mine B Head signs with the UMW. Contract signed in Chicago 8-18. All employees working for the company on the last day of operation will be permitted to return to work on the next regular day of operation without discrimination or penalty. UMW local #7469.
8-21	p. 1, c. 3	McGILL sues EDMUNDSON for \$50,000 charging slanderous statements. Article published 7-25-37 in "The Coal Digger", chizzling PMA Board Member exposed.
8-22	p. 1, c. 2 & 3	County officials may ask Governor HORNER stop reopening of Mine "B" action to prevent bloodshed.
8-28	p. 1, c. 4 & 5	Progressive miners and operators sign contract for \$6.00 basic daily pay, with Illinois Coal Producers Association, retroactive to April 1, 1937.
9-6	Headlines	OZANIC raps LEWIS and CIO in Labor Day Speech.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
<u>1937</u>		
9-7	p. 2, c. 3	EDMUNDSON says Mine reunion is on the way.
9-10	p. 5, c. 5	J. L. LEWIS visits in city.
9-12	p. 2, c. 3 & 4	Progressive Miners charged with bombings will enter not guilty pleas on Monday. 39 men charged with bombing of railroad between 1932 and 1935 during mine union warfare.
9-16	p. 1, c. 7	PMA votes 4 to 1 for contract; extends to 3-31-39.
9-17	p. 2, c. 1	Mine "A" will reopen with 325 workers. Central Illinois Mining Co. "A" opens after four months idleness. W. R. RYAN owner. PMA will work mine.
9-20	p. 2, c. 2 & 3	EDMUNDSON sees HERNER to tell UMW stand on opening of ELSHOFF mine. EDMUNDSON claims to represent the majority.
9-21	p. 2, c. 4	Progressives-HERNER talk mine dispute; discuss jurisdiction at Mine "B". PMA state they are willing to go before NLRB for a vote on majority.
9-24	p. 4, c. 1	ELSHOFF says Mine "B" will reopen soon; unable to give date of opening or what union will be employed.
9-25	p. 1 Headlines	U. S. to Settle Mine "B" Conflict. Trouble flares at closed mine. Two UMW miners arrested, JOSEPH ALBANESE and CMINIC PASQUALE. OSCAR FALCETTI, mine superintendent said that he wasn't going to do anything about it because he didn't want to get mixed up in the fight. Both of the above men had a .38 automatic. CHARLES BOHANNON held for investigation in connection with the shooting of ANDREW SUSINSKAS and his wife Tuesday (evidently 9-21-37). Actual shooter was ANDREW SKRLEVICUS.
9-26	p. 2, c. 4	United Miners post bonds of \$5,000, freed. Charged with carrying concealed weapons.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1937 9-26		NLRB announces hearing between PMA and UMW for October 6, 1937.
9-27	p. 1, c. 6 & 7	UMW starts cleanup of Mine "B". Quiet rules as 300 PMA members watch 13 men of UMW start cleaning up. The mine has a contract with UMW and CHARLES ELSHUFF, President of Mine "B" Coal Co. said today more men will be employed as the work of cleaning up the mine progresses. Progressive miners who reported for work were told there was no work today, McGILL said. The men left the mine at once. Mine closed 6-12. Both unions claim majority. NLRB hearing Oct. 6.
9-28	p. 1, c. 7 & 8	300 PMA picketers prevent UMW from going into Mine "B"; one arrested. 12 members of UMW trying to clean up mine.
9-29	p. 1, c. 1 & 2	24 hour picketing started at Mine "B" to halt at reopening. PMA stated "we'll stay here until we get our jobs back".
9-30	p. 2, c. 1	Progressives rally to aid pickets at Mine B. Local 77 donates \$100.
10-11	Headlines, p. 1	A. F. of L. backs PMA against LEWIS.
10-15	p. 2 , c. 1	Mass meeting scheduled at Mine "B" Sunday to acquaint public with facts.
10-25	p. 1, c. 5 & 6	ELSHUFF testifies on mine business as hearing opens on dispute over members. 22% sales outside of state. CHARLES E. PERSONS is the trial examiner. Dispute began when ELSHUFF signed a working agreement on 8-18-37 with UMW. Picketed since 9-28 by PMA.
10-26	p. 1, c. 2,3 & 4	DAN McGILL cross examined at NLRB hearing on Mine B. Petition circulate on May 25 because of passage of the Wagner Act. CZANIC testifies that PMA membership at Mine was 465.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1937 10-27	p. 1, c. 3 & 4	Mine employees terrorized by group of Progressive UMW witnesses charge. SAM ALBANESE and FRANK AUSTIN the witnesses. 444 miners alleged to pay dues to PMA on May 12. Petition with 412 signatures.
10-28	p. 2, c. 1	Mine dispute up to board; hearing ends. ELSHFF testified that he had no contract with PMA on September 20 when he signed contract with UMW. Contract with PMA alleged to expire on July 30. ELSHFF said that he signed contract with UMW because ELMUNDSON told him that a petition showed 300 miners to prefer UMW. ELSHFF admitted that he did not see the petition.
11-3	p. 3, c 4	Freeze out charged by Dan McGill. Claims ELSHFF turned off heat at Mine "B".
11-5	p. 2, c. 2	CZANIC advises pickets that evidence in NLRB hearing favorable to PMA. Approximately \$300 received from union at Mine "A" for use at Mine "B".
11-15	p. 1, c. 2,3 & 4	Bombing trial opens. Indictments charge conspiracy.
11-16	Headlines	Bomb trial testimony starts. Defendants accused of violence. Check-off system used by PMA to buy dynamite. FITZGERALD declared UMW hired thugs out of state. WILLIAM J. SNEE, former president of District 12, replaced with ELMUNDSON by LEWIS.
11-23	Headlines	Mine "B" sues PMA for \$100,000. Injunction asked by Mine which had been reorganized and incorporated under Delaware law.
11-24	p. 1, c. 5 p. 3, c. 4	PMA picketers leave Mine "B" after 56 day vigil. MCGILL stated the injunction was not justifiable. Unfair treatment charged by PMA. Statements issued by L. C. ATKINSON, PAUL MACK, WILLIAM BACK charge NLRB.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1937 11-27	Headlines	Mine "B" will reopen next week. Progressives invited by EDMUNDSON to join UMW.
11-28	p. 1, c. 6	Temporary hearing injunction continued for another week.
11-29	p. 1, c. 6	Delay opening of Mine "B" until after hearing. Injunction hearing set for 12-6-37.
12-4	Headlines	Mine "B" men to vote on unions. NLRB orders mine referendum. McGILL said 429 out of 445 men signed petitions designating PMA as their representative. EDMUNDSON stated, "I have no comment to make at this time, but will probably have something to say later".
12-5	p. 1, c. 5	EDMUNDSON and CZANIC both predict victory for their unions. A statement by EDMUNDSON is quote which reflects that "we feel perfectly confident that we are able to cope with this situation and when Mine "B" opens it will be under the jurisdiction of UMW". Also, "UMW has a valid contract with the Mine "B" Coal Company and expects that the company will liquidate its part of the contract. The district organization will utilize every legal influence it has to see that this is done."
12-7	p. 1, c. 6, 7	OSCAR FALCETTI says PMA men took over mine. States overt acts were committed by picketers when clean-up crew went to work 9-27-45.
12-10	p. 1, c. 2 & 3	Judge grants injunction restraining Progressive from picketing at Mine "B".
12-11	Headlines	Vote Wednesday on Mine "B" union. ELSHOFF signed with UMW 8-19.
12-12	p. 1, c. 5	Mine "B" to be opened Monday, 12-13.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1937 12-13	p. 1, c. 1 & 2	PMA sues mine company for \$250,000 damages in lost wages, etc., and restraint of UMW from working mine until after election 8-14; 400 PMA men appeared at Mine for work but FALCETTI stated his company had a contract with UMW and therefore it was necessary to see them.
12-14	Headlines	"Strikes halt UMW at Mine "B". Owner ordered to use PMA in mine. Permanent injunction against PMA still under advisement.
	p. 1, c. 2, 3 & 4	McGILL shot twice is reported in bombing case.
12-15	p. 1, c. 3 & 4	Mine "B" workers ballot on unions. EDMUNDSON stated legal steps will be taken to set aside most recent restraining order issued in Peoria. His union signed contract on 9-20 and again on 11-22 with the company as a Delaware corporation.
12-16	p. 1, c. 5	PMA union wins Mine "B" vote 404 to 25. EDMUNDSON indicates unfair voting practices. CZANIC denies that distribution or printing of leaflets was done by PMA.
12-22	p. 1, c. 2	Judge dissolves temporary restraining order issued at Peoria 12-14, prohibiting Mine "B" Coal Company from operating the mines with other than men employed as of 5-12. PMA to appear to Circuit Court, the temporary injunction wherein PMA was not permitted to picket Mine "B".  UMW appears election result.
1938 1-4	p. 1, c. 8	U. S. certifies PMA to Mine "B". 75 UMW men were working on this date.
1-5	p. 1, c. 3	PMA to push prosecution of complaint filed 8-21-37 charging company with unfair labor practices. Mine officials declare they will close the mine indefinitely because it has been unprofitable to operate the mine for several years in view of the trouble between rival unions. Company claims they have no contract with either union.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1938 1-11	p. 2, c. 4	FMA will file complaint against Mine "B" company asking the company be cited for contempt in refusing to operate with FMA members.
1-12	p. 1, c. 8	Two FMA maintenance men given permission to work at Mine "B".
1-15	p. 1, c. 3	ELSHOFF rejects FMA plea for negotiations; says he has no plans for opening Mine "B". CZANIC quoted ELSHOFF as follows: "I do not contemplate opening Mine "B" and I have no plans to negotiate today. I may, however, call you the first of the week". CZANIC charged conspiracy between Mine "B" and UMW.
1-18	p. 1, c. 7 & 8	FMA filed formal petition charging coal company with unfair labor practices on three counts. This action came simultaneously with an announcement by SULLIVAN that the mine had closed indefinitely and mules had been removed along with portable equipment from the shaft. FMA also appealed the injunction against them to keep them from picketing.
1-19	p. 2, c. 3	FMA claims mine mules were given to UMW in exchange for work at the shaft. ELSHOFF refused to comment, but stated day before that "since the mine is closed down indefinitely there is no need to keep the mules at the shaft".
4-30	p. 2, c. 1	CHARLES ROTH killed in Mine "B" during inspection trip with CAPELLA. Mine not operating and no statement as to reason for inspection trip. Poison gas was cause of the death.
8-3	Headlines	UMW seeks "Home Rule". District Constitutional Convention scheduled for September 26. LEWIS visited Springfield last week.
8-11	p. 1, c. 4, 5	Charges of unfair labor practices by FMA were dropped today as ELSHOFF agrees to recognize FMA as sole bargaining agent. Agreement signed

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
<u>1938</u>		(cont'd) by JOHN H. FANCHER, Vice-President of PMA; C. E. PEARCY, Secretary-Treasurer, PMA; CARL ELSHEFF; T. G. LEWIS, UMW counsel; I. S. KARFMAN, NLRB attorney; LINNARE C. BAJORK, Director of NLRB 13th District; and JACK C. EVANS, NLRB attorney. EDMUNDSON states "it does not and will not stop the efforts of the UMW in organizing the employees at the mine back into the UMW." EDMUNDSON indicates he will get signed affidavits from miners that they belong to UMW and then will attempt to bargain collectively to get the mine reopened.
8-18	p. 15, c. 5	PMA members of Local 54 approve Mine "B" agreement. Meeting held at PMA headquarters.
8-22	p. 13, c. 5	MCGILL and ELSHEFF hold conference at the mine offices relative to opening the mine.
9-12	p. 1, c. 6	PMA convention in Gillespie, charges NLRB was partial to CIC and rapped it for its slowness in the Mine "B" case.
9-22	p. 8, c. 1	NLRB approves stipulation agreed to in Mine "B" case. Orders company to offer permanent jobs to all those working 5-12-37 and to hire no new employees until this source was exhausted.
9-26	p. 2, c. 4	ELSHEFF states, "Definite plans to reopen the mine have not been made, and whether or not it is opened depends upon the outcome of future conditions."
<u>1939</u>		
1-22	p. 5, c. 1	Hearing to make permanent the injunction restraining PMA from interfering with operations at Mine "B" set for Wednesday, 1-25.
1-25	p. 13, c. 8	Mine "B" case postponed. Union attorneys are JOHN R. KANE, JOHN P. MADDEN.
2-6	p. 3, c. 5	WILLIAM CROMELTON elected board member of PMA, the office formerly held by MCGILL.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1939 2-24	p. 1, c. 3 & 4	UMW seeks to extend its contracts. These instructions from JOHN L. LEWIS.
4-5	p. 1, c. 6	CZANIC seeks recognition of PMA by operators in parley in New York. Says his organization represents 54,000 miners in Appalachian region. He says operators refer to deal with UMW because of their concessions which make working conditions bad while the miners would rather be represented by PMA.
4-8	p. 2, c. 1	CZANIC raps FRIES' labor stand. Declares "Your attitude and refusal to support these amendments indicates to me that you, like the CIO and UMW officials who are controlled by JOHN L. LEWIS, fear that the mine workers by virtue of these amendments being adopted would be afforded an honest, unrestricted opportunity to become free to join the organization of their choice."
4-17	p. 2, c. 4, 5	Referendum vote of miners to determine union affiliation proposed by state mine unions. PMA answered that they are willing to abide by the decisions of the miners.
4-20	p. 5, c. 1	LEWIS issues strike call to all Illinois miners when New York negotiations broke down. Date set for 5-4-39. Must give 15 days notice to employer according to tentative agreement extending the old contract. PMA not to strike, CZANIC says.
5-10	p. 2, c. 4	33 subjects in the bombing case were sentenced. LAN McGILL was one of them who was sentenced to Federal Penitentiary at Milan, Michigan, for 2 years.
5-11	Headlines	LEWIS approves individual pacts; states mines to open. EDMUNDSON said new contract would be offered to operators which would be identical to the one which expired 4-1-39 except for two clauses which stipulated a union shop and a recognition of the UMW as exclusive bargaining agents for the mine employees.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1939 5-27	Headlines	Asks Jefferson Mine Opening ELSKFF in negotiation over shaft. Mine "B" to remain closed and ELSKFF will be named operator of Brewerton Coal Company's Jefferson mine. ELSKFF says he has been negotiating with RFC in an effort to reopen the Jefferson mine.
5-27	p. 1, c. 8	If the mine is reopened, ELSKFF said, tonnage will be increased and all miners working at the time operations ceased will be reemployed. He added additional men would be needed and these would come from Mine "B". ELMUNDSON said a petition was signed by 90% of the 200 miners employed at the mine requesting that it be reopened and suggested ELSKFF be the operator. Petition was to RFC and was signed by UMW Union #7473.
6-5	p. 3., c. 1	UMW moves to open Mine "B". ELMUNDSON said he had met with 91 men of the 450 normally employed there and had been authorized to circulate a petition among the miners asking that the UMW local and district officers confer with ELSKFF in an effort to open the mine.
6-6	p. 3, c. 4	FMW insisted that if Mine "B" reopens it will have to use FMW union members only as reflected in the NLRB decree.
7-3	p. 1, c. 2	Progressive Miners see conspiracy. Ask check of mine records, UMW books, and income tax returns to see who is paying mine royalty. Alleges a conspiracy to evade NLRB ruling.
8-8	p. 1 Headline	ELSKFF will reopen Mine "B". FMA will negotiate new terms. All old employees to have first chance. Stipulation of 9-19-38 set out.
8-11	p. 2, c. 5	RAY ELMUNDSON sends note to ELSKFF; says UMW will insist on rights for its members.
10-30	p. 1 Headline	U. S. Ends Mine Bomb Cases. Three remaining cases are ordered nolleied. 25 defendants got 2 year sentences for conspiracy.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1939 <u>11-2</u>	Subheadline	Mine "B" Men Ordered Back to Work Immediately. ELSHFF to open mine immediately, under NLRB stipulations. Notice to 100 maintenance men. All on payroll 5-12-37 eligible for old jobs without prejudice before any new employees can be hired.
11-7	p. 5, c. 8	Mine "B" to hoist coal on Thursday 10-9-39. Coal diggers notified.
1940 <u>1-25</u>	p. 1, c. 8	No self rule for UMW in Illinois. JOHN L. LEWIS defends E.MUNISON.
5-29	p. 1, c. 3	KECK leads Progressive Union vote as president, successor to REED.
5-31	p. 1, Subheadline	UMW requests new election at Mine "B". Petition filed with NLRB. Since 1-3-38 NLRB certified PMA no contract has been negotiated. Meanwhile mine has been operated by Local #54. 320 men alleged to be working at the mine.
8-1	p. 1, Subheadline	Progressive miners file charges against Mine "B" claiming Coal Co. persistently employed only UMW members. Company charged with hiring UMW men while refusing to hire 75 PMA members. The complaint lists the names of the men. Also alleged that the company allowed PMA men to go from room to room in an attempt to organize in July of 1940. Mention made of assaults and intimidation on PMA members WILLIAM SCHEWE, JOHN MELAKER, and SALVATORE CATALOMA. PMA miners given the best working condition so the petition before NLRB alleges.
		Shaft operating without a contract for the past 10 months with members of PMA and UMW working side by side. Mine "B" refused to contract with PMA. Bargaining and negotiations going on at the mine with UMW while the negotiations with PMA were supposed to be carried out.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1940 9-22	p. 9, c. 3	UMW to open organization drive on October 1. Particular attention to Springfield and Peoria areas.
10-26	p. 1, c. 8	State UMW to support W. L. WILLKIE, following JOHN L. LEWIS lead.
1941 1-10	p. 1, c. 2	Violence is reported at mine again. 4 rival unionists in fist fight after UMW strike threat unless ELSHOFF signs contract with UMW by 1-17. Outbreak is another in a series of incidents which have occurred at the mine lately. EDMUNDSON alleged to have said "We are going to take that mine". ELSHOFF refused to negotiate because of NLRB ruling.
1-15	p. 1, c. 3	WILLIAM KECK reelected by Progressives as District President.
1-16	p. 1, c. 4 & 6	Statewide strike is threatened by PMA in Mine "B" squabble. PMA has petitioned NLRB for another election.
1-20	p. 1, c. 5 & 6	A. F. of L. affiliates ask Congress for probe of Mine "B" case here. NLRB hearing today. PMA asks for dismissal of petition for election. Since 12-15-37 Mine "B" refused to contract with PMA.
1-22	p. 3, c. 5	Ask right to continue Mine "B" arguments. PMA to push dismissal of UMW petition for vote, claiming election not necessary since one was held in December 1937.
1-25	p. 1, c. 6 & 7	Violence flares at Mine "B". 4 United Men arrested; ED HECKLEBECK, CHARLES DCHANIN, WILLIAM LASKY, and WILLIAM SIRCUT. Charged with assault and battery.
1-28	p. 1 Headline	July to probe Mine "B" fight. Grand Jury to hear 15 PMA witnesses.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1941 1-30	p. 1, c. 2	NLRB hears arguments on Mine "B". UMW asks election PMA protests.
2-17	p. 1, c. 7	Mine "B" vote is scheduled here for February 21, set by NLRB.
	p. 1, c. 8	PMA to spurn merger offer of the UMW.
2-20	p. 1, c. 2	EDMUNDSON in three point unity offer.
2-21	p. 1, Subheadline	United Mine Workers Win Mine "B" Vote. 259 to 108; 4 votes neutral and 18 challenged and uncounted. About 375 eligible to vote. Company will be asked to bargain with the winner.
3-4	p. 1, c. 6	UMW plan to picket mines if necessary; one is Mine "A". Strike if fails to negotiate contract for better wages. Mines worked by PMA members of Local 7469 of Mine "B" asked to participate in the picketing.
4-17	p. 17, c. 1	Panther Creek and Mine "B" to reopen Friday (4-18-41). Mine "B" opens under extension agreement signed March 14, 1941 with UMW about 400 men employed. The agreements are extensions to the contract with the Illinois Coal Producers Association which expired March 31.
9-4	Headline	RYAN sells Mine "A" to ELSHOFF. Central Illinois Coal Mining Co. Citizens Mine "A"-- WILLIAM M. RYAN head of Mine A for last 18 years.  History -- ELSHOFF's career as a mine official began in 1914 with the Spring Creek Coal Co. He operated that concern until 1922 when he purchased and operated a mine at Cantrall. Since June 1935 he has been head of Mine "B".  Included in sale was all supplies and equipment. Mine idle since April 1, 1941.

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Date of Newspaper	Location of Article in Newspaper	Information
1941 9-15	p. 1, c. 5	Mine "A" will operate with UMW Union. Miners switch allegiance from PMA to rival union. 310 men employed, Mine "A" workers voted to abandon Progressives, Contract with ELSHOFF signed 9-14.
9-22	p. 2, c. 1	RAY EDMUNDSON named head of Illinois State Industrial Union as President.

A review of the Illinois State Journal was made by the same Agents. This review added nothing new in substance to the review of the Illinois State Register. It is noted that the substance in the Illinois State Journal had a slightly different slant at times and played up such things as the PMA auxiliary, and made more mention of the Jefferson Mine situation. The following items did not appear in the Register:

- 10-28-37      The weight sheet of car loading at Mine "B" on May 12, 1937 was introduced in evidence showing that 185 loaders out of 337 loaded considerably less coal than they did on the first 10 days of the month.
- 12-16-37      UMW sent no checkers, judges, or tally keepers to the polls to watch the NLRB voting and counting of ballots because of the non union position on the official ballot, according to EDMUNDSON. Circulars were distributed to the miners lined up to vote threatening a 99 year expulsion penalty. Both unions deny the distribution of this circular.
- 8-9-39      Plans to reopen Mine "B" announced by CARL H. ELSHOFF. Each mine worker to be notified by letter.
- 2-7-41      NLRB ordered to vote on Mine "B" on union choice within 30 days.
- 8-5-41      UMW will picket shafts employing PMA miners at Panther Creek No. 5 and Citizens Mine "A". EDMUNDSON claims 90% favor UMW.
- 9-8-41      Mine "A" workers to meet Monday. Special call for a meeting of 330 PMA Local #51. Meeting at 7:30 at PMA headquarters, 6th and Washington. JOHN MAKEROUSSAKS, President, said the purpose of the call was "urgent business relative to abandonment of the mines". Mine "A" closed since April 1. Members of Mine "B" belong to rival union.

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- 9-11-41 PMA of Mine "A" told future course for unit. Met last night at PMA hall. No announcement of decisions reached at the meeting was given except that another meeting had been scheduled in a few days.
- 9-14-41 PMA of Mine "A" meet tomorrow. 330 members invited to attend a meeting at Elks Club at 2:00 p.m., Sunday to discuss situation at Mine "A". A committee which was appointed at the last regular meeting of the local to interview the new owner of the mine, will report back to the whole group at this meeting.
- 9-15-41 PMA workers at Mine "A" vote to join UMW. Less than 12 hours later CARL H. ELSHOFF, recent purchaser, announced the shaft closed since March 1941 would reopen.

MISCELLANEOUS INVESTIGATION

and

INTERVIEWS

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN BERTHA

Mr. BERTHA who was an official of the National Labor Relations Board and who handled the details of the election conducted in Springfield, Illinois to determine who would be the bargaining Agent for the Mine B Coal Company was located at Peoria, Illinois and interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] on September 16, 1943.

Mr. BERTHA is presently working at [REDACTED]. He is quite willing to testify for the Government in this case provided he is subpoenaed. Mr. BERTHA stated that he and L. E. BAJORK worked on the Mine B case together and that from the very outset they had considerable difficulty in getting action from the National Labor Board in Washington particularly with reference to certifying an election. When they came to Springfield they found a very tense situation and as such felt that it should be dealt with immediately. Mr. BERTHA stated that the election of December 15, 1937 was conducted fairly in every respect. He advised that he prided himself upon the way that he conducted his elections as a National Labor Board representative and that even after he had gone into private industry various unions had requested him to come and conduct elections. Mr. BERTHA had a very clear recollection of the difficulties under which he worked and of the events which occurred at that time. He stated that the United Mine Workers made several charges alleging the election was unfair. First, that the election was conducted in a vicinity where liquor was available. Second, that people voted who were not on the payroll of the Mine B Company. Third, that the United Mine Workers were not represented in the election. Fourth, that seven men who were under indictment and being tried in mine bombing cases were not eligible to vote. Fifth, that there was coercion.

In answer to these charges Mr. BERTHA stated that it would have been difficult to locate an election place in Springfield which would not be near some liquor dispensing store. They were very careful to pick a place that would be absolutely neutral due to the strong feeling on both sides, and the Armory was selected as the most likely place. The Armory was also selected because it was felt that if it were held on government property there would be less chance for any violence. Even then the mayor of Springfield who was very concerned over the situation stated that he would hold Mr. BERTHA responsible for any destruction of property in the Armory.

Relative to the persons who voted in the election Mr. BERTHA stated that the payroll was certified by the employer himself and that this contention was baseless. The United Mine Workers were not represented in the election because of their own action, by refusing to pay

Among the charges brought by the United Mine Workers was that National Labor Board representatives displayed favoritism toward

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN BERTHA  
(continued)

To support this contention the United Mine Workers pointed out that the Progressives performed certain manual labor relative to setting up equipment in the Armory for holding the election. Mr. BERTHA stated that the United Mine Workers were also requested to assist in this matter but that they refused. According to custom this work was generally done by one or both of the participants in the election.

Relative to the seven men, former employees of Mine B who were on trial in the mine bombing case, Mr. BERTHA advised that specific arrangements were made with the U.S. District Attorney and the Federal Court to permit these men to vote. There was no question but what they were employees at the time that the mine shut down May 12, 1937. So far as he knew Mr. BERTHA stated that there was no criticism whatsoever. UMW charged that the Progressives carried some of their members to the polls in automobiles. Undoubtedly, this was true. However, Mr. BERTHA pointed out that UMW had an equal opportunity to take their members to vote at the polls also and that there was no evidence of coercion in that respect.

Mr. BERTHA stated that it was significant to him that these charges by UMW were not brought locally. He and BAJORK had a feeling throughout the entire proceedings that the company under Elshoff and the UMW was simply stalling for time and that in this respect they were perhaps being assisted by National officials of the Labor Board at Washington, D.C.

The charge had been made at that time that the Labor Board was definitely pro CIO and Mr. BERTHA was inclined to believe that this was true. The charges by the United Mine Workers were never brought locally but the first that he heard of them was from his headquarters in Washington, D.C. He had the feeling that in Springfield he and BAJORK were dealing first hand with the Progressives. However, with the United Mine Workers he felt that EDMUNDSON referred all of his ideas and objections to the Washington Headquarters of the United Mine Workers who in turn took it up with the Labor Board there and eventually he was called by the Labor Board regarding these matters. Mr. BERTHA stated that when he first arrived in Springfield and reviewed the situation he immediately asked for an election and in fact repeated this advise many times to the Labor Board which was unusually slow in acting whereas generally in matters of this sort the Labor Board acts at least within 90 days. However, on this occasion it was six months before the Labor Board actually certified the election.

Mr. BERTHA was present at the National Labor Board hearing in Chicago, Illinois on September 8, 1937 at which time representatives of both PIA and UMW were present. At all times the Progressive produced evidence showing that they held the majority of the members at Mine B.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH      The UMW never produced any evidence whatsoever.

JOHN BERTHA

(continued)

"The attitude of CARL ELSHOFF during this period was described by Mr. BERTHA as being very remote. He was never agreeable to any suggestion which might come from the Progressives and Mr. BERTHA had the feeling during the time that he was in Springfield that ELSHOFF was being financed by someone. He noted also that during the hearings which were held in October of 1937 the Attorneys for UMW and ELSHOFF sat at the same table and at no time did his interest appear antagonistic.

Relative to the United Mine Workers' position Mr. BERTHA informed that he was convinced their activities were designed to promote a delay of action. They wanted, first, the Board to certify the United Mine Workers as bargaining agent without an election. Two, they would not agree to a consent election. In this respect BERTHA informed that ELSHOFF would not consent to the "consent election". Also it seems that in a consent election all three parties mutually agree, that is, the two contesting unions and the employer that an election will be held and that the employer will bargain with the union who wins. ELSHOFF took the position that he was required to bargain under the Labor Act with the winner of the election so why enter into an agreement such as a "consent election". The United Mine Workers of America never entered into any of the hearings pertaining to the proposed election. From the actions and the statements of EDMUNDSON it was clear to BERTHA that EDMUNDSON hoped that sufficient pressure would be brought in Washington upon the Labor Board to force them to certify the UMW as the bargaining union at Mine B without an election.

According to Mr. BERTHA, JOHN L. LEWIS never entered the picture in these negotiations. However, he advised that counsel for the UMW was THURLOW LEWIS, who was the brother of JOHN L. LEWIS.

Mr. BERTHA stated that at length due to the Labor Board's hesitancy in taking definite action both he and BAJORK were afraid to go to Springfield. Mr. BERTHA was certain that they were shadowed all the time they were in Springfield by the UMW men and was almost certain that PMA employed the same tactics. It was obvious in the one or two conferences that they had jointly with representatives of both unions that some of the men were determined on both sides and for fear that actual violence would break out in such conferences they decided against holding them unless they got better support from the Labor Board in Washington.

Mr. BERTHA was questioned as to whether or not it was obvious that UMW was employing counsel for ELSHOFF during the proceedings in the fall

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INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN BERTHA  
(continued)

of 1937 with particular reference to the pleadings which were purportedly drawn up by the firm of Winston, Straum and Shaw of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. BERTHA stated that it was a practice among some of the large law firms in the United States who had a lawyer well versed in labor matters to draw up what was known as model pleadings. Mr. BERTHA informed that one of the law firms engaging in this practice was Winston, Straum and Shaw. These model pleadings were for sale and could be purchased by any attorney or client who might be engaged in a labor controversy.

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INTERVIEW WITH  
GEORGE BOTT,  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR,  
13th REGION, NLRB

On September 14, 1943, Special Agent (A) [REDACTED] and Special Agent [REDACTED] interviewed GEORGE BOTT, Regional Director, 13th Region, National Labor Relations Board, 176 North Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois. This investigation was prompted by information set out in report of [REDACTED] Special Agent, San Francisco, California, dated September 10, 1943, wherein it is indicated that the 13th Region, NLRB, may have an additional file in connection with instant matter; further, that the Bureau and the Department may not have had the benefit of the information contained in that file.

A search of the records of NLRB reflected an additional informal file under case file No. XIII-C-1665, entitled "Carl H. Elshoff and Progressive Mine Workers of America, District No. 1". Mr. BOTT advised that a charge was filed in this case on September 23, 1941 by WILLIAM KECK, President of District 1, PMW, alleging violation of Section 8, subsections (1) and (5); that preliminary inquiries were made by the Field Examiner of NLRB, and that the case was withdrawn on December 22, 1941.

In accordance with arrangements made through the Bureau and the Department, Special Agent [REDACTED] reviewed the above file on September 15, 1943. All pertinent information was photostated. Photostatic copies were furnished the Bureau and the Department by Springfield letter dated September 16, 1943.

For the information of this file and in brief, the following pertinent information appeared in the above referred to NLRB file:

By letter of September 22, 1941, WILLIAM KECK, President of District No. 1, PMW, transmitted a charge against CARL H. ELSHOFF, alleging he engaged in unfair labor practices in that on or about September 15, 1941, he refused to bargain collectively with the authorized representatives of PMW previously chosen by the majority of the production and maintenance employees at Mine "A" to represent them for the purpose of collective bargaining.

By memorandum for the file submitted by Field Examiner MARTIN WAGNER dated October 4, 1941, it appears that RAY EDMUNDSON discussed on October 4, instant matter. EDMUNDSON stated to WAGNER that ELSHOFF had purchased Mine "A"; that the mine had not been operated since March 31, 1941 when the contract between the mine and former company had expired; that it was customary not to operate the mine during the summer months; that when it was announced in the newspapers that ELSHOFF had purchased Mine "A" representatives of the local union PMW had come to EDMUNDSON and stated that they wanted to join UMW. EDMUNDSON told them to hold a meeting of the whole local and to take the necessary action to dissolve the local, and then they could join the UMW; that

INTERVIEW WITH  
GEORGE BOTT  
(continued)

on Sunday, September 21, 1941, at a mass meeting of the members of the local union of PMW, the local dissolved itself and thereupon 199 of the former employees of Mine "A" signed notarized applications for membership in UMW. Immediately thereafter EDMUNDSON communicated with ELSHOFF and signed a contract with the company for the employees of Mine "A". EDMUNDSON told WAGNER that these employees were undoubtedly afraid that ELSHOFF would mine the newly acquired property through Mine "B". He stated that despite the fact that he might receive criticism from UMW employees, he took the new Mine "A" employees and insisted that both mines be operated as separate mines.

By memorandum submitted by WAGNER it is reflected that ELSHOFF came to the NLRB on November 1, 1941. He told WAGNER he personally purchased assets and unexpired lease of Mine "A"; that these assets he had in turn leased to Mine "B" Coal Company which is now operating Mine "A". He stated that he first had hoped to mine the coal in Mine "A" from mine "B". He stated that when he purchased Mine "A" it was not in operation. After he purchased the assets arrangements were made to reopen the mine on September 23, 1941; that he sent notices to all former employees of Mine "A" advising them of the purchase, and that if any of the employees desired to continue work in that mine they should report to work within ten days; that prior to the opening of the mine ELSHOFF was informed by EDMUNDSON that UMW represented a majority of the former employees of Mine "A"; that EDMUNDSON presented 199 notarized statements of former employees of Mine "A" which designated UMW as their bargaining representative. EDMUNDSON also received notarized copies of the minutes of the local union of the Progressive Mine Workers which union had been in existence at Mine "A". On the basis of this evidence ELSHOFF said he signed an agreement with EDMUNDSON, and that EDMUNDSON insisted that Mine "A" be operated as a separate mine. At this time ELSHOFF stated that he did not believe that he was obligated to hire any of the former employees of Mine "A" since he had not taken over a corporation but had merely purchased some of the assets of that corporation.

A memorandum for the file submitted by MARTIN WAGNER indicates that he conferred with ELSHOFF on December 18, 1941. At this time ELSHOFF refused to turn over a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of PMW No. 51; that these were later obtained from EDMUNDSON. ELSHOFF permitted inspection of the list of the 199 names of individuals who had signed notarized statements designating UMW as the bargaining representative. He stated that a majority of the employees held a special meeting on September 14, and changed their affiliation from PMW to UMW. ELSHOFF exhibited a contract signed on September 15 between Mine "A" and UMW. EDMUNDSON exhibited to WAGNER the authorization slips, a sample copy of which is included in the photostats, signed by 199 individuals on Sunday, September 14, when PMW Local 51 disbanded and new local 7840 was formed.

A copy of the minutes of the special meeting of Local Union 51, PMW, dated at 2:30 p.m., September 14, 1941, at the Elks Club, Springfield, Illinois, is also contained in the photostats. These minutes reflect that the report of the committee elected at a special meeting held on Thursday night, September 11, 1941, was approved. The report of the committee who conferred with OSCAR

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INTERVIEW WITH FALCETTI, and RAY EDMUNDSON, was approved. A motion to  
GEORGE BOTT withdraw affiliation with PMA was approved. The meeting was  
(continued) addressed by RAY EDMUNDSON. Officers were elected; Pit Com-  
mittee was elected. It was moved and seconded that each  
individual in attendance at the meeting sign an individual application for  
membership card in UMW, thereby designating UMW as the collective bargaining  
agent.

By letter of December 13, 1941, WILLIAM KECK withdrew his charge  
before the NLRB.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN H. CARROLL, JR. JOHN H. CARROLL, JR. was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] and Special Agent (A) [REDACTED]

in Chicago, Illinois, on September 14, 1943.

CARROLL is General Freight Agent for the B & O Railroad with offices in Grand Central Station, Chicago, Illinois. This interview was conducted in view of the fact that ROBERT C. SOLOMON and L. G. PEFFERLE, owner and attorney respectively, for Panther Creek Mines, Springfield, Illinois, advised in interviews reported in report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, dated September 13, 1943, that CARROLL had been connected with negotiations between ELSHOFF and SOLOMON in the contemplated purchase of Panther Creek properties.

Mr. CARROLL advised that at the time of instant matter he was interested as a railroad man in securing more commercial coal business for the B & O and Alton Railroads. He stated that he entered into the negotiations for the purchase of that property by CARL H. ELSHOFF purely as a railroad man to see if he could assist the negotiations in order to get the Panther Creek Mine properties in operation. He was called into the picture by the railroad company because of his acquaintanceship with bank officials in Springfield, Illinois. He stated that he met with SOLOMON on one occasion, and that apparently from that contact SOLOMON gathered the impression that he, CARROLL, was interested financially in the transaction. Since this was entirely erroneous, CARROLL stated he met with SOLOMON upon a second occasion and disclaimed any such interest in the transaction.

He stated that while he did not have personal knowledge of CARL H. ELSHOFF's financial condition he assumed that ELSHOFF would not be able to finance the purchase of the Panther Creek properties on his own. He stated that he had talked with ELSHOFF briefly on the matter of the purchase, but no discussion was ever had as to whether ELSHOFF would be able to secure the money or where he might secure the money. CARROLL stated that he probably at that time guessed that ELSHOFF might secure the money from either the United Mine Workers of America or JOHN L. LEWIS, since it had been rumored at that time that the United Mine Workers had financed ELSHOFF in connection with Mine "B". However, ELSHOFF or no one else ever told him where the money for the purchase if made by ELSHOFF might come. He stated that he knows RAY EDMUNDSON and JOHN L. LEWIS, but that neither of these individuals ever mentioned this particular transaction.

He further recalls that he was in the cocktail lounge of the Leland Hotel, probably with SOLOMON and ELSHOFF, and that the conversation had included matters pertaining to the Panther Creek purchase. He is not sure of all the persons at the table but seems to recall that RAY EDMUNDSON came into the cocktail lounge and sat at the table, but as soon as EDMUNDSON joined the

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN H. CARROLL, JR. group all discussion of the proposed purchase was dropped.  
(continued)

He stated that he had attended in the late afternoon parties in ELSHOFF's suite in the Morrison Hotel, but on none of these occasions did he ever recall any conversation pertaining to this matter. He was questioned concerning other matters of interest in this case, but was unable to furnish any pertinent information.

Interview with CARROLL failed to develop any pertinent information concerning this case, and his knowledge is to be limited to hearsay information.

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INTERVIEW WITH JOHN W. DOHERTY Special Agent [redacted] and Special Agent (A) [redacted] interviewed JOHN W. DOHERTY, United Steel Workers of America, CIO, 205 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois on September 14, 1943. His office telephone number is State 3126. This interview was conducted in accordance with a request from the Department set out in Bureau letter dated August 23, 1943. This request asked that it be ascertained what relationship existed between DOHERTY and EDMUNDSON, and as to whether DOHERTY was aware of EDMUNDSON's attitude at the time DOHERTY suggested to BAJORK that EDMUNDSON was perhaps willing to reiterate a previous offer to operate Mine "B". This was set out in a memorandum written on October 8, 1937 by LEONARD BAJORK.

On interview, DOHERTY advised that from 1933 to 1936 he was an auditor with the United Mine Workers. His job consisted of auditing the various local union records throughout the State of Illinois; that he worked for UMW during the SNEED and into the EDMUNDSON administration. In 1936 he went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he remained until 1940 for the purpose of directing the organization of the United Steel Workers of America under CIO in that area.

DOHERTY met LEONARD C. BAJORK in St. Louis when BAJORK was Regional Director of NLRB at St. Louis. Concerning BAJORK's memorandum to the effect that DOHERTY had suggested to BAJORK that RAY EDMUNDSON of the United Mine Workers was perhaps willing to reiterate his previous offer to operate Mine "B", DOHERTY stated as follows: In connection with DOHERTY's work for the United Steel Workers he had come to know BAJORK well, and had found him to be of great assistance. Thereafter, upon an occasion when he met EDMUNDSON, date and place not recalled by DOHERTY, he learned that EDMUNDSON did not know BAJORK. He, therefore, suggested to EDMUNDSON that he should meet BAJORK and become well acquainted with him, and thus he would be able to go to BAJORK when it was necessary to find out what could and could not be done in connection with union matters. DOHERTY advised that no doubt as the result of this suggestion and some conversation with EDMUNDSON that the memorandum referred to above was written by BAJORK.

DOHERTY stated that especially since he was located in St. Louis during the pertinent period herein involved he had never talked with EDMUNDSON. As a matter of fact, he had little opportunity to talk with EDMUNDSON in connection with instant matter, and that at any event EDMUNDSON had never furnished him with any information concerning activities at Mine "B". He did know that EDMUNDSON was particularly active and particularly anxious to organize Mine "B" UMW, but EDMUNDSON had never given him any information as to why.

DOHERTY stated that he is personally acquainted with JOHN L. LEWIS, but that LEWIS had never talked with him concerning Mine "B" or Mine "A" problems, and that as a matter of fact LEWIS was not likely to have done so

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INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN J. DOHERTY  
(continued)

especially if all the gossip information he, DOHERTY, has is true, since LEWIS is the type of man who confides only with the necessary people on matters such as this.

DOHERTY mentioned that between 1933 and 1936 regular audits were made under the SNEED administration in Illinois. After DOHERTY left the UMW organization in Illinois there were no audits for a period of some time until PACE was appointed as auditor; that PACE's appointment was made for the reason that the local membership had come to expect the regular audits then made be DOHERTY, and that they demanded that these regular audits be continued. He stated that PACE was apparently appointed merely to satisfy the local union members in the question of audits. DOHERTY stated that he had heard of an audit and transfer of records from Local 54 to International Headquarters, but that this was really hearsay or gossip information, and that he had no direct information concerning it.

DOHERTY stated that one JOHN J. BROWNLEE, United Steel Workers of America, CIO, 1500 Commonwealth Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was present at one or two of ELSHOFF's parties at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago, and allegedly heard ELSHOFF leave instructions with the hotel and the Morrison bar that EDMUNDSON was to have anything he wanted at the hotel, and that it was to be charged to ELSHOFF's account.

From DOHERTY's interview it appears that he is familiar with the general story as appeared in the newspapers and from gossip from labor leaders, but is unable to furnish any direct information of value concerning this case.

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

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

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

The records, however, of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Sangamon County, Springfield, Illinois, under docket No. 52104, reflect that a bill of complaint was filed October 11, 1929, by HARRY FISHWICK, et al., against JOHN L. LEWIS, et al. This was an action in chancery requesting immediate temporary injunction and permanent injunction by the officers of the then District No. 12, U. M. W. of A. against JOHN L. LEWIS and other officers of the International U. M. W. and individuals whom LEWIS had appointed to assume the various offices of District No. 12 in place of the elected officers, HARRY FISHWICK being one of the elected officers. In this case, JOSEPH A. LONDRIGAN and FLOYD E. THOMPSON were the principal attorneys representing FISHWICK. The principal attorneys representing JOHN L. LEWIS were HENRY WARRUM, CHARLES E. FEIRICH, M. PULVERMAN and GILLESPIE, BURKE, and GILLESPIE.

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

A check of the records of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Appeals, Supreme Court Building, Springfield, Illinois, revealed that as a result of the proceedings in Circuit Court of Sangamon County in connection with instant case, two appeals were taken. The first appeal by JOHN L. LEWIS contends that the temporary injunction imposed by the Circuit

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(Continued)

Court should be dismissed. The Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the Lower Court's decision and did not dismiss the temporary injunction.

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

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

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

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

In view of the voluminous nature of the case record and pleadings in this case, copies of the proceedings are at this time not being secured. It appears that they would have little value except as background information in connection with instant case, in view of the fact that the case involves a dispute within the U. M. W. of A. union and is not between members of the U. M. W. and the Progressive Mine Workers.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN GROH

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 11, 1943.

At the Office of the Springfield Field Division Agents interviewed JOHN GROH, Pawnee, Illinois, who furnished the statement mentioned herein.

In regard to the exhibits mentioned in his statement from JG-1 to JG-19 inclusive, it might be stated that they are being retained in the exhibit section of instant case and are not being set forth in detail as it is felt that other reference has been made to the reports and affidavits in interviews with other officials and miners.

In regard to these exhibits, MR. GROH requested that they be returned to him after instant case is disposed of.

GROH also advised that back in 1910 he shot a rabbit in Pawnee, Illinois and that a neighbor thought he was shooting at him so the neighbor got a warrant out and the Police at Pawnee, Illinois arrested him but did not put him in jail and after the matter was explained the warrant was dismissed.

He further said that in 1932 or 1933 the Sheriff of Springfield, Illinois came to his home and arrested him on an assault and battery warrant and took him to the County Jail where he was held about 20 minutes and was then released on bond and was bound over to the Grand Jury. GROH said he was not near the scene of the assault and battery but was in another town and had nothing to do with the case. He further said he never heard anything further about the case and never was indicted or tried.

It was noted that JOHN GROH is an intelligent individual and he speaks in a clear tone and is readily understood. He advised he is willing to cooperate to the fullest extent and will testify if necessary. It is felt that he would make a very good witness and he said he can testify from his recollection and also from the reports and affidavits and notes which he turned over to Agents. It might be stated that GROH had given the above exhibits to Mr. SCHNEIDER of PIA who brought them to the Springfield Field Division a few days earlier in order that they would be available when Mr. GROH came to be interviewed. In regard to these exhibits and copies of affidavits, Mr. GROH put his initial plus the number and date on each report or affidavit.

The signed statement which he furnished is as follows:

\*Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 11, 1943

"I, John Groh, Pawnee, Ill. hereby give the following statement to [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN GROH of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement and I make it of my own free will.  
(continued)

"I am presently employed by the Weaver Manu. Co. Springfield, Ill. I was born Jul. 10, 1888 in Hungary, I came to U. S. in 1900 and became a citizen through my father's naturalization in 1906 or 1908. I first joined a mine union at Lincoln, Ill. in 1903 this was U.M.W. I have held various offices in the unions from time to time, holding all local offices at one time or another. I have been a P.M.A. board member from Sept. 1939 to Feb. 1941 this was the District Board for Springfield, Ill. Mine "B" was included in my district. I have never worked at Mine "B". I had nothing to do with affairs at mine B until I became a board member just prior to the reopening of the mine in 1939.

"My attention was first called to the mine "B" situation when I read in the paper that the mine was reopening. I then called Mr. Elshoff and told him I was interested in the reopening of mine "B" as a Board member of P.M.A. which had the bargaining rights in his mine. He told me he had nothing to talk to me about and didn't intend to discuss the opening of mine "B" with me or the organization that I represent. I informed him that P.M.A. had the bargaining rights and that we were interested in the opening of this mine. He became a little abusive and I then contacted the lawyer he had hired to represent him. The lawyer told me Elshoff was going to open the mine under an open shop. This was in the lawyer's office at 5th & Adams. Through the attorney we finally got an interview with Mr. Elshoff, Mr. Falsetti and the attorney, Mr. McCann, Mr. Koch, Mr. Badock and I met with these men at the District P.M.A. headquarters. Mr. Lee Ensel was the Attorney for Mr. Elshoff. The Sect.-Treas. of the mine "B" Co. was also there I don't recall his name. We had a discussion and could not get together at this time Mr. Elshoff made the statement that he wouldn't sign a contract with either union. This meeting took place a few days after the mine was opened as an open shop, as I recall. After this meeting we the P.M.A. officials decided since we could reach no agreement that we would just hide our time until something happened to call the board member into the picture. This would be when a controversy arose at the mine between the union and the company that could not be settled by the local officers.

Such a controversy did arise and I went out there and he refused to talk with me. I returned to my office and shortly received a call from Elshoff telling me he was wrong, that under the N.L.R.B. ruling he would have to deal with me. He asked me to return to his office at the mine. This was a short time after the first conference. I returned alone, the local pit committee consisting of Bill Scherwe, a man by the name of Bantini, John Malacker then Pres. of local 54, were of course there. We met with Elshoff, who dealt with us but did so in a very off-hand manner making us feel we were unwelcome, we reached no agreement. Elshoff said he would not do business as in the past but outlined a proceeding of his own. I could not accept this.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN GROH  
(continued) and told him that I could only do business with him as with all others. We achieved nothing by this meeting. The method offered by Elshoff for handling matters made him the sole judge as to who should be discharged and why. He said it was his property and he would run it as he saw fit with no interference from anyone, the way he saw fit. I of course told him that as we were the bargaining agent he would have to change his mind. He said that time would tell as to that. He then got personal and told me that what happened out there was no business of mine. We repeated this procedure several times always with the same results. Finally we met with Elshoff at the Leland Hotel and held negotiations.

"I have turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation copies of notes taken at various meetings held between representatives of the P.M.A., of which I was one and representatives of the Mine "B" Coal Co. of which Mr. Elshoff was one. These notes were made in long hand by Mr. McCann at the time of these meetings and he afterwards had them typed giving copies to those attending. These copies were given to the representatives of mine "B" as well and it was agreed among all that they actually described what took place at these meetings. I am identifying my copies of these notes and verifying the information as contained therein. It is my feeling that these negotiations were all a farce and were entered in by the representatives of Mine "B" without a good faith and with no intent to make any contract with P.M.A. but intention at the time to make U.M.W. the bargaining agent at the mine. This was the impression I received from the meetings and the procedure there.

"I am identifying the first notes as J.G. 1 and verify the information therein as being a record of this meeting as it took place. I have nothing to add at this time. These notes refer to the meeting of Feb 15, 1940 held at the office of Mr. Keck in P.M.A. headquarters.

"I am identifying the second notes as J. G. -2 and verify the information therein as being a record of this meeting as it took place. I have nothing to add at this time. These notes refer to the meeting held May 2, 1940 in the office of Attorney Lee Ensel.

"I am identifying the third notes as J. G. -3 and verify the information therein as being a record of this meeting as it took place. I have nothing to add at this time. These notes refer to the meeting held May 9, 1940 at the Leland Hotel.

"I am identifying the fourth notes as J. G. -4 and verify the information therein as being a record of this meeting as it took place. I have nothing to add at this time. These notes refer to a meeting held June 18, 1940 at the Leland Hotel.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH JOHN GROH  
(continued)

"I am identifyin the fifth set of notes as J. G. 5. These notes are an accurate record of the meeting described therein as it took place. I have nothin' to add at this time. These notes refer to a meeting held June 27, 1940 at the Leland Hotel.

"I am identifyin, the sixth set of notes as J. G. 6. These notes are an accurate record of the meeting described therin as it took place. I have nothin' to add at this time. These notes refer to a meeting held July 11, 1940 at the Leland Hotel.

"I am identifying the seventh set of notes as J. G. 7. These notes are an accurate record of the meeting described therein as it took place. I have nothin' to add at this time. These notes refer to a meeting held July 13, 1940 at the Leland Hotel.

"I am identifyin a set of notes as J. G. 8 this is an exact copy of the testimony I gave under oath to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, in question and answer form.

"During this period I went to mine "B" and saw there Eddie Heckelbeck, I had known him by seeing him at various union conventions. He was at mine "B" as a "Air Inspector", this was a new job at mine be and I believe it was a camouflage for his or anti union activities. He had what we called a "Wreckin' Crew" of U.M.W. organizers with him some are: Wm. Lanski, a man called Shucy (ph.) Eddie Baumarner, and about twenty others that I knew but can't recall offhand. I found that these men had been placed in strategic spots in the mine where they could contact each man. These men be an to intimidate the men forcing them to join U.M.W. This information came to me from the men. These were men who had not worked since 1937, they were told to me in confidence some of the men even sayin, that if put on the stand they would deny what they had told. They would say they knew this was wr ng but they and their family had to eat. Among those organizers mentioned were the Lindsey Brothers they were hard men. Some of these mens activities consisted of cuttin, tires and meddling with the ignition systems on cars & trucks belonging to the men outside of U.M.W. One of these men was named Pete Clora, another Dixon, one Hick. A fellow named Geo. Buchaito, O. W. com. Eliz. E Griffith Adv. was contacted by Ed. Heckelbeck on 7/5/40 asked him what organization he was payin dues to. Heckelbeck told him he better quit payin dues to P.I.A. and insisted he better join U.M.W. he would not sign so on that evenin Sam Albanese and Wm. Lansky called at his home and forced him to join U.M.W. under threats.

Alec Kneisich was approached by Heckelbeck & Bohanon on Jul 9, 1940 and was forced to sign up with U.M.W.

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INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN GROH  
(continued)

"Andy Kocyan, Auburn, Ill. was approached by Wm. Lansky and another organizer at his home on July 31st, 1940, he was told he must sign up with U.M.W. or he wouldn't work at mine B or any other mine.

"I recall that the following men have made affidavits showing instances of violence and intimidation which affidavits were made in my presence. There must have been at least 25 or 30 such affidavits made one by Pete Klapa, one by a little Italian whose name I don't recall but who we called Charlie Chaplin. Another was James Schnieder, another Wm. Molinsky, Vincent Matjika and Anthony Cuiffetelli.

"There were numerous men who came to me with complaints about acts of violence and intimidation against P.M.A. men at Mine B among those I remember are Pete Brachan, Jr. S. Sr., George Horn D'Uiermon, Martin Jurkis Divernon, Anton Buize, Tony Pikeridus, George Smith Virden, Lester Wilkerson and many, many more that I can not recall.

"Additional men who made affidavits as to the intimidations at mine B are, Salvadore Catalone and Camile Randazzo. Frank Sieders, Mathew Console, Joe Galman and Clyde Heads all of these men were also beaten.

"Others who made affidavits in my presence but were not beaten that I know were, Mike Willen, and Steve Ilicoff. Also Pete Manual, Wm. Bryant.

"Some men who brought complaints to me but did not make affidavits that I know of were, John Prehoda, Thomas Hale, and Paris Causcalli.

"I have made several reports & affidavits on various occasions pertaining to various matters connected with the controversy at Mine "B" some of them I have kept copies of these copies which I have I am turning over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I am identifying each of these and reaffirming the information contained therein.

"The first of these is undated and is a report I made on a discharge case of a shot-firer named Wm. Bryant and others. I made this report to Mr. Keck then President of P.M.A. This report is in the nature of a summary of what had happened in regard to these cases. It is to be noted that at this time the P.M.A. was the elected bargaining agent for all men at Mine "B" regardless of the Union to which they belonged. Nevertheless the Company officials recognized and dealt with Chas. Bohanon as the representative of the U.M.W., In the discharge case of John Remac. It is my observation that in dispute cases involving U.M.W. the Company officials would give them prior attention and preference over cases involving men who were members of the P.M.A. Wm. Bryant the shot-firer was entitled to 8 hours pay for a 7

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN GROH  
(continued)

hour day under the recognised treatment of men engaged in this occupation, however when P.M.A. tried to have this matter cared for the Company refused to write his case up. But as soon as the U.M.W. came in this matter was settled and Bryant was paid back wages. I am identifying this report as J. G.-9.

"Exhibit J. G. -10 is a copy of an affidavit dated Sept. 12, 1940, this is an affidavit that sets out my findings on the question as to whether or not P.M.A. men were being hired at Mine B as well as U.M.W. members. It was the contention of the company officials that they were hiring P.M.A. men as well as U.M.W. I made this investigation because of numerous complaints that I had received from P.M.A. men to the effect that they could not get jobs at Mine B although men were being hired there. I am making as exhibit J. G. 10-A a copy of an affidavit made by me dated in October, 1940, this refers to men who were employed at mine "B" who were not Progressives and men who were Progressives who were denied jobs at mine "B" during the same period. This affidavit refers also to a group of P.M.A. men who had their mining tools stolen and were submitted to other intimidations. I am identifying as further evidence an exhibit numbered J. G. 10B which is a further list of P.M.A. men who were denied employment at mine B at the same time others who are named therein were given work who were not members of the P.M.A. some of these others are also named on this list. This list was made up by me for my own use and other than some possible mistakes in spelling names is known to me to be correct.

"I am also identifying a copy of a joint affidavit made by myself Wm. Scherzer, Americo Dantini and Wm Badock. This was dated Aug. 8, 1940 and refers to a statement by Elshoff that he would never sign a contract with P.M.A. I am reaffirming this statement and identifying it as J. G. -11.

"I am turning over a copy of an affidavit made by me on Sept. 12, 1940, which pertains to the companies contention that two men they had hired were P.M.A. members when in fact they were not. I am identifying this as J. G. 12.

"I am identifying as exhibits J. G. 13 and 13 A a report made by me on a grievance of Anthony Cuiffetelli and my report of my findings in the matter. It is worthy of note that Cuiffetelli after making this report came to me with his wife and requested that it be withdrawn. He did not deny that he had been contacted and told to withdraw the complaint but refused to tell the whole story as to who had contacted him, he did mention the superintendent had talked to him but would not tell me what was told him. The case was withdrawn which is a very unusual occurrence.

"I am identifying as exhibit no. J. G. -14 an affidavit made by me relative to one H. V. Carver, who was hired at mine "B" and claimed by the management to be a Progressive but who was actually no longer a P.M.A. member but was strong for U.M.W.

MR. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN GROH  
(continued)  
join the U.M.W.

"I am identifying as exhibits J. G. 15-16-17 & 18  
affadavits made by Mike Willen, James Schneider, Pete  
Kloja and Wm. Scherve. These affadavits were made in  
my presence and concern these men being contacted to

"I am turning over to agents of the F.B.I. 12 pages of long-hand notes  
which I have used to refresh my recollection. These are notes made by myself  
in identifying them as J. G. 19, they have been kept in my possession until  
this time as have all other papers I have turned over to Agents.

"I have been shown a copy of an affadavit made by me (1-B-57) which  
I recognize as having made. It is in regard to the fact that there are no  
check-offs of union dues at mine "B". I affirm that it is true and correct  
and that the signature thereon is mine it is dated Au., 10, 1940. I had tried  
to get Elshoff to install the check-off system at mine "B" which had been in  
effect at mine "B" prior to the strike. We even showed that the N.L.R.B.  
ruling provided for this as one of the rights enjoyed by the miners prior to  
the shut-down. He on many occasions had refused to grant this request giving  
various reasons therefore.

"I have been shown a copy of a joint affadavit made by myself, Wm.  
Keck, Wm. Sherve & John McCann, (1-B-30). This affadavit pertains to its  
signers having notified Mr. Elshoff on many occasions of the intimidation being  
used to swing the men back to the U.M.W. he had always denied any knowledge  
of such action and claimed nothing of the sort would be allowed at the mine.  
I reaffirm the information contained therein and acknowledge my signature  
thereon. We always told Elshoff of each time a man was injured or beaten at  
the mine but he claimed to know nothing about it. I must have known of it  
however because of the hospital bills and compensation he had to pay.

"I have been shown by Agents a copy of an affidavit which is presently  
in the possession of the Fed. Bur. of Invest. This pertains to the employ-  
ment of 4 P.M... men at mine "B" who had to join the U.M.W. in order to get  
a job. The men are George Norbert, Joe O'Herli, Joe Vona and Joe Zini, the  
affadavit is dated Sept. 12, 1940. It is true and correct and I reaffirm the  
information therein and affix my initials thereto.

"I do not recall at the present making the affadavit of Oct. 3, 1940  
which bears the names (not signatures) of Wm. Keck, John McCann and myself.  
I do know however that on numerous occasions Falsetti has made derogatory  
remarks concerning P.M.I. (Exhibit 31).

"Heckelbeck prior to coming to mine "B" was employed by the State of  
Ill. Sales Tax division. He left this job to go to mine "B". He shortly  
after the swing over to U.M.W. quit mine "B" and went to Chicago where he  
now is.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN GROH  
(continued)

"The P.M.A. did nothing to keep the mine B men in line we depended on the honesty and loyalty of the men entirely. Our hands were tied by the injunction which we tried to have dissolved but we were not able to do that.

"My understandin' of how the U.M.W. won the 2nd N.L.R.B. is that the men were told that if the vote went for the Progressives there would be no more work at mine "B". The men themselves told me this but at the same time told me that if they were put on the stand they would deny it rather than run the risk of bein beaten or persecuted.

"Prior to 1937 from 1932 when a man wanted a job in the mine for his son, he was told that the older men with good cards would have to be given preference but that if the time ever came when the situation was such that no older men were waiting they could get a job for the son. When the mine reopened in 1937 however and a man wanted a job for his son he was told to see the U.M.W. organizers, who would tell him he could go to work at once if he and his father would join in the U.M.W. In this way the U.M.W. got some men to switch over to them. The Policy under the P.M.A. had not been iron-clad but the circumstances of the family would be taken in consideration in special cases and the boys would be given a job.

"I have no information of my own knowledge as to how Elshoff could afford to keep mine closed for so long. Rumor was that somebody was "Payin' the Freight." I have asked Elshoff about this time and again and he has always avoided giving me a direct answer.

"I have no personal knowledge of the condition of the mine when it opened. I was told it was in as bad a shape as could be expected but I heard nothing unusual.

When the mine first opened I had a bad lie, and could not exert myself physically. On two occasions an attempt was made to stop me. Once Chas. B. Bannon tried and once a fellow named Ray. I told them if they bothered me they would be sorry so I then let me go un molested.

"I have read the foregoing statement of 17 hand-written pages and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is all true and correct. I am therefore signing it of my own free will and volition."

/s/ "John Groh"

### **“Fitness”**

Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)  
Special Agent, F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn."

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 11, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, telephone [REDACTED] was interviewed at the Springfield Field Office on the afternoon of September 7, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised that he was employed as a minor at Mine A until 1932, when he quit to accept a job [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that in the time that he had known ELSHOFF he had never seen him with JOHN L. LEWIS, or RAY EDMUNDSON, except that he had seen EDMUNDSON and ELSHOFF talk together at the Loland Hotel on occasions. ELSHOFF ate there frequently. [REDACTED] had not seen ELSHOFF and any officials of any labor union confer at any time. [REDACTED] He never heard ELSHOFF say anything about the strike at Mine B, or about unions at all, [REDACTED]

Duo to the fact that [REDACTED] evidenced considerable nervousness and lapse of memory, it appeared to interviewing agents that [REDACTED] was concealing some facts concerning his knowledge of the activities of CARL ELSHOFF.

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11  
2

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN R. KANE  
Illinois.

Mr. JOHN R. KANE, who is presently the States Attorney at Harrisburg, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] on September 14, 1943 at Harrisburg, Illinois.

Mr. KANE advised that he became counsel for the Progressive Mine Workers of America in the latter part of 1937 and continued in that capacity until August, 1941. Mr. KANE advised that he would need his letters and other records to refresh his recollection of the events and conversation on certain specific dates. However, he was questioned specifically as to whether or not at any time during his negotiations with Elshoff and his counsel the matter of Elshoff's subsidation by the United Mine Workers was ever openly charged. Mr. KANE stated that he never openly made that charge during his negotiations with them because he was attempting to get the contract signed by ELSHOFF with the Progressive Mine Workers of America and that such a charge would simply aggravate matters. In the early part of the negotiations with ELSHOFF ELSHOFF repeatedly stated that he could not enter into closed shop contract with the PMA because if he did he would be liable for contempt under the Federal Court order which was issued in 1938. This Court order provided that ELSHOFF should reemploy all workers in the mine as of May 12, 1938. To have signed a closed contract with the PMA would have necessitated ELSHOFF also employing the twelve men who had been expelled from the Progressives. ELSHOFF contended that this would be a discrimination against new men and that he would have been liable for contempt as he should have signed a closed shop contract. Mr. KANE stated that he and the Attorneys for the American Federation of Labor obtained an advisory opinion from the National Labor Board stating that it would not be a violation of the Court's order to sign a closed shop contract under those circumstances. He stated that ELSHOFF and his attorney EKSEL dropped any legal pretense for refusing to sign a contract with the Progressives and simply refused to do business with them.

Mr. KANE also was specifically questioned concerning his affidavit of September 13, 1940 at which time he stated that on November 29 or 30, 1939 he met with CARL ELSHOFF at the Leland Hotel at ELSHOFF's request for the purpose of discussing a provision of the proposed contract with the Progressives. At that meeting ELSHOFF stated that he would not grant the Progressive organization a check off in dues because he did not like the organization and intended to do everything in his power to disappoint it. ELSHOFF stated on that occasion that he would deal with his employees at the mine but that he would not agree to anything that would be of aid or benefit to the Progressive organization. He further stated that not only did he dislike the Progressive organization but he did not like its officials or its attorneys.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN R. KANE

On the above occasion Mr. KANE stated that he proceeded to the Leland Hotel at ELSHOFF's request to discuss the institution of a check off at Mine B. At that time ELSHOFF was with some other individual whom he, KANE, did not know. ELSHOFF at that time was somewhat intoxicated, which, according to Mr. KANE, accounted for ELSHOFF's lack of judgment and discretion in making those statements. On all other occasions Mr. KANE stated that ELSHOFF was very discreet and tight lipped. In conferences most of the talking was done by ELSHOFF's Attorney.

Further reference was made to the discussion with Mr. KANE concerning the advisory opinion from the Labor Board. Mr. KANE stated that he furnished this opinion to ELSHOFF's attorney, LEE ENSEL, by letter and that he is certain the matter came to ELSHOFF's attention because they discussed it between them in their conferences.

Mr. KANE stated that when the mine opened in November he was fully prepared to file an action citing ELSHOFF for contempt in his failure to negotiate with the PMA. Mr. KANE's proposed action brought about some investigation by representatives of the National Labor Relation's Board who allegedly told ELSHOFF that unless he negotiated with Progressive he would be liable for contempt. For a period of time after this pressure was brought to bear, ELSHOFF appeared to be willing to negotiate with the Progressives, never, however, to the extent of signing a contract. Mr. KANE also informed that before ELSHOFF opened the mine he sent men around to talk to the former employees of Mine B to see if they were willing to come back to work and in this manner was more or less able to determine the relative strength of the Progressives at that time. After the mine opened charges were brought alleging that ELSHOFF was employing UMW in preference to the Progressives. Mr. KANE informed that ELSHOFF worked a very clever scheme in this respect. Most of the men who were employed at that time were men who had formerly worked in a mine organized by the Progressives in 1932 which had shut down almost immediately. These men possibly had been out of work for several years and were eventually offered a job at Mine B. In every instance the record as produced by ELSHOFF would show that they had been members of the PMA. However, this membership was not current. It dated back to 1932.

With respect to the dynamite and bombings in Illinois from 1932 to 1937 Mr. KANE stated that there were three sets of bombers, those with the PMA, those with the UMW and those with the operators. Mr. KANE was positive that he could produce affidavits and witnesses establishing the fact that EDMUNDSON was instrumental in bringing dynamite into Illinois and also high powered rifles and ammunition.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
JOHN R. KANE  
(continued)      Mr. KANE was also interrogated as to whether or not he knew of any individual situations in other mines in Illinois which might be comparable to that at Mine B in 1937. For example, whether any other mine owners might be approached by ELMUNDSON or other UMW officials with the proposition that they close their mine down until it could be organized by UMW. Mr. KANE was sure that he could locate possibly two or three other such mines. He could not recall their names at that time, however.

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b7D



Mr. KANE stated that he would be in Springfield on a later date at which time he would go over his records more thoroughly and call at the Springfield Office for a further interview.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
CHARLES MALLOY

Mr. MALLOY is presently located in the State Capitol Building where he is the Superintendent of Buildings. This interview was conducted on the basis of information furnished by Mr. WILLIAM RYAN, former owner of Mine A, who stated Mr. MALLOY possibly had information concerning an attempted purchase of a mine located in Bond County, Illinois by CARL H. ELSHOFF.

Mr. MALLOY was very cooperative, advising that this mine was the Pocohontas Mine, which was located at Pocohontas, Illinois in Bond County. The mine was formerly owned by parties living in East St. Louis. As a result of the death of the owner the mine was sold to a Jewish junk dealer in Terre Haute, Indiana. It was the desire of a Mr. WOOSLEY and other citizens in Pocohontas to keep the mine open. They made a proposition to the junk dealer in Terre Haute whereby they would form a corporation on a cooperative basis, sell stock, and thus raise money to operate the mine. It was estimated that it would take \$60,000 to put the mine in operation. Mr. WOOSLEY was unable to promote this proposition and raise the necessary money. He appealed to Mr. MALLOY for assistance in finding a man who would be willing to operate the mine. Mr. MALLOY stated that Mr. RYAN was a personal friend of his, so he endeavored to interest Mr. RYAN in the operation of the mine. He found, however, that Mr. RYAN had retired from the coal business, and was not interested.

Mr. RYAN subsequently brought CARL H. ELSHOFF to his, Mr. MALLOY's home, and at that time which was approximately six months ago, ELSHOFF indicated an interest in purchasing the mine. A call was placed to Mr. WOOSLEY in Pocohontas to see if the mine were still available, for it was Mr. MALLOY's understanding that the option to purchase and operate the mine ran only for a limited time. Mr. WOOSLEY advised by telephone that the option had expired and that in fact the junk dealer was already taking the equipment out of the mine and scrapping it. This, according to Mr. MALLOY, terminated the negotiations; hence no proposition was made and no conversation was had as to how Elshoff would finance the proposition even if it could be concluded.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
DUNCAN SMITH and  
ROBERT RONK

Mr. DUNCAN SMITH who resides at [REDACTED] Peoria, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] on September 15, 1943. Mr.

SMITH is presently a Board member for the PMA for the Peoria area. He was interviewed specifically regarding the circumstances of the organization of the Pekin Mining Company by UMW in the summer of 1936. Mr. SMITH produced his newspaper files which gave a written detailed account of the events pertaining to this mine. The mine formerly had been owned by the Grant Brothers and was under contract with the Progressive miners. In the summer of 1936 the mine was sold to Mr. Fred Schaeffer in Pekin, Illinois. Even though the Progressives had a contract with the former owner, Schaeffer refused to negotiate with the Progressive stating that the contract did not bind him and signed a contract with the UMW. He refused to deal with the Progressive and to open his mine until it could be worked with the UMW. Mr. Smith stated that his organization tried to enforce their contract but a decision was handed down against them by the Circuit Court Judge. It was also found that the National Labor Relations Board had handed down a ruling stating that whenever a mine changed owners he was not bound by the labor contract executed by the former owner. Mr. SMITH was not aware of whether or not SCHAEFFER was subsidized by the UMW during the time that the mine was shut down. His charge was made but no evidence was ever developed to substantiate it.

Mr. SMITH personally talked to SCHAEFFER who stated that he operated a construction company, the employees of which had always been members of the A.F. of L. and that if he signed up with another organization he would lose some 1600 A.F. of L. customers in Illinois and that he would not open a mine except under an A.F. of L. union. At that time the UMW was still a part of the American Federation of Labor. However, since the expulsion of the UMW from the A.F. of L., Mr. SCHAEFFER has never entered into any negotiation with the Progressives relative to signing the contracts with their organization which is now a member of the A.F. of L.

In view of the fact that Mr. WILLIAM RYAN, former owner of Mine A, Springfield, Illinois, had stated that one ROBERT RONK had possibly been approached by EDMUNDSON in a situation similar to the Mine B case Mr. SMITH was questioned as to any knowledge that he might have of that situation as he would have jurisdiction as a Board member. Mr. SMITH was acquainted with RONK who had operated mines at Hanna City and Middle Grove, Illinois. Mr. SMITH informed that RONK had never operated any mines under the Progressive. His mines in fact even after the break in 1932 had opened under UMW. Hence it appeared that a situation such as the Mine B case could never have occurred in mines owned by RONK.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
DUNCAN SMITH and  
ROBERT RONK  
(continued)

However, Mr. RONK who now resides at [REDACTED] Peoria, was located and interviewed at Farmington, Illinois. Mr. RONK verified information furnished by Mr. SMITH and stated that he had never operated any mine except under the UMW. He specifically denied ever having any conversations with EDMUNDSON with respect to his own mines concerning subsidation.

During the course of the interview with RONK he indicated a profit in dealing with the UMW and advised that this was the general feeling among all coal operators. He considered the break in the UMW ranks of 1932 as promoted by radicals and agitators within the UMW who had simply seized that opportunity to further their own political aspirations. He was well aware that the Progressives elected their own officers but stated that this did not always work to the best interests in negotiations and relationships. The men who were elected to office were sometimes incompetent. He felt that the system under JOHN L. LEWIS was perhaps better whereby a man with LEWIS' experience could appoint qualified labor leaders to handle the various disputes and negotiate the various contracts. He stated that the UMW seemed to have better success in keeping their members in line and making them comply with the terms of the contracts which were negotiated.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
GEORGE J. STELTE

This interview was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] on September 22, 1943, in view of information furnished by JACK GLASGOW. GLASGOW advised that one SAM WILLS, Division Superintendent of Peabody Coal Company, Taylorville, Illinois, contacted GLASGOW concerning the retail coal account of the Leland Hotel held by the Springfield Office of the Peabody Coal Company. WILLS pointed out that the Leland Hotel account had been cut approximately in half sometime after November, 1939. GLASGOW stated that he went to RAY EDMUNDSON in connection with this matter, and EDMUNDSON replied that it was none of GLASGOW's business. WILLS is now deceased.

GEORGE J. STELTE of Peabody Coal Company Retail Office, 124 South Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois (home residence - [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois) furnished the following information:

He stated that prior to 1937, the Peabody Coal Company had had Leland Hotel business on and off. He could not recall whether or not Peabody Coal Company had had Leland Hotel account prior to 1932 or subsequent to and before 1937, but stated that undoubtedly during part of that time, the Leland Hotel account had been with Peabody Coal Company. He produced a record card of the Leland Hotel which showed that the present Leland Hotel account was started in June of 1937. In May of 1937, the date with which that particular card account started was blank. For the year 1937 - 1938, 1,167.20 tons of coal were sold by Peabody to the Leland Hotel. This was the full requirement of the Leland Hotel; 1938 - 1939, 1,393.80 tons; 1939 - 1940, 1,538.28 tons; in 1940 - 1941, the total tons sold were 788.78. For the month of April, 1939, Peabody Coal Company sold the Leland Hotel 149.44 tons. For April, 1940, the company sold the Leland Hotel 60.40 tons. It was noted that in April, 1940, the volume of coal sold to the Leland Hotel by the Peabody Coal Company was cut approximately in half.

Mr. STELTE advised that when the volume of business with the Leland Hotel had dropped off approximately 50 per cent, he mentioned the matter to SAM WILLS, Division Superintendent, Peabody Coal Company at Taylorville, Illinois. He requested Mr. WILLS to use his good office in any way possible to attempt to secure all of the Leland Hotel's business. He stated that undoubtedly WILLS contacted GLASGOW on the matter since they were both in Taylorville, Illinois. STELTE did not contact GLASGOW directly because of the fact that GLASGOW was located in Taylorville. He stated that he undoubtedly and probably did contact RAY EDMUNDSON concerning the Leland Hotel account. He does not recall definitely EDMUNDSON's reply except that it was generally to the effect that the best EDMUNDSON could do was to secure approximately 50 per cent of the Leland Hotel business for Peabody.

Mr. STELTE was either intentionally vague or else he has a poor recollection of this latter circumstance.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
GEORGE J. STELTE  
(Continued)

In the event the account card of the Leland Hotel is desired in evidence in this case, Mr. STELTE is the appropriate individual to subpoena. He has been in the retail coal sales business with Peabody for approximately 20 years. He makes a good appearance, and it is believed that he would make a better than average witness. However, it should be noted that Mr. STELTE would undoubtedly be reluctant in furnishing damaging testimony other than the account card against any of the officials of the UMW because of the fact that Peabody mines have always been operated by UMW labor.

P E N D I N G

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION

At Springfield, Illinois:

Will report action taken in this case by the Federal Grand Jury.  
it being noted it is contemplated that this case will be presented at Spring  
field on September 29, 1943.