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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a native of [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] He has [REDACTED]. It is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to speak English very well, although he appears intelligently alert. He has no known criminal record.

[REDACTED] supplied the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] sometimes known as [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [REDACTED] I am not a citizen of U. S. [REDACTED]. I emigrated to U. S. in [REDACTED].

"I began working in coal mines in [REDACTED] in about [REDACTED] and first joined a union at that time. I joined U.M.W.

"I first worked at Mine "B" about [REDACTED] and then I worked in several other mines and came back to Mine "B" about [REDACTED].

"I think the miners and the management got along o.k. before the P.M.A. was formed. In 1932 I joined P.M.A. because there was a condition existing within the U.M.W. that the miners did not like. We had no voice in the election of officials and we had to do as the union officials said so my local quit U .M.W. and joined P.L.A. I have never been a official of any union.

"I liked P.M.A. at that time and I thought the miners were about 50% better off under P.M.A. than U.M.W. As far as I know there was no difficulty with P.M.A. and the mine owners until just before the strike at Mine "B" in 1937.

"I did not see any spies at Mine "B" before the strike and no one attempted to get me to change from P.M.A. to U.M.W. at this time. I heard a day or so before the strike that 2 or 3 men had been expelled from P.M.A. for spying activities.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "On the day of the strike I loaded all my cars as usual and worked a full day. I understood that the company had (continued) refused to deal with P.M.A. and also that the company wanted to deal with U.M.W.

"I signed a P.M.A. petition shortly after the strike to show the Federal Government that P.M.A. was in majority.

"A few months after the strike we heard the mine was going to open under U.M.W. so at our union meeting we decided we would picket the mine to protect our jobs. On the day the mine was supposed to open only a few UMW miners went in the mine. We continued to picket until we were served with an injunction.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in December 1937. It was a fair election and P.M.A. won by a large majority.

"I started back at Mine "B" when it opened on an open shop basis. I worked as P.M.A. until I saw the majority were going U.M.W. and because I wanted to work and as long as both P.M.A. & U.M.W. were working there was always trouble. I had no recourse if I was shorted on my cars, unless I belonged to the union who was able to deal with the mine operators. I have been short weighted on my cars loaded and I can't get the proper settlement under U.M.W.

"I prefer P.M.A. to U.M.W. because the miner has something to say in electing the officers under P.M.A. while in U.M.W. we have to accept any officer who is appointed.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at which time he gave the following signed statement.

At the time of the interview [REDACTED]

The following is [REDACTED] statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 1, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] do voluntarily give the following signed statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have made themselves known to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind were made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born [REDACTED] and presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. [REDACTED]

"I first started working in the mines in [REDACTED], joining the United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started at Mine B about three or four years before the union split up in 1932. Before 1932 so far as I know the relations between UMWA and Mine B officials was alright.

"Theft of ballots was the immediate cause of the Progressives being formed in 1932. Most of Mine B joined up with the Progressives. Between 1932 and 1937 PMA officials got along fine with Elshoff.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "The trouble in the Spring of 1937 started because of an argument over whether the new wage scale would be retroactive or not. At this time there was about a dozen men at Mine B who were believed to be spies and in the pay of UMWA who stirred up trouble about the wage scale. Some of these men that I remember off hand are Charles Bohannon, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, Frank Austin, Jimmy Hale, Andrew Skreleveous (phonetic spelling). I believe that there were three trials at which these men were suspended for 99 years. These trials took place a short time before the strike on May 12, 1937. I was at the trial the night Charles Bohannon and Dominic Pasquale and at least one or two others were suspended. The only persons present at these trials were the witnesses and Trial Board of Five Members. The trials were held at the MMA Meeting Hall.

"The day of the strike I loaded two cars and came home and didn't know about the strike until the night of May 12, 1937. I have heard that short cars were being loaded on the day of the strike.

"I was on picket duty at Mine B nearly every day after the picketing started in September of 1937. During this period a few UMWA men tried to open the mine but they never had enough men to be successful.

"I never saw any violence or blood shed while I was picketing at Mine B.

"I remember the first election in December of 1937. It went Progressives [REDACTED] won 404 - 25. I remember that there was some trouble about pamphlets being passed out but can't remember what was on them. I voted Progressive.

"After the election Elshoff didn't seem to want to deal with the Progressives. I was on the committee to see Elshoff in the fall of 1939 about opening the mine. At the meeting Elshoff said, 'I will let you go back to work, and give you the check off, but if we run short of men I'll hire whoever in the hell I want to.'

"There was a rumor going around at the time that the United Mine Workers were paying Elshoff during the strike. I heard that they had given him as much as \$200,000.00, but can't prove it.

"When I went back to work in 1939 under the 'open shop' agreement the majority of the miners still favored the Progressive Mine Workers. Soon after we went back to work a man by the name of [REDACTED] was put on as an 'air inspector' - this was the first time they ever had that job at Mine B. He tried to make friends with all the men and get them to join UMWA. Other UMWA men who came in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. These men all talked for UMWA. I heard that

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] these men along with several others were the ones who beat up a number of the PMA men. I never actually saw (Continued) any of these acts of violence.

"Altogether during the period 1939 and 1940 early 1941 the UMEA must have brought in about 50 men, and kept signing men over all the time.

"During this period the UMEA men were in the office all of the time, and seemed to be very friendly with Elshoff.

"I voted Progressive again at the second election but we lost by quite a number of votes. Before the election at the NLRB hearing they had a number of men there wearing buttons to show their preference of UMEA; I heard that there was a \$10.00 fine for members who did not go and wear these buttons. I was asked to go to this meeting and wear a UMEA button but I refused.

"Before the election mens tools were stolen, sulphur thrown in coal cars & men docked, & men were beat up to get them to join the UMEA.

[REDACTED] a list of 21 Progressives whose tools were stolen during the above mentioned period.

"I remember that a petition was passed around after the strike and over 450 men signed in in original handwriting and gave their address showing that they favored the Progressive Union.

"I have read the above four and one half ($4\frac{1}{2}$) pages of statements made by me. The same are true and I do hereby sign my name.

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED] /S/
Special Agent, F.B.I., Springfield, Illinois
[REDACTED] /S/ F.B.I. Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
at [REDACTED] Illinois, on September 2, 1943.

At [REDACTED] Illinois, agents interviewed [REDACTED] and he advised he never has been arrested. It was noted that he understood the questions asked him and gave answers all right. However, he did not seem to know much about the pertinent period as will be noted in his statement. He appeared to be an honest individual and was cooperative.

P
[REDACTED]
His statement is as follows:

[REDACTED]
Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I have been employed at [REDACTED] I first joined a union at [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED] I have never held a Union office. I started at Mine "B" about 1935. I was a charter member of P.M.A. because the U.M.W. local to which I belonged went to P.M.A. in 1932.

"From the time I started at Mine "B" to the time of the strike I had no chance to observe relation between P.M.A. & Elshoff. I never heard the management favor U.M.W. in any way however. There were no unusual disputes between the local officials and the members so far as I know. So far as I know there was no racketeering by the local officials. I don't think that in this period I attended more than 5 meetings this was because of the time it took to go to Springfield to attend. Concerning the Progressive men who were sentenced for bombing and such I certainly dont think they did all they were accused of. While I was there the Union dues seemed normal and I didn't know of any money being handled wrong. From the time I went to Mine B up to the time of the strike I never saw U.M.W. picket the mine. I heard that there were some men in the P.M.A. who were trying to switch the men to U.M.W. I never saw any literature distributed by U.M.W. I never heard of ELSHOFF giving any parties for U.M.W. officials.

"I rember that just before the mine closed we were working under a temporary agreement. As I recall there was some kind of a settlement.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

where we were supposed to get some back pay. There was a lot of talk about this at the time. So far as I know the miners did not feel the U.M.W. would be

able to get any better contract than the P.M.A.

"I dont remember any dispute over wages prior to the strike. I felt the Union officials would see I got what was coming.

"I heard of a meeting being held the day before the strike. I did not attend it however, and didn't hear of it till May 12. What I heard was talk up on top. When I went to work May 12, 1937 I had no idea there would be a strike. What I heard was that the men were going on strike because the Company would not fine some expelled miners. I felt these men should have been fired, but can't speak for the others. I heard the names of some, I recognize as being one of them the name of Frank Austin. I dont remember any thing about any cars being loaded short this day.

"I dont recall now signing any petitions the summer after the mine closed. If I had signed any they would have been P.M.A.

"I signed no petition for U.M.W. and didn't know they had one.

"I heard nothing about the U.M.W. forming a local the summer of 1937.

"I remember nothing unusual happening during the summer of 1937.

"Just prior to the starting of the picketing at Mine "B" I was working [REDACTED] and paid little attention to what happened at the mine. I did not go out to work when the picket line started and know nothing about the time the Marshall ordered the men out. I did go out on 2 or 3 occasions to help with the picketing this was after my [REDACTED] Everything there was peaceful so I remember and the men were just there to protect thier jobs.

"I dont recall going back to the mine after this until the mine reopened for good.

"I voted at the first NLRB election. The vote was by secret ballot & as far as I know it was an honest and good election. I voted P.M.A., which was the way I wanted it and no one forced me to do this.

"I heard nothing about Falsetti or any of the men from Mine B going to work at the Jefferson Mine.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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"I got a letter from the Co. advising me that the mine was to open. I went to the mine right away before the date called for in the letter. I asked Falsetti to give me a new room and he said that because of a Labor board ruling every man had to go back in his old room. I never went down in the mine and have never been back to Mine "B" since. Falsetti made no mention of wages to me and said I could go back when my turn came he never asked me to what union I belonged. I was well satisfied with P.M.A. and still feel it is a good union.

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

"Signed: [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

[REDACTED] /s/
Spec. Agent FBI (Milw.)"

[REDACTED] Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943"

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] jointly interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED]
Illinois, on September 8, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] He appeared to be willing to answer questions propounded
to him and submitted the following signed statement:

[REDACTED] Illinois
September 8, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary, statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, U. S. Department of Justice.

" "I reside on [REDACTED] Illinois and I am presently employed at the Panther Creek Mine #2, Springfield, Illinois, as a PMA miner. By PMA, I refer to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was born [REDACTED]

"The first mine union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union about [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois when I worked at [REDACTED]

"The only union office I ever held was a Pit Committeeman at the [REDACTED] under the UMW, in [REDACTED]

"I worked as a member of the UMW in mines in the Springfield area from [REDACTED]. In September, 1932 I was working at the Peabody Mine #59, Springfield, Illinois and there, in that month, I voluntarily joined the PMA.

"I was well satisfied with the PMA leadership and feel that the officials of the PMA treated the rank and file miner fairly.

"I took no active part in the formation of the PMA.

"In the latter part of 1934 I started working at Mine B as a PMA member and I worked there continuously until the mine closed on May 12, 1937.

"The relations between ELSHOFF and the PMA appeared to be satisfactory from 1934 to May 1937 when it closed. The closing of Mine B, was a surprise to me. I never had any knowledge of UMW organizers in this mine in the Spring of 1937, and was never contacted by them or heard that they contacted other miners.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

"I went to very few union meetings because I lived too far away from Springfield to make such trips.

"I was not familiar with the wage scale problem in 1937 between the PMA and ELSHOFF. However, I thought the PMA miners were to get some back pay which was not paid.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937, but I heard the next morning at the mine that four or five men had been expelled because they had joined the UMW. I did not know the details.

"The PMA members felt that the UMW men should have been expelled, and that ELSHOFF should not permit them to work.

"On May 12, 1937 some coal cars were loaded short, and the mine closed down. I do not know why the cars were loaded short.

"I never did go back to Mine B after May 12, 1937. I thought the NLRB election of December 15, 1937 was fair and represented the desires of the mine workers. When the next N.R.B election was held, I was not working at the mine. I had no knowledge that ELSHOFF favored the UMW at Mine B.

"I have had the two pages of this statement read to me by [REDACTED] and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

"Witnessed,

[REDACTED]
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] told his story in a clear and convincing manner and seemed to have a fairly good recollection of events within his knowledge relative to instant case. It is believed that [REDACTED] would make a good witness for the Government. There is being set forth below the signed statement which [REDACTED] executed at the time of this interview:

[REDACTED] Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and presently live at [REDACTED]. I first started mining in about [REDACTED] & joined the U.M.W. at that time. I worked at Mine B from 1930 until Jan. of 1943 when I started working at the old West Mine. I have never held any office in the union.

"I joined the P.M.A. in 1932 when the state went progressive and it was my opinion that all the men wanted to change over to Progressive. Things went along smoothly in the P.M.A. until 1937 & all the men felt satisfied with the officers.

"In March of 1937 our contract with Mine B expired and the union was trying to settle on a new contract with the company. All of the men thought the P.M.A. could do as well on a wage increase as the U.M.W. At about this same time our local discovered that some of our men were acting as spies for the U.M.W. Some of these men were Charles Bohannon, Dominic Pasquale, Frank Austin, Jacaway and others that ran around with these men. These men started agitating about a week before the strike and kept going around among the men telling them to go on strike because a new contract hadn't been signed. I was in one of the groups when these men were telling us to strike.

"I know that these men were expelled from the Union before the strike for their actions. I don't know how long they were expelled for and didn't attend the meeting, but I think most of the men knew they were expelled.

"I went to work at Mine B in box [REDACTED] as a digger on the day of the strike. All of the P.M.A. men said they wouldn't work with these men. Our [REDACTED] told Falcetti the men shouldn't be allowed to work, but the

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

company said the men should work. I think the company was playing favorites in letting these men work. When we saw the company was going to let the men work we all went below and started working. When I saw that some of the other fellows were loading cars short I decided I would also load some cars short. We continued loading short until we were called out of the mine. I think it was about 3:00 PM when we got on top and were told the mine was on strike.

"I went to work the next day as I think it was pay day and I also thought the strike might be over. When we got to the mine we were handed a pamphlet by our union man [REDACTED] & this pamphlet had the provisions of the new contract set forth showing a retroactive clause. The management put out a pamphlet which was distributed by [REDACTED] and this pamphlet had the contract set forth, but there was no retroactive clause in it. We decided we wouldn't work so we all came home.

"During the summer of 1937 I signed two or three PMA petitions. I think I signed one at the mine and one at the union hall. I was never forced to sign any of these petitions. In Sept. of 1937, after a notice was in the paper that the mine was to open we all went out to the mine. When we got to the mine we were told by our union men that the company had said we couldn't go to work unless we signed up with United. I don't believe any of the men tried to go to work that day.

"The next day we started a picket line and kept it up until Dec. of 1937 when we were served with an injunction. Most of the men felt pretty bitter about the injunction. We felt that the court was wrong in issuing the injunction and we felt the company wasn't giving us a square deal. The mine was our bread and butter and although we felt our union was doing as much as they could, we felt the company was against us. I stayed on the picket line from Sept. to Dec. and stayed because I wanted to. We were allowed to come home and change clothes & see our families when ever we wanted to.

"About the same time Charles Bohannon came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.W. He did not threaten me and I told him I didn't want to join the UMW at that time.

"There was an NLRB election in Dec. of 1937 and I voted in that election. To the best of my knowledge there wasn't any fighting and the voting was conducted in a fair manner.

"I didn't go back to the mine until November of 1939 when I got a letter from the company. I went out to the mine a few days later and my section wasn't ready due to dirt, etc. The bottom had heaved up and

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] threw the tracks up. [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I think that when we started to work in 1939 that progressive had a majority. In my opinion the company was unfair because they wouldn't sign a contract with us. I know that the company sometimes refused to hire new men if they wouldn't agree to sign up with United. The only men who could get jobs were those men who were sponsored by the United. I know that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

went out to Mine B for a job and they were told that there were no jobs. These men were members of Progressive. [REDACTED] now work at Panther Creek #4, and [REDACTED] works at Panther #5. Most of the men felt there was a deal on between United and the company. I never saw any evidence of any money being paid by the company or union to any of the men referred to as spies, since I live in [REDACTED] and they all lived in Springfield. I never ran around with any of those men.

In about the fall of 1940 I joined the U.M.W. union. I joined the union because I had heard that some of our men had been treated pretty rough by the U.M.W. men. I was never threatened or beat up, but figured it would be the best thing to do to join up. I had a family to support and didn't want to lose my job. I was never told by the company that I had to join United, but it was generally felt by the men that to hold their job they had to sign up. The men also felt that if they didn't sign up that sooner or later they would get beat up.

"I have read over this entire statement of 6 pages & wish to state it is true to the best of my recollection.

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnesses

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] On September 4, 1943 Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] at his home in [REDACTED] Illinois. [REDACTED] at this time advised agents that he had no criminal record. Immediately upon meeting agents, [REDACTED] advised that he had been told by one [REDACTED] Illinois, that on September 3, 1943 that [REDACTED] had heard a couple of men talking in the mine about holding a meeting on September 4, 1943, concerning the investigation being conducted of the Mine "B" situation by the FBI. As near as this man was able to gather, the persons to attend this meeting were the twelve alleged labor spies. [REDACTED] stated to [REDACTED] that these men were wondering if the FBI had been to [REDACTED] yet and talked to [REDACTED] and seemed to take the attitude that it would be too bad if [REDACTED] had been interviewed by the FBI.

It was noted in the course of the interview that [REDACTED] seemed to have an exceptional recollection of events that took place at Mine B during the questioned period. [REDACTED] seemed to be an honest and reliable person and he expressed his complete willingness to appear in court at any time to testify to what he had told agents.

It is to be noted that [REDACTED] gave agents a note turned over to him by [REDACTED] concerning the alleged attempt of [REDACTED] to contact UMW men to sell out the PIR.

It is believed that [REDACTED] would make an excellent and willing witness. [REDACTED] gave agents the following five-page typewritten statement:

[REDACTED] Ill.,
Sept. 4, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made to me to give this statement.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I first started at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED] as a coal digger & I still am there in [REDACTED]. I was born [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] I joined the UMW at [REDACTED], Ill., with my dad, and I never have held any union office. Before 1932 our UMW local was alright at Mine B and it was a company union and we miners just paid our dues into the local but did not get any support and if we had any disputes we did not get far with them at all. During that time ELSHOFF would get whatever he got from UMW and it is even worse now at Mine B than it was back in those days. We UMW men got a dirty rotten deal from JOHN L. LEWIS and he gave us the right to vote and then he stole the ballots and I was glad when we went over to PMA in 1932. We miners felt that LEWIS had sold out to the operators then. I took an active part in starting PMA at Mine B and to get rid of UMW there and I talked to other fellows and told them to join PMA. At that time most of the men went over to PMA of their own free will and no one was forced to join over and I will say that we had a good organization under the PMA leadership.

"Between 1932 and until the mine closed down PMA officials got along alright with CARL ELSHOFF of Mine B. However, around 1935 or 1936 about 13 men established themselves together and they would go into the coal office and talk to them about going back to UMW. These men were SAMMY, also known as J.E.; ANDY SCHRELEVIOUS, MINNIE PASQUELLE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, COTTON ANANIAS, JOHN SIKTOU, GEO. and EMORY JACAWAY, CHARLES BOHANNON and JIM HALE. There also was a Lithuanian with them who is now dead. ELSHOFF and the management of Mine B did not bother us at all before the mine closed about going back to UMW that I recall of. We PMA miners got along 100% with the PMA officials from 1932 until the mine closed with the exception of the 13 men mentioned about and we liked the officials and things got along just fine then. We men decided what should be done and our committees took up our troubles and got things for us and it was a lot better then in those days than it is now at the present time at Mine B. We never suspected anything wrong with the PMA officials. I attended almost every meeting because [REDACTED] was our check weigh man and he went to the meetings and I would go along with him. In regard to those PMA men who were convicted for that bombing I felt pretty bad about it and I think that JOHN L. LEWIS gave a lot of money to a railroad dick named [REDACTED] and he gave it out and I think that the men who went to the pen were all innocent. I attended their trial on several times. Other miners also felt that the PMA men were not guilty. Before the mine closed PMA officials properly accounted for their money and I always was given receipts for dues I paid and they never had a lot of special assessments. There was no feeling at all that the PMA officials were getting any cut out of the money matters. UMW men never picketed Mine B before it closed and I never saw any literature from UMW there. About 3 to 6 months before the mine closed the 13 men

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

mentioned above I heard did a lot of talking around to other PMA men in the mine to join back to UMW but they never talked to me because they all knew that I was a strong PMA man. It is my recollection that some time before the mine closed CHARLES BOHANNON and some one else was expelled from PMA and then later on some more were expelled. I attended all those meetings along then and I recall that the Trial Committee made their reports to us miners at the meeting and after they reported they had a vote amongst the members and we voted to expell them, because they were trying to us to join over to UMW. This was not done at one meeting but happened over a period of time and the Trial Committee had done a lot of checking on these men and we miners had that right to vote on those matters but now under UMW we don't have that right anymore. I recall when the contract expired in spring of 1937 that [REDACTED] and other PMA officials of PMA told us at our meetings that we were working without a contract pending a new one and that if there was a raise it was to be retroactive and I had 114 tons then and never got a dime for it yet. Our PMA officials told us at these meetings just what was going on in regard to this wage question and they did not hold out any information from us at all but kept us fully informed of all details as at that time I was very active and attended every meeting. In regard to parties I did hear that ELSHOFF and UMW men did hold parties but I don't know where and I also heard that after UMW won the second NLRB election that a big party was held at the offices of Mine B. We PMA miners always felt that PMA would sign a contract with ELSHOFF and we all felt that PMA could get for us just a good a contract as UMW could ever get for us. The miners were all satisfied with the wage question and there was no trouble there at Mine B on pay days nor were there any strike or slow downs because of this wage trouble. Just before the mine closed in 1937 these 13 men mentioned above were very active in going around to homes of miners at Auburn and other places and they tried to get them to join over to UMW but they never contacted me as they knew I was too strong for PMA and I also heard that these 13 men were seen a lot around the UMW building and I recall that I used to see some of those 13 men walk along the street in the direction of the UMW Building but I never actually saw them enter it. At that time I had no use for these 13 men and we did not speak to one another. I don't recall of the management of Mine B telling us anything about the wage scale and it was gossip them that ELSHOFF would not sign up with the Illinois Operators because he wanted to break away from PMA and join over with UMW and at that time the Illinois Producers Association was signed up with PMA.

"The night before the mine closed down there was held a special and not a regular meeting at the PMA Hall at 6th & Washington

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

in Springfield, Ill. I had been told of this by our [redacted] at Mine B and at that time of the meeting there must have been between 300 and 400 present as it was a large group. The main purpose of this meeting was to decide what action should be taken or done in regard to the expelled miners who had been expelled same time before at our previous regular meetings and none were expelled this evening at all as they had been expelled before. Before this special meeting had been held the management of Mine B would not fire these expelled men and it was decided at that meeting that the management should be given one more chance to discharge them and that if the management refused to do so that the Progressives would not work with these expelled men and it was decided that [redacted] should recontact ELSHOFF about this matter. It was decided that we would picket the mine if these men were not fired. At that special meeting there was present [redacted] and I think [redacted] was there. I went to this meeting with [redacted] mentioned above. It was a very peaceful meeting and there was no trouble there and we all felt that those men should not work. At this meeting nothing was said about the wage question at all but it was just about these 13 men. When I went to work the next morning I knew that if ELSHOFF would not fire these 13 men that we would picket the mine and I knew that [redacted] was to see ELSHOFF about it. We did not call any strike but just refused to work with those 13 men who wanted to form a new organization. On the day the mine closed I worked about 6 hours. At the special meeting the night before nothing at all was said about loading the car short but on the day the mine closed some of the PMA miners sent around that we should load our cars short in protest against these 13 men being allowed to work and I don't recall just who told me but I did load 4 cars short too and one I never got paid for till later on. As I heard it no PMA officials gave any such orders to load these cars short but it was started by PMA miners themselves. I don't think that [redacted] called us out that afternoon but as I recall it the company itself closed the mine down because the cars were being loaded short and we never worked a day again until 30 months later. I left all my tools and a full keg of powder in the mine that day and I did not know that the mine would be closed when I came out from the mine. This whole issue was over those 13 men and was not because of any wage trouble. On the following day after the mine closed the whistle blew but we PMA men picketed Mine B on the highway called Jacksonville Hard Road and no one went to work at all except the engineer and the mine officials. This picketing lasted about 15 days and I was there every morning and there was no ill feeling among us men and none of these 13 men showed up at all during that time. It was a peaceful picket line and there was no trouble at all and its purpose was to keep those 13 men from working. I just can't recall if I signed any PMA petition a short time after the mine closed

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

but if there was one I would have signed it as I was very strong then for PMA. I was willing to have signed anything for PMA and it is quite possible that I did sign if they had petitions out. I don't know if UMW got out a petition or not as no one contacted me as all knew I was a strong PMA man. I heard thru the paper that UMW formed a new local in summer of 1937 but I never was asked to join it. Some time between May and Sept. 1937 I read in the paper that ANDY SCHRELEVIUS shot a man and wife in their tavern because the man would not join the UMW. After the mine closed down PMA did not have any regular meetings any more but around that time there was a lot of stuff in the papers about UMW having a majority etc. at Mine B. I heard then too that the UMW did have small meetings around but I never saw or attended them. I also heard that these 13 men got jobs at Jefferson Mine because they had a UMW local there and I also heard that FALCETTI was a boss there and according to gossip CARL ELSHOFF had an interest or was a receiver of the Jefferson Mine. During the fall of 1937 I attended a meeting of PMA at which time we were told that the mine was going to open the next day or so under UMW and that we should be out and that we would be ready to go to work as PMA and not as UMW. That morning a large bunch of us were out there including [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They had some talk in the office [REDACTED] came out afterwards and told us miners that he talked with this President of UMW who said that if the PMA miners would sign UMW applications that we could go back to work at Mine B otherwise we could not and [REDACTED] said he told this President that we would go back as PMA and not under UMW. I also believe that [REDACTED] told us that he had a talk with OSCAR FALCETTI who said nothing. [REDACTED] talked to us out on the highway where we were in a large group, and at this time we did not go on the mine property at all and we did not see these 13 men there at all, and all of us went home then and no picketing began then. During the next week or so PMA held another meeting and we decided again that we would still be PMA and not UMW and that we would picket the mine if UMW men went to work and in a day or so we all showed up at Mine B to go to work and at this time these 13 men were there. FALCETTI let these 13 men go down into the mine himself that day and we went home and that same afternoon we had another meeting at our PMA hall and many men were there and it was decided that if these 13 men returned to work the day that we would picket and would not let them go down. At this meeting no force was used on us at all and it was with wishes of all us miners that these 13 men be kept out of the mine. Each of us had a voice in this matter and no PMA official told us we had to do something. We men ran that local and we had the voice in it and there were a nice bunch of men there in local 54. The next morning we bottled these 13 men up in the coal office and they stayed there till that afternoon when the Sheriff came out and let them go

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[REDACTED]
(continued)

away from the mine. From then on we stayed at the Mine B until the Marshall came out with his injunction. That morning when the 13 men were at the shaft getting ready to go down [REDACTED] (phonetic)

of our Pit Committee told Falcetti that he sure must be a blood thirsty s--- o- a b--- to do what he was doing. Otherwise there were no fights or trouble at all there. I stayed at Mine B day and night except once a week and it lasted for about two months. The PMA officials saw to it that we had good cots and good food and even gave us smoking equipment. There was no trouble at all while this picketing was going on. No outsiders were brot it and the men were just from the Local 54. We did this picketing to protect our jobs. No one was forced to picket at all and we all did it of our own free will. PMA even furnished us with gasoline while we were out there. While we were there no UMW men came around at all. While we were out there we heard something that UMW was coming out with a bunch but they never showed up. We played ball, cards etc. and I took care of the boilers. We shaved and took baths etc. and the Sheriff came out once in a while and wives and friends of ours would come out and visit us and there was no trouble at all. I think that there were about 400 of us out there most of the time on the average. About 7 p.m. at night the Marshall came out and [REDACTED] told us to leave and about midnight all of us were gone and there was no fights or anything and we felt pretty bad about it as we felt that we had lost our jobs and the Marshall said that we could not come back on the premises. Several days later the Marshall left some injunction papers at my home and I have shown them to Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and it is addressed to me and is in connection with a suit brot by Mine B Coal Co. against the PMA and I will have this paper in my home all the time. A few days later I read in the paper that the mine was going to reopen and I heard that only a few went out but I never went out. Around that time too PMA had several local meetings and we were told to stay away from Mine B because of the injunction and that is why we did not go out as we could not go on the property. At the first NLRB election held in Springfield, Ill., I voted for PMA and it was by secret ballot and no one told me how to vote. Just before we voted we had a meeting at the PMA hall and [REDACTED] talked to us and said that if there were any men in the hall who wanted to vote for UMW and felt that way that they should go ahead and vote UMW and he said to us also that inasmuch as we had stuck together so far that we ought to know what we wanted and that we should vote the way we wanted. He gave us a nice talk and did not threaten us how to vote nor did he or anyone else tell us how to vote at all. It was decided at the meeting that we should go over and vote in groups of 12 or so and I recall that in the group I went with that at the corner of the Armory at Second St., in Springfield, Ill. I saw CHARLES BOHANNON and the other 12 men around there and they were giving out literature and I took one but don't just recall what was on it. I voted for PMA tho at that election. I also was one of the men who went out and helped carry in

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a cripple who voted and this cripple, name I can't recall, had wanted to vote and he phoned the president of local 54 and asked if some one could come out and help him get in to vote. His name was [redacted] (phonetic) and he had been [redacted] and I and several others went out to his home and helped him to the Armory. He voted of his own free will and no one forced him to vote but he voted because he wanted to. This was an honest election and expressed the true wishes of the men. A short time after PMA won this election I read in the paper that Mine B was going to reopen under UMW altho PMA had won and I went out but did not go to work and as I recall it they wored for a short time till NLRB sent their decision back and then the mine was closed again until fall of 1939.

"Even tho PMA won I heard thru gossip that ELSHOFF would not allow any PMA men work there except UMW men. During 1938 and 1939 I worked on WPA and I recall that nothing unusual happened then while Mine B was closed. I heard gossip then that JOHN L. LEWIS was paying money to ELSHOFF and I felt that same way because I know that ELSHOFF was a small operator and did not have any money... I also know that ELSHOFF had worked as a coal salesman for the Rush Browery Co., and had charged too much for coal after the first World War and he was fired and suit was brot against ELSHOFF.

"I got a registered letter from Mine B telling me to report to work within 10 days and I reported and went back to work at once in my same room [redacted]. No one asked me what union I belonged to. I saw Felicetti then and he said nothing but gave me check No. 148 and I went right to work. These same 13 men were also working when I started. No one told me what wages was to be paid but I had heard that we were working under the UMW contract and he would not check off dues, I mean ELSHOFF would not, and I paid my PMA dues myself every month. I heard that ELSHOFF had said to the PMA committees that he would never sign a contract with PMA. At first there were not many strangers working there but about the second week or so they hired new men and they were only UMW men.

"While PMA was there from 1932 to 1937 they never had an "air man" and UMW does not have any there today. But when I went back to work [redacted] a UMW organizer, was hired as an "air man" and he went around the mine talking to the men to join over to UMW and he would come into my room at the mine but he never talked to me about it as he knew I was too strong for PMA.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] (phonetic) and several others were organizers and went around and talked to the men to join over to UMW. One morning in Jan. 1941, [REDACTED] came to me and asked me whether I was going to sign up with UMW and he said that I would have to either join up with UMW or I wouldn't have any job. I also saw [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Ill., and asked him what he was going to do and he said that if we wanted a job that we would have to join up. [REDACTED] gave me the application form and I filled it out for him. I had also heard that if I didn't join up by a certain time that it would cost me \$25.00.

"I joined the UMW actually because I wanted to keep my job and save my home. I felt too that if I didn't I would be hurt physically. We keep our clothes in baskets in the wash-house, the man next to me was UMW and one day I came to the wash house and the clothes of the man next to me were cut all to shreds, I don't remember his name but he told me at the time that they got the wrong man and he'd intended to get me. I believe this was because I hadn't joined the UMW this was about a week before I finally decided that I had better join the UMW. I reported this incident to the Sheriff and he told me that if anybody bothered me to let him know and if necessary he would throw the whole bunch of them in jail. After I joined the UMW I wouldn't have anything to do with them this made them mad and one day JUDGE BUMGARTNER came to me and told me that I had better change my way or he'd kick all hell out of me. I heard men hollering around the wash house and heard scuffling and fighting all around the place, but I never saw any of these fights actually. I did know of one fight when a UMW man took [REDACTED] (ph.) over in the cornfield and gave him a beating. After I joined the UMW, [REDACTED] gave me a note which I am turning over to FBI Agents, this note pertains to arrangements made by [REDACTED] to meet with [REDACTED] who was known to be a UMW organizer.

According to [REDACTED] the UMW had turned this offer down as most of these men including myself were already members of the UMW. I heard of a fellow named [REDACTED] who was beat with a pickhandle in his room. This man had been running a car and the Co. discharged him from this and gave him a room I believe this was done so he could be beaten as he was a strong progressive. After I signed up with the UMW I got a registered letter from them telling me to come down and be initiated or I would have no job. I had not gone down as I did not care for the UMW even though I had

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

signed for them and didn't want to be initiated until I had to. This letter came from the UMW state organization. I do not recall signing any cards for either the UMW or the PMA up until the time I joined the UMW.

"I believe that the 2nd. NLRB election was an honest election, it was by secret ballot and was run just like the first one. I think the UMW won the 2nd. election because the mine B had been filled up with UMW men. During this period a miner could get his son a job in Mine B if he belonged to UMW, while a man who belonged to PMA couldn't get a job at this mine. Prior to this when the mine was operating under PMA contract it had always been the companies policy not to hire the sons of miners working for them.

"When I went back to work in Mine B it was in bad shape physically, I think it cost plent of money to put the mine back in operation. It still is not in good shape, there are two territories that have never been reopened. I never heard of any big fire starting at Mine B while the strike was on. JACK GLASCOW is the man I have been talking about who comes from Taylorville. I heard that he was kicked out over some argument concerning the money that was loaned to the Mine B Co. I feel that UMW should be made to pay the Mine B men for every dollar they lost during the 30 months that the strike lasted at that mine.

"I have read the foregoing statement of 5 typewritten pages and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is the truth and nothing but the truth. I want to state that I always liked the PMA better and that the employees of Mine A and B should both be back under the PMA. Having read this statment and knowing it to be true I am signing it of my own free will. I would be willing to testify to the statements herein in court at any time.

Signed [REDACTED]

"Witnessed

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

[REDACTED], Spec. Agt. FBI (Milw.)

Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943."

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

THE EXHIBIT MENTIONED ABOVE READS AS FOLLOWS:

"MR. [REDACTED]

HERE IS THE NOTE [REDACTED] LEFT
AT MY HOME. MY PHONE NUMBER IS [REDACTED]
SPRINGFIELD BUT HE SAYS HE COULDN'T DIAL IT.
[REDACTED]

HAVE CALLED THIS NO ON PHONE

63 PM

25343

NOBODY ANSWERED.

I HAVE CALLED HERE

NOBODY HOME

IT IS NOW 710 P.M.

SORRY, BUT I WILL BE HOME

SUNDAY MORNING

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[REDACTED]: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] makes a poor appearance, is not mentally alert, and had little understanding of the conditions at Mine "B". He executed the following written signed statement:

[REDACTED] Illinois
September 6, 1937

"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [REDACTED] Illinois and presently live at [REDACTED] Ill.

"The first mine union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW. I joined this union at [REDACTED]

"I worked at three or four other mines before 1933 or 1934 under the UMW. I started working at Mine B in 1933 or 1934 under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"I never held a mine union office.

"I left Mine B on May 12, 1937 when the strike started, and never did go back. I never got my tools.

"I presently work at the [REDACTED] near Springfield, Ill. under the UMW.

"I got along well with the PMA officials at Mine B. I never found anything wrong with the PMA.

"I only went to a few PMA meetings because Springfield was too far away from my home.

"I believe the following men were trouble makers at Mine B and organizers for UMW in the Spring of 1937: Tony Plotch, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale.

"None of these men ever contacted me. I know very little about PMA troubles and know nothing about the wage scale controversy. I believe

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

UMW was trying to get the men to change over to UMW from PMA and I believe the men I mentioned above were agitators paid by UMW. There may have been other men agitating for UMW at this time, but I can not remember their names.

"I was a coal digger at Mine B. I do not remember the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 or what happened.

"I believe I left the mine early that day (May 12, 1937). I think I was called out about noon that day. I never went back to Mine B. after that day.

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on Sept. 4, 1943. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] and informs he has never been arrested. He speaks and understand English well, but he knows very little concerning the facts of this investigation and consequently would be of no value as a witness to this investigation. He is still employed at Mine "B".

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED]. I started working in the Mine "B" in about [REDACTED] in Springfield, and then joined the United Mine Workers of America Union. In 1932 most all of our UMW local went over to the Progressive Miners of America Union, and so I joined PMA in 1932.

"I took no active part in the formation of PMA and I have never held an office in any union.

"From the times between 1932 and May, 1937, I did not notice that there were any strikes or close downs at Mine "B". None of the company officials at any time so far as I know ever tried to discredit the PMA or get me or anyone I know of to join UMW. I did not notice that the company was partial to either PMA or UMW.

"During this time I thought the PMA union was an honest one and the officials were honest. I did not think there was any racket connected with the PMA and the only assessment I didn't like was the 10% assessment to be used for other PMA men who weren't working.

"I never took an interest in union activities and went to very few meetings.

"Between 1932 and May of 1937 I never noticed any UMW picket lines at Mine "B" and I never saw any attempt by UMW to organize Mine "B". In Spring of 1937 I heard some of the PMA men were expelled from the PMA union but I do not know why. I cannot remember any of the names of any of these men.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I do not remember whether or not I attended a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the night before the strike. But I do not think I went. On May 12, 1937 I went to work as usual as a company man down in the mine. We did not work all day because some time during the day our PMA officials pulled us out of the mine and said we were on strike. I did not know why we went out, and I'm still not sure why we went out. I don't know why those men were expelled from the union and I never heard of any wage scale trouble at that time.

"On May 12, 1937, I noticed a lot of the cars were loaded short, but I do not know why and I never heard anyone tell the men to load them short.

"After we went out on May 12, 1937 I do not remember ever being notified to come back to work until Nov. of 1939.

"During about Sept. of 1937 I remember the PMA had a sit down picket line at Mine "B" but I was not there when it started. I don't know how long the picket line lasted, but I was out there only about ten days in all. No one made me come out and I went out voluntarily. I was not there when the picket line was taken off and I do not know why it went off.

"Shortly after we went out in May 1937 I believe I signed a PMA petition. I do not remember signing more than one petition and I am sure I never signed a UMW petition.

"During the time of the strike I went to very few PMA meetings. I do not remember anything about a new UMW local being organized in the summer of 1937.

"When I was at the picket line I saw only PMA local members there.

"I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Board Election in Dec. of 1937 when PMA won. I was not forced or threatened in any way and I think it was a fair election.

"In Nov. of 1939 I got a letter which I thought came from the gov't., telling me to come back to work and I went back to work in Mine "B" as a company man and have been there ever since. I was a member of PMA when I went back, altho I never paid dues the whole time Mine "B" was shut down.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
(continued)

"From the time I went back to work in Nov. of 1939 until the end of 1940 when I joined UMW, no one ever tried to get me to join UMW by telling me to or threatening me to. I joined UMW because the rest of the men were joining and I wanted to keep my job. I never actually saw any organizing by UMW at Mine "B" - and altho I heard about some and heard about some men getting beat up, I never saw any of it.

"When I went back to work in Nov. of 1939 I did not see the results of any fires or caveins and I do not think there were any.

"I remember voting in an NLRB election in Feb. 1941 when UMW won. I thought it was a fair election & I was not threatened in any way.

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

[REDACTED]
Witness:

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

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield,
Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 2,

1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks English with difficulty, and is able to express himself only in very simple words. He stated that he can only write his name, and that he has a very limited reading ability. Questions put to him must be short and plain. He said he is willing to testify in court on the facts as he remembers them. He claims to have no criminal record. The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 2, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. I was born in [REDACTED] I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized in Federal court in Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED]

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [REDACTED] I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I rejoined the U.M.W. in 1940, as I recall. I never was an officer in any union.

"I took no part in the organization of the P.M.A. in 1932. I merely went along with the rest of the men. I wanted to be with the majority. I never have been one of the minority. I went to quite a few P.M.A. meetings, and also some U.M.W. meetings. Both unions treated me O.K. I wanted a job and was willing to be in any union that would see to it that I got a job.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike started in 1937. I probably did not go to the meeting. I did not know anything at all about the strike until I was called out of the mine. I was told to stay around the mine by the P.M.A. officials. After a time, the sheriff came and then the miners went home. I don't know why the strike was called.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"In the summer of 1937 no one ever contacted me about joining U.M.W. In that summer I signed a petition for P.M.W., but, because I can't read English, I don't

remember what the petition was about. I don't remember signing any other petition.

"I don't remember how I received a notice that Mine B was to reopen in September 1937, but I remember that when I went out to the mine, the P.M.W. officials told me that we were not going to let U.M.W. men go into the mine. I stayed around the mine until the U.S. Marshall came and told us to get off the mine property. I saw only Mine B men at the mine at this time.

"In the election of 1937 I voted for P.M.W. because I thought that the majority of the miners favored that union. From that time until I went back to work in 1939 no one asked me to join the U.M.W. After I went back to work in 1939, some man whose name I don't know told me that everyone else was going to join U.M.W. and asked me why I did not join the U.M.W. I finally signed up with U.M.W. because I thought that all the rest of the miners were signing up with U.M.W. Everyone was saying that if we did not sign up with U.M.W., there would be no work.

"I don't care to which union I belong. One union is just the same as any other union. I think that all unions are alike.

"I never saw anyone beat up in the mine or on mine property, but I did see a man in a hospital who was supposed to have been beat up in the mine. I don't know why the man was beat up.

"At present I am working in Mine A, having been transferred from Mine B where there were not enough rooms for the miners to work in.

"This statement consisting of this and one other typewritten page has been read to me, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/S/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

/S/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield,
Illinois, was interviewed in the residence of his son,

[REDACTED] on September 4, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED]
and [REDACTED]. Because of [REDACTED] poor understanding of
the English language [REDACTED] had to act as an interpreter. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He cannot speak
English well. He claimed to have no criminal record. Because of his lack
of education [REDACTED] said he preferred not to testify in court. The follow-
ing signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED], whom I know to be Special
Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of my own free
will, with no threats or promises. Because I don't understand
English too well, [REDACTED] has explained the ques-
tions to me in [REDACTED] and some of my answers to him have been
made in the same language.

"I live with [REDACTED]
Springfield, Ill. I was born in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I entered the United States in [REDACTED] and be-
came a naturalized citizen in federal court at Springfield in
[REDACTED] I joined the United Mine Workers at [REDACTED]
in [REDACTED] joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932,
and rejoined the U.M.W., I believe, in April, 1941. I have never
held any office in a mine union. I am presently working at Mine B.

"I began working at Mine B in 1929. I joined the P.M.A. in
1932 at that mine, but I had no part in its organization. I don't
remember why the P.M.A. was started. I was entirely satisfied
with the P.M.A., and the officers of the union treated me all right.

"I remember that the pit committee of the P.M.A. told me
about a union meeting to be held the night before the strike. I
didn't go to the meeting, but it seems to me that it was something
about joining the U.M.W. On the day of the strike I went to work,
and the strike was called about 2:30. Some of the men were loading their
cars short, but I was not. I don't know why the men were loading
short. I don't know who called the strike, or why it was called.

"I don't remember signing any paper for the P.M.A. after the
strike started. I don't remember signing any papers for any union.
I don't remember getting any notices that the mine would reopen.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

In the fall of 1937, I went out to the picket line at Mine B, because the P.M.A. pit committee told me to. I don't remember voting in the 1937 election

held at the arsenal.

"Just after Mine B reopened, in 1939, Jimmy Hale, and Sam (Joe Albanese) came to my house [REDACTED], and asked me to join the U.M.W. I didn't sign up with the U.M.W., but did so later [REDACTED]

"I don't remember voting in an election held in 1941, and don't remember if I did vote or not.

"The foregoing, consisting of two pages and this, has been read to me by [REDACTED] and I state it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [REDACTED]

/S/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his

[REDACTED] residence on September 4, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and reads English very well, but during the interview, exhibited a very poor memory for details which it is believed he should have retained. He claimed to have no criminal record, and denied ever having been convicted of any offense. He said he was willing to testify in court to facts that he remembers. The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED].

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am employed at Mine B. I was born in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] I joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] when I began work at Mine B. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America at Mine B when they were organized in 1932. I rejoined the U.M.W. about April, 1941, at Mine B, just before the U.M.W. charter was closed. [REDACTED]

"Prior to the organization of the P.M.A. in 1932, I heard of some trouble in the U.M.W. I was [REDACTED] and didn't pay any attention to it, and really knew very little about it. I really don't know the reason for the organization of P.M.A., and I took no part in the organizing of the P.M.A. From 1932 to 1937, conditions at the mine were satisfactory. I heard or saw nothing which might have shown that the management of Mine B was in favor of the U.M.W., rather than P.M.A. As far as I know, the men were entirely satisfied with the P.M.A., for I heard no complaints from any of them about the union or its officials.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike, and I don't remember hearing anything about the meeting the next day. On the day of the strike, I went to work, and didn't know anything about the strike until I had finished work for the day. I heard that men had been loading their cars short, but don't know the reason for it. I also heard that some men in the north part of the mine had walked out. I went right home, and when I got back to the mine the next morning, I was told that

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

there was no work. I know that there was some disagreement between the P.M.A. and the mine management over some retroactive clause in

the contract. I don't know anything more about it, and don't know if that was the cause of the strike or not.

"I don't remember signing any P.M.A. petition just after the strike in 1937. I do remember signing a U.M.W. membership card in 1937, just before the strike. [REDACTED] talked to me in the mine, and told me that most of the men were joining the U.M.W., and asked me to sign a membership card. I did so, because I thought most of the men were doing it. I had no part in the formation of the U.M.W. local in the summer of 1937, and continued to pay my dues to P.M.A. I didn't pay any dues to U.M.W. during that time. In 1939, while the strike was going on, I went to work at Panther Creek No. 4, which was P.M.A. I dropped my membership in U.M.W. at that time. I worked at Panther Creek No. 4, and stayed a member of P.M.A., and went back to work at Mine B when it reopened in the fall of 1939.

"I remember getting a notice for the opening of Mine 3, from the company, but don't remember the date, and don't know for which opening it was. In the fall of 1937, I went to the picket line at the mine. The P.M.A. men were picketing the mine to protect their jobs. I heard that the U.M.W. men were talking about starting a local, and signing a contract with Mine B management. The P.M.A. men were picketing to keep the U.M.W. men out of the mine. I was on the picket line when the federal injunction was served, but don't know the reason for it.

"I don't remember getting any notice of an election in the winter of 1937. I remember voting in one election, but I don't remember when it was, or how I voted. I didn't go out to the mine during the strike, except when I was on the picket line, and I didn't hear of any statements made by the mine management for the U.M.W. or against the P.M.A.

"After the mine reopened, a driver, either Hale or Bohannon, came to my room, and asked me to join the U.M.W. [REDACTED] was working in the same room, [REDACTED] I wasn't forced to sign, but did so because I wanted to. [REDACTED] spoke to me several times, but never said anything about joining the U.M.W..

"I don't remember signing any affidavit saying that [REDACTED] told me and [REDACTED] that we would lose our jobs if we didn't sign up in the U.M.W. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I don't remember saying that Edmundson could sign an affidavit saying that the U.M.W. would pay [REDACTED] I don't ever remember Bohannon telling me that my father was suffering because I wouldn't join the U.M.W. [REDACTED]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I have no preference as to unions. The P.M.A. treated me all right, and the U.M.W. treats me all right. I'm willing to go along with the

majority of the men, am signed in the U.M.W. because I thought the majority of the men wanted that one.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of approximately four and one quarter pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [REDACTED]

/S/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LENIS, ET AL

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RE: John L. Lewis, et al.
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at which time he stated that in view of the fact he lived in [REDACTED] he had never paid much attention to union activities in Springfield, and so for that reason he had very little information of value to instant case. [REDACTED] seems to be of average intelligence and spoke in a clear and distinct manner. It is believed he would make a favorable witness, although his information is limited.

At the time of the interview, [REDACTED] executed the following signed statement:

[REDACTED] Illinois
September 6, 1943

"I [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement. I reside at [REDACTED] and get my mail at General Delivery.

"I was born in [REDACTED] and started working in the mines in [REDACTED]. At that time I joined United Mine Workers. I have never held an office in any union. I started working at Mine B in 1933 or 1934 and at that time I was a member of P.M.A. I had nothing to do with the formation of P.M.A. When I started at Mine B Progressive was getting along fine. The company seemed to like P.M.A. and the men were all satisfied.

"I remember that in the spring of 1937 our contract expired and some of the men objected to working without a contract. However, [REDACTED] our board member, told us everything was all right, and that we should continue to work. In my opinion the men all felt that the matter would be settled in a satisfactory manner.

"I remember that some of the men kept saying we wouldn't get a contract and that we shouldn't work without one. Afterward, I learned that those men were working for U.M.W. There was about 12 or 15 of these men, one of them was named Andy but I don't know who the others were.

"I didn't attend many union meetings because I lived in [REDACTED] and the meetings were held in Springfield. I don't remember hearing that some men had been expelled from P.M.A. although after the strike I did hear this.

"On the day of the strike I was working as a digger [REDACTED] at Mine B and I went down into the mine as usual. About 2:30 that afternoon we were told to leave and we heard a rumor that there was a strike. I remember hearing that some of the men were loading cars short that day. I don't know

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

why they did, no one told me to and my
cars were all full.

"When I came on top I was told that Elshoff had refused to pay any retroactive wages, and I thought that that was what the trouble was. I did not hear anything at that time concerning the spies that were working for U.M.W. being expelled from P.M.A. or causing trouble.

"I do not recall signing any petitions that summer, but I could have signed one and forgot all about it.

"I was on picket duty at Mine B for one or two days right after the strike, but that was the only time I was on picket duty. It was at this time that I heard about the spies being expelled from P.M.A.

"I voted in the NLRB election at the Armory in December of 1937. I saw no trouble or violence of any kind at this election.

"I started working at Mine A in about September of 1937 and I have been working there ever since.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He related his story in a clear manner and appears friendly to the Government in this matter. It might be noted that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] to be able to take the witness stand if necessary.

He would make a favorable witness to testify to those matters contained in the following statement which he signed:

"9/3/43"

[REDACTED] Ill.

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

"I was born on [REDACTED] and came to the U.S. in [REDACTED]. I became a citizen in [REDACTED] and presently live at [REDACTED]. I joined the U.M.W. union in [REDACTED] and joined the P.M.A while working at Panther Creek. I have never held a union office and started to work in Mine B in 1936.

"When I first started at the mine everything seemed to be good at first. The officers seemed to be good men and the company was getting along all right with the union.

"I recall that our union contract with the company expired on April 1, 1937, and some of the men were kicking because it seemed to take a long time to settle on a contract. I think however, that most of the men felt a good contract would be signed.

"At about this time a group of men who were supposed to be P.M.A. Men were really working for the U.M.W. I heard these men were paid by the U.M.W. to start to organize a U.M.W. local. I had heard about these men before the strike, but they never approached me. I used to see them talking to our Progressive men and they also seemed to hang around the company office. Bohannon seemed to be the main man & others were Tony Flotch, Austin & Carter.

"I think that before the strike these men were expelled from our union for their actions. In my opinion the whole mine knew these men had been kicked out of the union. I used to attend a few union meetings, but I

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH ██████████
(continued) do not remember being at the meeting when the
men were kicked out.

"I went to work, as a digger ██████████ on the day of the strike the same as usual. I remember that when I got to the mine there was a dispute as to whether the men who were supposed to be spies would work that day. I saw ██████████ and a crowd of our men complaining to the company that those men should not be allowed to work with us. Most of the men were in the Company office. We all went to work after a short time and took up our regular jobs. I saw cars going by me that were loaded only partially, but I loaded all my cars the same as usual. I think we were in the mine that whole day and left at the usual time.

"The next day I reported to the mine and was told there was a strike. That was the first I knew of a strike going on. I was told that our union was going to strike until the company fired those men. I then went home and stayed there. Since I lived in ██████████ I do not have much contact with the union men in Springfield. I recall that about 2 weeks after the strike some P.M.A men brought a petition to my house and I signed it. I was not asked to sign anything for United. In Sept. of 1937 they tried to start the mine and I went out to the mine after the picket line had been started. I went on picket duty for 56 days and during that time I was allowed to come home almost any time I wanted to. I was there at the time the injunction was served & it didn't make much difference to me except I wanted to go back to work.

"I didn't go to the mine from the time of the injunction until the time the mine opened in Nov. of 1939. I voted in the N.L.R.B election in Dec. of 1937 and to my knowledge everything went along fine. There was not any fighting and the men could vote for whoever they wanted to.

"I received a notice in the mail to go to work in 1939 & I went to the mine to report. I was told that they were short of rooms and the air was bad and that I should report back in a few days. My room could not be worked in because the partition had caved in so I started work in box ██████████ when I went back to work I kept up my dues in Progressive for about 4 months. I could see that United had a lot of new men and we all understood that the mine would only operate with the U.M.W union. I decided to join United so I could keep on working. I was never threatened by any of the United men and didn't see any fights. The management seemed to favor United men and the company hired a lot of strangers. I always understood that in order to get a job a man had to be a member of U.M.W. Most of the organizers for United always seemed to get the best rooms to work in.

"In my opinion the strike was caused because of the fact the P.M.A men did not want to work with the organizers for United.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

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"I have read over this entire statement of five pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al.

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INTERVIEW WITH

Springfield, Illinois,

██████████ was interviewed at his home on September 6, 1943, by
Special Agents ██████████ and ██████████

This man speaks and understands English fairly well, but indicated a sincere
fear of receiving another beating from union "toughs" if it becomes known
that he has spoken against them. If necessary, he will testify but he
stated he will always be afraid that his life will be in jeopardy after
that. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following is a signed statement which was obtained from ██████████

"Springfield, Ill.
September 6, 1943.

"I, ██████████ make the following statement freely and volun-
tarily to ██████████ and ██████████ who have identified themselves
to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats
or promises have been made to me to obtain this statement.

"I presently reside at ██████████ Springfield, Ill., and
I am working in Mine A.

"I was born ██████████ I came to the
United States in ██████████ and was naturalized in ██████████ Springfield, Ill. I
first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, in ██████████ I joined the
Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I rejoined the United Mine
Workers in 1940. I never have been an officer in any union.

"In 1939 after Mine B reopened, two unions, the U.M.W. and the
P.M.A., were working in the mine together. At this time the P.M.A. was the
larger group locally. The U.M.W. watched the P.M.A. meetings to see who
went to the P.M.A. meetings. Then the U.M.W. men started to sign up the
miners.

"Some time after Mine B reopened the officials of P.M.A. and U.M.W.
agreed to have a joint meeting of both unions to try to settle the trouble
at Mine B. The purpose of the meeting was to determine if all the miners
would go with one union or the other. They were going to have a vote to
determine which union the miners preferred. The meeting was held in Redman
Hall. The president of the P.M.A. local and the President of the U.M.W.
local presided at this meeting. It was the idea that the union to have the
run of Mine B would be the union that the had the majority of the votes
at this meeting. The U.M.W. claimed it had a majority of the miners in the
state, and the P.M.A. claimed it had a majority of the miners in Mine B,
which it did. Because of the inability of the unions to agree on anything

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] at this meeting, nothing was accomplished.

(continued)

"I recall that after the mine reopened, [REDACTED] were trying to get men to join U.M.W. [REDACTED] threatened those men who would not join U.M.W. He threatened [REDACTED] who told the boss in the pardon about it. The boss called Falcetti, the super, who fired [REDACTED]. Even though he was fired, [REDACTED] kept coming around the mine every morning. He came into the wash-house and into the tipple. He was fired in December 1939, and continued to hang around Mine B until the election in February, 1941.

[REDACTED] had also broken the nose of a man known as [REDACTED] before he threatened [REDACTED]. There were no witnesses to this incident, but there were witnesses to the incident with [REDACTED]. That is why [REDACTED] was fired.

"One day when I was working in Mine B, I heard [REDACTED] ask some miners which man was [REDACTED]. That made me suspicious. The next day the boss asked me what had been done. The boss sent me into the mine. When I reached the place where I was to work, there were a bunch of men there. They got me to sign up with U.M.W.. Bohannon and Albanese were there. I heard that it was against the rules for anyone to sign up a man for a union on mine property, or down in the mine. Bohannon and the others present at this time told me that if I wanted to work, I had to sign up with U.M.W.. That was in June or July, 1940. I signed up with U.M.W. at that time, but I did not go to any U.M.W. meetings. [REDACTED] threatened to beat me if I did not come to U.M.W. meetings.

"Some time later I made an affidavit for the P.M.A. lawyer stating that I had signed up with U.M.W. against my will. Some way the U.M.W. found out about this, even though the P.M.A. lawyer told me that the affidavit would be only for government men. Later [REDACTED] told me that he had heard about my signing the affidavit. He threatened to beat me. I told a committeeman who told Falcetti about what had happened. Falcetti called a meeting, and [REDACTED] was there, even though he had been fired. Falcetti told [REDACTED] to stay off the mine property. That night [REDACTED] came to my garden, located about a mile and a half from my home. After asking me what I was doing, [REDACTED] hit me in the head and knocked me out for a short time. I remember grabbing [REDACTED] as I started to fall, pulling him to the ground with me. I came to, and started to yell for help. [REDACTED] ran off, and I followed him to the road. I saw a car which had a license number on it, which number was listed to Bohannon. I saw three other men in the car, one of whom I recognized as Bill Sirtout. I did not recognize the other two men. When [REDACTED] came to me where I was working in the field, about 300 feet from the road, he also asked me if I was coming to the union meetings, and if I would pay union dues. I told him that I was not going to

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] do either, and then he hit me on the head with something.

(continued)

"I reported the matter to the police, and obtained a warrant against [REDACTED]. He was not picked up for several days. The case was called for trial about four times. The second time the case was called for trial I had to leave Mine B at the noon hour. The boss told me that if I wanted to work at Mine B, I should work all day. On that same day Bohannon asked me if I was going out of the mine at noon. Bohannon asked me to ride to town with him. Later, Bohannon told me that he had changed his mind. I left my work at 11:30 AM, and tried to get the cage going to the top at 12 noon. I missed that cage by two minutes and had to wait until 12:15 PM. Bohannon caught the 12 o'clock cage, and reached the top before I did. When I tried to start my truck to go to Springfield, it would not start. I looked under the hood, and discovered that all the wires in the distributor had been pulled out. When this case was finally settled, [REDACTED] who was represented by a U.M.W. lawyer, was fined \$25.00 and costs.

"In 1940 the members of the U.M.W. said that unless a man joined the U.M.W. before December 15, 1940, he could not become a member of that union. I then told Tony Plotch that if the U.M.W. would take me in, I would pay dues from the start of 1941. Edmundson at this time said that I had been a member of U.M.W. since June of 1940, even though I did not pay any dues.

"Two weeks before the election in February, 1941, I quit working at Mine B, and went to work in Mine A. I was still afraid to work in Mine B.

"I wish to state that at the time I told Tony Plotch that I would join U.M.W., I paid him \$2.00, because I was afraid that I would get beat up if I did not pay some money at this time.

"As I recall I joined the P.M.A. in 1932 when I was working at the [REDACTED]. I started to work in Mine B in 1936.

"Just before the strike in 1937, there was some talk about scabs being in the mine because the miners were working without a contract. Bohannon told me that he was scabbing because there was no contract. No one tried to get me to join the U.M.W. before the strike started. I did not hear anything about the U.M.W., before the strike started, trying to get new members.

"I don't remember anything about the meeting the night before the strike started. On the day of the strike, I was working in the mine, and a driver, I can't remember his name, told me to quit. At this time I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

was [REDACTED] I don't know if anyone was loading cars with short weights. I think the strike started because the P.M.A. wanted the company of Mine B to fire some men who violated the rules of P.M.A., and the company refused to fire the men.

"One day before the strike [REDACTED] Schrelevious was talking to me about the C.I.O. being a good outfit. He did not say anything about joining.

"I don't know what rules the men who the P.M.A. wanted fired had violated. The men were: Joe Albances, Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, and Charlie Bohannon. Their P.M.A. union cards were taken away from them. Cotton's card was not taken until after the strike.

"I remember signing a petition for P.M.A. in 1937. This petition was to be sent to the Labor Board to show that board how many members P.M.A. had. I also signed another petition, but I do not know whether it was at the same time or not. It was just about the same as the first petition, and was made so that if anything happened to the first, the P.M.A. would have the second petition.

"In the summer after the strike started no one tried to get me to join U.M.W., and I signed no petition for U.M.W..

"I think I saw a notice about the mine reopening in September 1937. I went out to the mine to go to work, and found out when I got there that if I did not sign up with U.M.W. I could not go into the mine. I recall that Falcetti called off about 15 names of men who were to go to work at that time. They were only U.M.W. men. He did not call any P.M.A. men. Bohannon said that the men could not go into the mine unless they signed with U.M.W. All the P.M.A. men came home from the mine. I got another job right away and did not go back to Mine B. I don't know anything about the picket line.

"I voted in the election in December 1937, and voted for P.M.A. because I preferred that union. No one talked to me about joining the U.M.W. until I went back to work in 1939 at Mine B. After I started back to work, that's when they started to work on me.

"I joined the U.M.W. because I had to to keep my job, and to keep my good health. I was willing to stay with the majority. It really makes no difference to me to which union I belong. If I had thought the U.M.W. had a majority at Mine B after the mine reopened, I think that I would have had no trouble.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(continued)

"This statement consisting of this and five other type-written pages has been read to me by [REDACTED] and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

(s) [REDACTED]

witnesses:

[REDACTED] Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH At Auburn, Illinois

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This person reads English with difficulty but appears to be mentally alert. Many details at Mine B are well fixed in his memory, particularly during that period when UMW was attempting to gain control, from 1939 to 1941. It is felt that he would make a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement:

[REDACTED] Illinois
September 2, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to get me to make a statement. I reside at [REDACTED] Illinois, and was born in [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in [REDACTED]. I became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED]

"I first started mining in [REDACTED] and joined the United Mine Workers that year. I have never held any office in any union. I joined Progressive in 1932 and started working at Mine B in 1934. When I first started at Mine B everything seemed all right at the mine with the Union, P.M.A. I never heard of any trouble at all.

"I do not recall much about any contract expiring on March 31, 1937. I never went to many meetings of the union and I just barely remember that there was to be a new contract.

"I remember that about this time there were men in the P.M.A. that were supposed to be working against P.M.A. and for U.M.W. Andy was one of these, also Charles Bohannon, and Frank Austin were others. I heard that there was about twelve of them and that they were working for U.M.W. trying to organize P.M.A. men into the United. They never talked to me though.

"I remember that there was some kind of an argument about these men and I also heard that these men had guns in the mine office. I never heard that these men were kicked out of the union but I know that there was some kind of an argument about their working.

"On the day of the strike I went to work as usual as a digger in Box [REDACTED]. As I remember the P.M.A. men didn't want these men, the spies, to go to work. I loaded three cars, not full, and the driver would take them away. As I remember, I worked until my regular quitting time and went on top. When I got on top I found that there was trouble. Some of the men

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] said they wouldn't work with those men who were working for U.M.W.

(continued)

"I went to work the next morning but nobody went down. At that time I didn't know there was a strike and that is why I went. When I got there I found out there was a strike and I remember there was some discussion about a contract.

"I don't remember signing any petitions during the summer of 1937. I might have signed, but I don't remember, it is too long.

"In September, 1937 I heard the mine was going to open, I think there was a notice in the paper. I went out on the day it was to open, ready to go to work. We didn't go to work though because it seemed as though the U.M.W. men were going to work. We started a picket line then, the fellows said we had to stay to protect our job. I was there until the injunction was served by the U. S. Marshall. I would come home once in a while, I was free to come home whenever I wanted to. Nearly all of the miners were on the line. In one way I felt glad when we were told to go home, I was getting tired of staying there. The only one I was mad at was U.M.W. for I felt that they were the ones who had made us get out.

"I voted in the NLRB election in December, 1937 at Springfield. I went to the Union Hall and a few of us went to the Armory and voted. The election was nice and quiet and there was no trouble of any kind.

"I did not go back to the mine again until it opened up in November of 1939. I was notified to go to work, I don't remember how I was notified. I went back to my same job and for quite a while things were quiet. After I had been working for a while Sam Albanese tried to get me to join U.M.W. He told me I would be surprised to know how many belonged. He didn't threaten me, however, and I told him I wouldn't join.

"Later another fellow named [REDACTED] tried to get me to join, and I told him I wouldn't. He tried to get me to join U.M.W. and followed me around where I was working. His last name was [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or something like that. He did not work at Mine B before the strike and he doesn't work there now. I told him I wouldn't join and he grabbed me by the neck and pushed me clear to the ground. He told me he was going to cut my head off and I was scared. I grabbed my lunch box and ran out of the mine. I told the pit boss what had happened. I also told Oscar Falcetti what had happened. This must have been in the fall of 1940. Falcetti asked me if I knew who the fellow was but at that time I didn't know who he was. Falcetti told me to work in another place in the mine but I didn't want to change. Falcetti then gave me a note to the pit boss and after that this fellow didn't bother me anymore, although I saw him in the mine. That was the only time I was ever bothered. When [REDACTED] grabbed me he had an axe in his hand.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I also wish to state that [REDACTED] and Bohannon came to my house and tried to get me to join U.M.W. I refused and [REDACTED] told me I wouldn't work in Mine B if I didn't join. I told him that the government was behind me.

"About the last of 1940 Tony Plotch told me I should sign up for U.M.W. and that night I signed up for U.M.W. The next day I heard that some fellows who hadn't signed up were beaten up in the wash house. I was scared that they might be looking for me if I hadn't signed up. The only reason I signed was because I was scared I would be beaten if I didn't sign.

"The above statement was read to me by Agent [REDACTED] and I declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

"X [REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)

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

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had difficulty in comprehending some of the questions put to him, inasmuch as he does not speak or understand the English language very well. It is believed that [REDACTED] would only make a fair witness.

There is being set forth below the signed statement executed by [REDACTED] at the time of instant interview:

[REDACTED] Ill.
Sept. 2, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in [REDACTED]. I became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED] and started mining coal in [REDACTED]. I joined the U.M.W. union in [REDACTED] and have never held an office in any union. I started working for Mine B in about [REDACTED] and worked there until May of 1942. At the present time I do not have any job.

"I remember that it was sometime in 1932 when the P.M.A. was formed and I joined the P.M.A. union at about that time. I didn't have anything to do with the start of the P.M.A. and so I don't know the reason why P.M.A. was formed. I have never gone to many of the union meetings and never paid much attention to union activities.

"I recall the strike at Mine B in the spring of 1937, but I do not know what caused the strike. I know there was some question about a new contract and I remember that [REDACTED] our union man, told us to go to work as usual and the union would see to it that we would get a good contract. I remember that before the strike some of the Progressive men didn't want some of the other men to work with them. I believe Pasquale and Bohannon were two of the men that the other men didn't want to work with. I heard that these men along with about fifteen others were on the company payroll to act as organizers. I don't know who they were supposed to be organizing for though. I heard some men had been kicked out of the union, but I don't know the reason.

"On the day of the strike I went to work as usual in box [REDACTED] and started digging coal. I know that we worked until about noon when a

Re. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

driver came along and said, 'everybody out', so we came out of the mine. We loaded the cars as usual and I don't know anything about any of the men loading the cars short. When I got on top, somebody said there was a strike about money on wages.

"I remember that about two weeks after the strike some young fellows came to my house in [REDACTED] and had me sign a petition. The men didn't tell me what it was for they just told me to sign so I did. I don't know if it was a Progressive or U.M.W. petition.

"In the fall of 1937 I went out to the mine on picket duty and the men who lived in [REDACTED] had to stay on the picket line all week long. The men in Springfield could go home once in a while, but we never had a chance to get home. I asked [REDACTED] a couple of times if I could come home, but he said I had to stay on the picket line. He never said anything about what would happen if I left the picket line. I stayed on picket duty until some time in December of 1937 when the Marshal came with an injunction.

"I voted in the NLRB election in December of 1937 and to my knowledge everything went along fine. I didn't see any fights and don't know of anyone who was frightened or threatened.

"I heard the mine had tried to open several times, but I didn't go near the mine again until after the mine opened in 1939. After the mine had opened I went to see Oscar Falcetti and asked him why I hadn't been called back to work. He told me some body had reported to the office that I had died. Then I told him I wanted to go back to work, he told me to start the next day. Box [REDACTED] had caved in so I went to work in box [REDACTED]. Nobody was allowed to go in box [REDACTED] as there was a sign there for everyone to keep out.

"I believe I paid dues in the PMA until about July of 1940 and a short time after that some men came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.W. I joined the United because I figured the majority were joining United and I didn't want to lose my job. Nobody told me I would lose my job, but I figured I would do like the rest to protect my job.

"I have worked in different mines as a member of both the PMA and the U.M.W. I have never had any trouble with either union.

"To the best of my knowledge the strike at Mine P was called by the men because the company wouldn't agree to a contract and wouldn't give us our back pay.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "This statement has been read to me by Agent [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and I wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.
(continued)

[REDACTED] (Signed)

Witnesses

[REDACTED] (Signed)) Special Agents, FBI
[REDACTED]) U. S. Dept of Justice"

[REDACTED] (Signed))

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was jointly interviewed by [REDACTED] Special Agents [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] his residence, [REDACTED] Illinois, on September 2, 1943. He appeared willing to answer questions put to him and furnished the following signed statement:

[REDACTED] Illinois
September 2, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born [REDACTED] and presently live on [REDACTED] Illinois.

"I first joined a mine union in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Illinois under the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW.

"I have worked at seven mines not including Mine "B". I worked under UMW at all the mines I worked at until I joined PIA at Mine "B" in 1932. I started working at Mine "B" in January, 1928 under the UMW.

"I attended an occasional union meeting when I worked both under the UMW and the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PIA. I never held a union office under UMW or PIA except [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] excepting the fact that [REDACTED]

"The last day I worked at Mine "B" was on May 12, 1937. I did not return to work there at any time thereafter because I did not want to get involved in the trouble I thought was coming in 1939 and 1940.

"I was not an active organizer of PIA in Mine "B".

"Relations between Elshoff and the UMW prior to 1932 and relations between Elshoff and PIA from 1932 to about 1936 were similar. There were no violent disagreements during these periods that I recall and I think Elshoff treated the PIA fairly until about 1936.

"The first thing I observed that indicated that relations between PIA and Elshoff were becoming strained was an incident in which PIA board members presented a working agreement to Elshoff pending a final contract. There appeared to be some question as to the agreement. In my

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

opinion Elshoff from then on appeared to be side tracking the PIA officials.

"I saw nothing deeper than this which would cause more strain in the relations between PIA and Elshoff.

"I was always satisfied with the PIA officials.

"I believe the special assessment put on wages of PIA members during the first year of the organization's existence was meant and was used to finance the new PIA union.

"I never heard of any UIW picket line at Mine "B" from 1932 to 1937.

"I felt that DOMINIC PASQUALE and FRANK AUSTIN were trouble makers. I felt that Charles Bohannon could not be trusted and that he would agitate for or against any union for money.

"By word or mouth I heard that the following men were paid by UIW for agitating in Mine "B" prior to May 12, 1937 on behalf of UIW. It was the miners' opinion that UIW was paying these men: Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"I did not attend the PIA meeting of May 11, 1937.

"My job at this time at Mine "B" was a digger. I did not know the coal cars were being shorted until later on in the day, May 12, 1937.

"I do not remember the facts concerning the wage controversy in the spring of 1937.

"I do not remember the PIA petition of May 26, 1937, but but I did sign some PIA petition that summer.

"I helped picket Mine "B" for about two weeks after it went on strike.

"The only fire I remember at Mine "B" happened during the winter before the strike in 1937. It was put out overnight. I never heard there had been a fire there while the mine was closed.

"I was never personally approached in an effort to get me to sign up with UIW.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

/s/

Witnessed: [REDACTED] Special Agent F.B.I.
[REDACTED] Special Agent F.B.I.

Re. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] who resides in the rear of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] but became a naturalized citizen on [REDACTED]. It is not believed that he would make a good witness because of his inability to speak English and his lack of knowledge of what went on at Mine "B". [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He supplied the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

"I [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] do voluntarily make the following signed statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to America in [REDACTED]. I became an American citizen at Springfield, Ill., on [REDACTED] and I am presently residing in the rear of [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

"I have worked in the mines almost ever since I have been in the U.S. and first joined the United Mine Workers of America. I have never been an officer in any union. I started working at Mine B about 7 years ago coming there from the Jefferson Mine. While at the Jefferson Mine I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"I liked the Progressive Union and they seemed to get along fine at Mine B before the strike in 1937. I don't know what caused the strike, all I know was that [REDACTED] told us to go on strike. After the strike I picketed at Mine B for about two months. About 8 UMWA tried to open the mine one day while we were out there, but they only stayed for a couple of hours.

"I recall voting in the N.L.R.B. election in December of 1937. It was a fair election and the Progressives won. After the election the Co. shut down the mine and we couldn't go back to work.

"I remember signing petitions for the Progressives. These petitions were signed by nearly all of the miners.

"When the mine opened under an 'open shop' agreement I still belonged to the Progressives. I joined UMWA because I was scared - the UMWA were beating up everyone in the wash house. I wanted to work at Mine B and so I had to join UMWA.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I voted for UMW in the second government election because I saw that most of the men were going that way. If I had a free choice I would rather belong to the Progressives.

"I don't know anything about any spies being expelled from the Progressives but do know that Dominic Pasquale, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Manias, and a few others were causing some trouble at the mine.

"I have had the above two and one-quarter ($2\frac{1}{4}$) pages of statements made by me read to me by [REDACTED] The same are true and I do hereby sign my name.

/S/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

Springfield,

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at the Springfield Office by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who has difficulty speaking and understanding the English language, stated that his memory is quite vague as to the events which took place at Mine B during the course of his employment at that place. It is being noted that [REDACTED] was one of those men who were arrested during the course of the trouble in 1936. [REDACTED] was arrested on a charge of having dynamite in his possession and was confined at Milan penitentiary from May 10, 1939 to September 12, 1940, at which time he was released on parole. As a result of this sentence, [REDACTED] is quite bitter, stating that in his opinion he was framed and that he had nothing whatsoever to do with the bombing which took place in the vicinity of Springfield in 1935 and 1936. In view of [REDACTED] criminal record, it is doubtful if he would make a good witness.

There is being set forth below the signed statement which [REDACTED] executed at the time of this interview. [REDACTED] also expressed the opinion that he would hesitate to testify in instant matter for fear of reprisal.

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in about [REDACTED]. I have applied for my U. S. citizenship, but have not yet obtained my final papers. I presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield. I started to mine coal in about [REDACTED] and joined the U.M.W. at about that time. I have never held any office in any union.

"I first started to work at Mine B in about [REDACTED] and worked there off and on until the time of the strike in May of 1937. I joined the Progressive union in 1932 when I was working at Mine B. I never had anything to do with the forming of the Progressive union. I was not satisfied with the United because they were spending our money for big buildings and then we couldn't even go in the buildings. I think that Falcetti was pretty friendly with the UMW men, but I never saw him with any of their men.

"I remember that there was some question about wages that came up in the Spring of 1937. We were supposed to get a raise of 10¢, but Elshoff refused to pay it and we never did get our back pay. I know also that there was about twelve men who were supposed to be members of Progressive, but who were really working for United. Some of these men were

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
(continued)

Bohannon, Pasquale, Andy and some others. I heard that these men used to have meetings before the strike, and I heard that they were trying to organize the men for United. About three or four days before the strike I was talking to Falcetti near the prop pile and Falcetti said, "You know how the mine going to go, [redacted]. I didn't answer him and he walked away and never said anything more about it.

"I remember that Bohannon, Frank Austin, Joe Abanese, Pete Carter, a man by the name of Cotton, Pasquale and somebody else were kicked out of the Progressive union, because they were trying to organize for United. I think they were expelled from the union for 99 years. I don't think I was at the meeting when they were expelled, but I think it was about a week or two before the strike.

"I was working as a digger in box [redacted] at about the time of the strike and remember that one day in May or June of 1937 the mine went on strike. To the best of my memory I loaded two cars the day of the strike and those cars were loaded full. I had a bad place to work that day so didn't load any more. I didn't see or hear of anyone loading cars short. When we came out of the pit I heard that the men were going on strike because the company had refused to pay the 10¢ raise. I know that our men were sore at the Company because the Company was letting the United men work with us.

"I can't remember signing any petitions in the summer of 1937, but I might have signed a Progressive petition. I also remember now that a few days before the strike, I saw Dominick Pasquale with a police special gun sticking out of his pocket. Dominick & Joe Albanese went in the company office together and then I saw that Joe also had a gun. The sheriff was around there so [redacted] called him & told the sheriff that Dominick & Joe had guns. The sheriff went into the office and Dominick tried to hide the gun in a waste basket. The sheriff then took Dominick & Joe into town and I never heard any more about it.

"I went out to the mine in Sept. of 1937 when we heard that the company was going to open the mine with United men. I stayed out there about seven weeks on the picket line with the rest of our men. I had gone home [redacted] the night the injunction was served by the marshal.

"When they held the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937, [redacted] tried to stop me from voting, because he said I hadn't been working at the mine. The labor board man had my name down on his list of employees so I was allowed to vote. I just voted and walked out. I didn't see any fighting and no-nobody threatened me in any way.

"I have no knowledge of what went on at Mine B between May of 1939

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] and Sept. of 1940. In about Sept. of 1940 I went to see
(continued) Falcetti and asked him for a job. Falcetti said he would give me a job as soon as he could. I found out that the mine was putting on new men so I went to see John Kane, the union lawyer. He said he would send a letter to the mine asking them to give me a job. The Company sent me a piece of paper saying "no job". This was signed by Elshoff & Falcetti. The lawyer sent this paper to Washington and I never heard any more about it.

"I started working for Panther Creek #5 mine in about October of 1941. I am a member of Progressive at the present time. Somebody told me that Falcetti wouldn't give us our jobs back because we had been on picket duty. Falcetti never gave me any reason for not hiring me.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

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7-22-43
R. **INTERVIEW WITH**

[REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED] Illinois, was

interviewed at his home by Special Agents

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] September 6, 1943. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak and understand English and would make a fair witness.

[REDACTED] provided the following statement:

[REDACTED] Ill.,
September 6, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I am employed at Mine "A" as a coal digger and have been employed at Mine "A" since June 6, 1942.

"I first started mining coal at [REDACTED] Ill in [REDACTED] at which time I became a member of UMW.

"I was employed at Mine "B" in about [REDACTED] in which mine I worked until May 12, 1937.

"I remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I changed to PMA because my local UMW changed to PMA.

"Prior to 1932 the management of Mine "B" seemed to have been on good relations with UMW.

[REDACTED]
I never held any other office in any union.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B" and the management did not close-down Mine "B". During that period of time the management did not attempt to discredit PMA and did not seem to be hostile in settling grievances.

"I thought PMA was a good union operated for its members, no unusual special assessments were made against me. I never took any interest in union affairs.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases and I do not know if the trials were fair or not.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937, UMW did not set up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did I see any UMW literature being distributed at Mine "B".

"Prior to May 12, 1937 no one asked me to change from PMA to UMW.

"I never saw any official of UMW with the management of Mine "B".

"In April 1937 I was told by PMA officials that PMA had a temporary contract with Mine "B"; that upon the expiration of the temporary contract the miners were to get retro-active pay to the date of the expiration of the original contract. I never obtained any information about the temporary contract until the morning of May 12, 1937 when I was told by some miners that Elshoff of Mine "B" made a statement that morning that he did not have a temporary contract with PMA. Someone told me to load the cars short and see what Elshoff would do about the contract. I did not load any cars short, but I heard some cars were loaded short. So far as I know there was no intent to strike that morning. About 12:00 noon May 12, 1937 I was told the mine was on a strike. No one told me why PMA was striking, but I thought it was because PMA did not have/a contract.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting May 11, 1937 and do not know if I received notice of the meeting.

"I do not know of any members of PMA being expelled from PMA because of their activity in UMW.

"I think I may have signed a PMA petition in the Summer of 1937 but I do not remember. I know I did not sign a UMW petition in the Summer of 1937.

"I did not know a new UMW local was formed in the Summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 a member of PMA came to my home and told me PMA had a picket line at Mine "B". I voluntarily went to Mine "B" to act as a picket for about one week. No one told me I had to act as a picket. I was not present at Mine "B" when the injunction was served to prevent the picket line and I know nothing about the injunction. There was no violence when I was at Mine "B". No outsiders were brought in as pickets.

"I do not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" in Dec. 1937 and Jan. 1938.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I voted in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

"In Nov. 1939 I received notice that Mine "B" was to open. I returned Mine "B" to work twelve days after the date of the notice and Oscar Falcetti, informed me I reported too late for work and I was not given a job at Mine "B".

"Since I did not go to work at Mine "B" after it opened in 1939 I can furnish no information as to what occurred at the Mine.

"I received employment at Mine "A" June 6, 1942 as a member of UMW.

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

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

/S/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:-

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Illinois, on September 3, 1943. He appeared willing to answer the questions put to him and would be willing to testify to the facts set forth in the following signed statement which he executed:

[redacted], Illinois
September, 3, 1943

"I [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside on [REDACTED] Illinois, and I am employed at the [REDACTED] Illinois. I was born on [REDACTED] and I arrived in the United States about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I was naturalized at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, about [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Ill. I also worked in other local mines near there. I worked in the mines in Illinois from [REDACTED] to about 1934. About 1935 I started working at Mine B and continued there until the mine closed on May 12, 1937.

"After Mine B closed on May 12, 1937 I helped the PMA picket for about three months in 1937. I worked as a driver and digger at Mine B. In 1932 when PMA was organized I joined it voluntarily at [redacted] Ill. At this time, I was unemployed and I remained unemployed until about 1935 when I went to work at Mine B as a PMA member. From 1935 to April 1937 the relations between Elshoff and PMA were good. I never heard Elshoff or Falcetti say they favored PMA, which is the Progressive Mine Workers of America, or favor the UMW but I thought they liked UMW better. As far as I know, the PMA is a good union. I am still a member of PMA. The officials of this union got along fine with the rank and file. I did not take an active part in organizing PMA. I never held an office in a mine union.

"About April, 1937 the following men started agitating for the men to join the UMW; Joe Albanese, Pete Carter, John Cotton, Dominic Pasquale, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Sirtout, Andrew Schrelevious, Cudge Bumgarner, George and Emory Jacaway Charles Bowlingreen, James Hale. These above listed men wanted the PMA miners to join UMW, but they did not ask me to join and I did not hear them talking to the other miners. I did hear that these men went to the miner's houses at night to get them to join UMW.

"I only attended union meetings about once a month and did not take an active part in Union affairs. I did not attend the PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1943 when some of the miners were expelled from the PMA for agitating for UMW, but I heard this by word of mouth the next day at the mine.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"The PMA officials asked Falcetti to discharge the men who had been expelled from PMA and Falcetti refused to do so, and he let these men go down in the mine to work. Later on, when I was in the mine, some PMA official told me to load the cars short. I loaded the cars below average. We did this because Elshoff would not discharge the agitators who had been thrown out of the union. The cars were not shorted because of any wage scale matter.

"In 1932 John L. Lewis wanted the miners to take a lower wage scale and the miners did not want it. We won the first vote and on the second vote John L. Lewis claimed the ballots were stolen. I joined the PMA, to get away from Lewis. As to the wage scale matters in 1937, the only thing I understood from the PMA officials was that we were supposed to get back pay dating from April, 1937, when the contract was agreed on, but Elshoff would never pay it.

"I only signed one petition in May, 1937. I believe this was the PMA petition on May, 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member and I believe I signed it at the PMA Hall in Springfield. I signed it voluntarily.

"In September, 1937 I noticed in the paper that Mine B. was going to open and I went out there. I heard Falcetti tell the miners that the UMW members were the only ones that could work. Only about twelve men, who I mentioned in this statement, and who were UMW sympathizers went down in the mine and the mine did not open as they did not have enough men. Later in the summer of 1937 I got a job on the PMA as a member in Mine A and I never did go back to Mine B until November, 1939. At that time, Mine B was operating on an open shop basis and I worked there one day in order to get my tools, and then I quit.

"The men whose names I have mentioned in this statement as UMW agitators often met in Elshoff's office with him, and from this I believe Elshoff favored the UMW. I don't know why Elshoff did not like the PMA. No one ever threatened me or beat me about mine matters. I voluntarily joined the UMW in February, 1941 at Mine A and worked there until December 15, 1942.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the two and one pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED] (signed) [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED]
Special Agent F.B.I.

[REDACTED] /S/

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appears to be above the average miner in intelligence, expresses himself well, and is cooperative. It is felt that he would be a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters outlined in the following statement which he furnished:

"9/4/43

[REDACTED] Ill.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in about [REDACTED]. I became a U. S. citizen in about [REDACTED] and presently live at [REDACTED]. I started mining in about [REDACTED] and never held an office in any union.

"I joined the Progressive Union in about 1932 and do not know any of the details as to how it was formed. I started to work at Mine B in 1936 and when I first started to work everything was going along fine. Both the officers and men in the P.M.A seemed to be good people and the union was getting along fine with the company.

"I recall that in the spring of 1937 the union was trying to negotiate a new contract with the company. I don't remember any of the details, but I do know there was some question about wages. I know that about this same time some of the men started talking about joining the U.M.W. I don't recall even hearing that any men were expelled from the union at that time. I lived in [REDACTED] and so didn't attend many of the meetings. I just heard that some men from United were causing trouble at the mine. I think there was around 20 men who were working for United--I think Bohannon and Pasquale were two of the men. These men never said anything to me, but I know they used to hang around the office and talked a lot to the others.

"I was working as a digger in box [REDACTED] at the time of the strike. I recall that there was some trouble with these men before we started. As I recollect, we only worked about half a day that day the mine went on strike in May of 1937. I remember that the Progressive men didn't want to work with the United men, but the company said the United men should go to work anyway. The United men were saying that we shouldn't go to work unless we got a good contract signed.

"I remember that most of the men were sending up short loads so I started doing the same. I remember that we were called out of the mine by somebody before the regular quitting time. I think it was a progressive

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

[REDACTED]
(continued)

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board member that called us out of the mine. I came on top and then went home. Nobody told me the mine was on strike, so I went to work the next day as usual and I was then told that the mine was on strike.

"I remember that about two weeks after the strike I signed a petition for the Progressive union. I can't remember under what circumstances I signed the petition and I can't remember whether it was at my home or in Springfield. I believe I was on a picket line which had formed in the road a short distance from the mine in May of 1937. This picket line only lasted for a couple of days though.

"I started to work for Mine A in about October of 1937 and am still working at Mine A.

"I believe I voted in the NLRB election held at the Armory in Dec. of 1937, but I can't say for sure that I did.

"I have been a progressive for a long time and want to stay progressive, but it seems as though you couldn't be a progressive at Mine B. I have no information to back up my opinion, but I think the company favored the U.M.W. I do not know for sure what caused the strike in 1937. I joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED]

"This entire statement of four pages has been read to me by [REDACTED] & I wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 4, 1943, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] at his home at [REDACTED]

RJ
2nd day
Springfield, Illinois. At this time [REDACTED] advised that he had no criminal record. It was noted during the course of the interview that this man's recollection of pertinent events was very hazy, that because of his poor understanding of the English Language he did not know a great deal about what happened at union meetings and what he was told there. He was entirely cooperative and is believed reliable. It is felt that due to his lack of understanding and recollection he would not be a good witness.

At the time of this interview [REDACTED] gave the following signed statement [REDACTED] assisted as an interpreter.

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943

"I [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. give the following statement to [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Spec. Agent of the Fed. Bur. of Invest. No threats or promises have been made me to get me to give this statement. I was born in [REDACTED]. I came to U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen in [REDACTED]. I joined the U.M.W. first in [REDACTED] and came to U.S. where my card was good. I never held a union office. I have been at Mine "B" about yrs. as a coal digger. Before 1932 Elshoff and the U.M.W. got along alright. I changed over to P.M.A. because the majority went that way. Between 1932 and the time the mine closed there was no trouble between Elshoff and the P.M.A. Elshoff made no remarks concerning the P.M.A. at that time. The miners were always satisfied with the P.M.A. I went to the meetings while we had a Progressive union. I was satisfied with the way money matters were handled by the P.M.A. I don't know anything about the guilt or innocence of the P.M.A. miners sent to jail for bombing.

"Between 1932 and 1937 the U.M.W. did not bother the P.M.A. in any way so far as I know off.

"I don't know of any parties held by Elshoff for the U.M.W. in this period.

"I don't know of any spies in the P.M.A. who were working for U.M.W.

"Nobody said any thing to the men so far as I know about the contract which ran out in the Spring of 1937. We thought we would get back pay and when we didn't we didn't go back. I did not attend any meeting the night before the mine shut down. When I went to work the morning of

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] May 12, 1937 we figured there might be some trouble
(continued) but didn't think there would be any strike. The whole trouble as I remember it was due to no contract. Some of the men loaded short cars the day the mine closed, we were told to load them short, I don't know who told us.

"I don't remember signing any petition for either the U.M.W. or the P.M.... the summer after the mine closed.

"I did not know that the U.M.W. was forming a U.M.W. local in Springfield the summer of 1937.

"I heard something about Falsetti running the Jefferson but I knew nothing about it myself.

"In Sept. 1937 we heard that the mine was going to be opened with U.M.W. men so we went out to picket and keep anyone else from taking our job. The first day a few men went down one of them was Andy Schrelevious. After this no one went down at all and we stayed there for about 60 days. There was no trouble during the strike, there were no strangers out there, we behaved ourselves and no one bothered us. No one forced us to stay at the mine, we were just there to protect our job. I was there when the Marshall came and told us we had to leave this was about 9:00 pm when he came we all left peaceful.

"I was not there when they tried to open the mine a few days after the Marshall made us leave the mine.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election. This was an honest election as far as I know. Nobody told me who I had to vote for.

"I did not go to the mine when they tried to open it in Jan. 1938. I heard of it but I was working on W.P.A. and did not go over there.

"During the time between the 1st N.L.R.B. election and the time the mine opened for good I knew of nothing unusual that happened.

"When the mine opened for good I got a registered letter telling me to come back in 10 days. I went back to my old place. I never saw anyone just got my check and went to work at once. When we went back there was supposed to be no union in the mine both unions were supposed to work in there together. It makes no difference to me which union I belonged to. I paid my dues to P.M.A. until I saw the majority was going to U.M.W. then I joined them. Nobody ever threatened me to make me join any union. I just went with the majority. I do not remember signing any cards for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. in 1940. I saw a lot of new men when I went back to the mine. I did

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67c 67d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

not know which union they belonged to. I have heard of men being beaten to get them to join the U.M.W. but I never saw any of it.

"I voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election and voted U.M.W. as far as I know the election was an honest one nobody tried to make me vote either way.

"I don't know what the general condition of the mine was when it reopened. I was satisfied with conditions in my part. I heard nothing about a fire in Mine B in 1939.

"I don't know anything about the meeting at which [REDACTED] was kicked out.

"I have had [REDACTED] read this statement of 7 pages to me and to the best of my knowledge it is all the truth. I am therefore signing it of my own will."

(Signed) [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

[REDACTED]
Bur. of Invst. (Milw.)
[REDACTED]
Special Agent, F.B.I.
St. Paul, Minn."

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
at Springfield, Illinois on September [REDACTED]

5, 1943.

*At [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, [REDACTED]
Agents interviewed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had difficulty in understanding the
English language and can't speak it very well so [REDACTED] acted as an
interpreter. [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] has never
been arrested and that he himself was picked up with others around 1930
or 1931 by the Springfield Police Department at a mine strike at Woodside
and that they were charged with inciting a riot and were let out on
\$500.00 bond. However, he said he never appeared in court after that
and never was prosecuted and wasn't fingerprinted or photographed.

Toth appeared to be very cooperative and [REDACTED] said he would
be glad to do anything for the Government that he can in connection with
this investigation and it is believed that he would make a fair witness
if his testimony were necessary. However, if the testimony of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] were needed an interpreter would have to be used.

Agents obtained from them the following joint signed statement:

[REDACTED]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 5, 1943

We [REDACTED] hereby give
the following statement to [REDACTED] who are
known to us to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. this joint statement is
made through [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is unable to under-
stand the English language to any great extent. I [REDACTED] worked at
Mine "E" for about 2 yrs from 1935 up until the strike, I have not been
back to work there since. [REDACTED] has been working there for the past
[REDACTED] yrs. as a coal digger and is still so employed. I was born in [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and came to U.S. in [REDACTED] I became a U.S. citizen about [REDACTED]
at Springfield. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] and is [REDACTED] yrs. old
he came to the U.S. with me and became a citizen in [REDACTED] I first joined
a miners union when I was about [REDACTED] yrs. old this was U.M.W. at Springfield.
[REDACTED] joined a Union in [REDACTED] and joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED]
Ill. when he first came to the U.S. neither of us have ever held union
offices.

[REDACTED] knew of no trouble between the U.M.W. and the

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

management of Mine B prior to 1932. [REDACTED] went with the Progressives as soon as they were organized, there was no force used and he went of his own free will. So far as we know there was no trouble between the P.M.A. and the mine management up until the strike in 1937. So far as we are aware there was no real indication of trouble or preference on the part of the management for the U.I.W. [REDACTED] does feel there there was some slight indication of this but he didn't know too much about it. While the Progressives were in we had no trouble with the officials. He felt they were honest and we could always be heard when we wanted to. [REDACTED] did not attend many meetings while the Progressives were in as he could not understand but I attended most of them. As far as the finiances of the Union were concerned we were always satisfied the money was spent properly. We were given a report at the meetings as to the expenses. He do not feel that those P.M.A. men who were sent to prison for the bombings were the guilty ones this was the general feeling among the men at the time. Prior to the strike the U.I.W. never came to the mine or bothered the P.M.A. men in any way so far as we know. Prior to the strike we had never heard of there being any men in the P.M.A. who were trying to swing the men back to U.I.W.

"Neither of us have ever heard anything about Elshoff or Falsetti giving any parties for U.I.W. officials.

"As we remember in the spring of 1937 we worked from the first of April until the strike under an agreement that when an agfeement was finally settled or any increase would be retroactive. We always felt that P.M.A. would be able to get as good a contract for us as anyone else. There was some slight feeling of unrest during early May and April of 1937 over the fact that the mens pay raise was not coming through but there was no trouble over this. He had no idea at all of the managements attitude on the wage question at that time. He remember hearing of some action taken a short time before the strike, by the trial board against "Cotton" Ananiasas and Chas. Bohanon. we dont recall the nature of this action.

"I recall going to a meeting the night before the strike. [REDACTED] did not attend this meeting. As I remember the meeting dealt with what to do about "Cotton" and Chas. Bohanon and also our back wages. There was no strike talk at this meeting and when they called us up out of the mine the next day it was a surprise to me. The morning of the strike there was some dispute at the mine about the P.M.A. men working with the ~~expelled~~ men. The management had refused to fire certain men and the P.M.A. men did not want to work with them. As we recall some men had been trying to get the P.M.A. men to get out of there union and

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

join the U.M.W. These men we remember were Sammy (Joe Albanese) Andy Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Flotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sertout, Geo. & Emory Jacaway, Chas. Bohanon & James

Hale. We also remember some talk about wages but the Chief cause was over not wanting to work with these men. We don't recall anything about cars being loaded short on the day of the strike, nobody came and told us to load them that way. I only loaded one car that day it was full and as far as I know is still in the mine. Shortly before quitting time some company man told us to come out of the mine. When we got on top they told us we were going on strike. It was only then we knew there was to be a strike. After the mine closed they picketed out at the mine for a short [REDACTED]. Neither [REDACTED] ever signed any petition for U.M.W. but both of us signed several for P.M.A. These were always signed of our own free will and we were satisfied with P.M.A. We knew that there was a U.M.W. local formed in Springfield the summer of 1937. neither of us were asked to join but we heard that others were and threatened if they didn't.

"There was nothing unusual that happened during the summer of 1937 as far as we recall.

We heard at the mill that the mine was to reopen in Sept of 1937 and we went out to go to work. There was a dispute at the mine that day as to whether the mine was to be opened as P.M.A. or U.M.W. We did not go down in the mine that day and don't remember anybody working. [REDACTED] were at the mine most of the time the picketing went on. This was very peaceful, we were just there to protect our jobs. A couple of U.M.W. men did come to the mine one day & stayed for about 15 or 20 min. around noon there was no trouble then. All of the men who took part in the strike were from our own local. Nobody forced us to stay at the mine and we came and went as we wished. P.M.A. furnished us with everything we needed. We were both at the mine when the marshall came out and read the injunction. The men left peacefully, the miners on a whole felt this meant defeat for P.M.A.

We heard that they were going to reopen the mine under the U.M.W. right after the marshall caused us to leave. We didn't go back because of the pending N.L.R.B. election. We both voted for P.M.A. at the first N.L.R.B. election., this was an honest election and we voted the way we wanted. There were some leaflets passed to the group I was in by U.M.W. men urging us to vote U.M.W. I heard that the U.M.W. had contacted some men trying to get them to vote U.M.W. The group that [REDACTED] was in did not get any of these leaflets.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

P.W.M.A. b
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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"We heard of the attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938 but we did not go to the mine because we heard it was to be U.M.W. and we also had the injunction against us.

"I left Springfield the summer of 1938. I heard prior to this that mine "B" had taken over the Jefferson mine some of the men from mine "B" were working there. I am sure but don't know who. Neither [REDACTED] knew anything first hand about this.

"Both [REDACTED] got letters from the mine co. telling us to come back to work in 1939. I went back to the mine and talked to Mr. Falsetti who told me I would be better off where I was. [REDACTED] went back to Mine "B" to work when he got his letter. nobody asked him about the union to which he belonged. He got his old room back. Prior to the 2nd N.L.B. nobody asked [REDACTED] to join the U.I.W.. Three men came [REDACTED] to get [REDACTED] sign over to the U.M.W. this was way after the 2nd N.L.B. election. These men said that if [REDACTED] did not sign over to U.M.W. he would not have any job. They did not threaten to beat him. [REDACTED] does not know who these men were. He signed over to keep his job. [REDACTED] saw a lot of strangers at the mine when he went back to work. He does not know who these men were but they were all U.I.W.. Neither [REDACTED] signed any cards for U.I.W. or P.M.A. the summer of 1940.

[REDACTED] voted in the 2nd N.L.B. election voting for P.M.A. he does not know whether or not this was an honest election. He was not forced to vote either way himself though. When [REDACTED] went back to mine "B" it was in kind of bad condition. One part of it has never reopened. He knows of no fire in Mine "B" while it was closed and neither do I. [REDACTED] does not recall any meeting at which [REDACTED] was kicked out over some argument about money matter. [REDACTED] feels that conditions were much better under P.M.A. than they are under U.I.W..

"I [REDACTED] have read this joint statement to [REDACTED] and so far as either of us are aware it is the truth in its entirety we are therefore both signing it.
Witnesses:

Signed:
[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]
Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)
Springfield, Ill
Sept. 5, 1943

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

P.J. Brown B.
INTERVIEW WITH On September 4, 1943, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], interviewed [REDACTED] at his home in [REDACTED] Illinois. [REDACTED] at this time advised that he has no criminal record. During the course of the interview it was observed that [REDACTED] had a much better than average recollection of events which occurred at Mine B during the period in question. [REDACTED] was entirely cooperative and he is believed to be honest and reliable. It is felt that he would make a much better than average witness. [REDACTED] turned over to agents a letter received by him from Charles Bohannon, President of the UMW local in Springfield, telling him [REDACTED] to report at the UMW building for initiation into the JMN. This letter has been properly identified by agents and is being retained in the exhibit file of this case.

[REDACTED] gave the following statement:

[REDACTED]
Ill.,
Sept. 4, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the FBI, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement.

"I have been employed at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., for about [REDACTED] years and am still there as a coal digger. I was born [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED] and became a citizen about [REDACTED] at Springfield, Ill. I was a miner in the old country and did not belong to any union over there. I first joined the United Mine Workers about [REDACTED] at Springfield, Ill. I never have been an officer of any union. Before 1932 the UMW union was more of a company union and they along with Carl Elshoff fine and gave him everything. It was just like a dictator then and UMW got anything they wanted. About 1932 or so I joined the Progressive Union with the rest of the men and that was when John Lewis wanted us to take a cut and he was supposed to have stolen the ballots. I did not take any active part in starting the PMA union. Between 1932 and the time the mine closed PMA got along fine with Mr. Elshoff and nothing was wrong at all then. I don't recall of any little strikes or walk outs during the same period before the mine closed. I never heard anything about Falcetti or Elshoff not getting along with PMA officials during that period of time before the mine closed. I never heard anything about anyone wanting PMA men to change back to UMW. The Progressives was a good union and it was not run by racketeers and everyone was satisfied with it except for a few men there who were for UMW. I only went to meetings once in awhile as it was too far to go to Springfield, Ill. to attend them. I never paid any attention

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] to those men who were convicted for those bombings and I have no opinion about them and I never heard anyone else (continued) talk about it. I never suspected any of the PMA officials of doing wrong with the money. The local was a man's union and not a slave union. Before Mine B closed UMW never sent any men out to picket the mine nor do I recall of getting any literature from UMW then. Before the mine B closed there were about 12 men or so in the PMA who were for UMW. I recall on one time while I was in Hogan's Saloon in Springfield, Ill., Andy SCHRELEVIUS asked me there to join over to UMW and he took my address down and he said he would come over to see me but he never showed up. This was before Mine B closed. These 12 men were to my knowledge Samry_ who is also known as Joe; Andy mentioned above; and I heard that Emory Jacaway carried the tales back to the company. These and several others were the ones I heard to be men who liked the UMW, they were, Pasquale, Sirtout, Jim Hale and several others. I just heard that. I never heard a thing about any parties given by Elshoff or UMW men.

"I recall when the contract expired in March, 1937 and I think that [REDACTED] or some other official of PMA told us that they had a temporary agreement and that if they got more pay it would go back. I never have believed anything until I see the money itself but I felt that PMA could make a contract but I heard that Elshoff was against making a contract. Before the strike miners never complained about this wage question on pay days and there was no other trouble over the wage question and I think that things went along pretty nice and steady. I heard that these 12 men would talk both for and against the PMA just before the mine closed. I did not go to the meeting night before the mine closed and I don't remember if they had one or not. When I went to work on the morning the mine closed I did not know at all of any trouble out there and I never had any idea there would be any trouble until [REDACTED] called us out of the mine that afternoon. That day I heard a little something about several men, including Frank Austin, being expelled from PMA but I don't recall of the company refusing to fire them. I heard that the reason why the strike was called was because we did not have any contract then. We PMA all respected the law and felt if those 12 men wanted to leave they could go back to UMW. On the day the mine closed I heard something about cars being loaded short but I did not load any short and no one told me to load them short. I was working in box [REDACTED] then and there was no talk of any strike that day nor about the men being expelled. Several weeks after the mine closed I signed a petition for PMA and I think it was to show the Labor Board or someone we had a majority of the men and no one forced me to sign it and I did sign it because I wanted to. I recall that [REDACTED] (phonetic) a committeeman, brot it to my home and I signed it. I never signed any petition for UMW but I heard about it but they never came to [REDACTED] was all PMA. I think that same fall another petition was gotten out by PMA and I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

also signed that and I think I signed it in Springfield, Ill., and no one forced me to sign that either. I heard about UMW forming a new local but no one came to me and asked me to join it.

"During summer of 1937 I don't recall of anything unusual happening at Mine B. I once heard something tho of some men from Mine B going over to the Jefferson Mine and also there was some talk once about Elshoff being the owner or something of the Jefferson Mine. During fall of 1937 I went out to Mine B about a week after the picketing started. I never had heard they were going to reopen. The men there were all local PMA men and there were no strangers. I went out of my own free will and I went out because I heard that others were out there protecting their jobs. I heard that we never would have picketed the mine if those United Mine Workers had not started over there at Mine B. I came home about one night a week or so and then would go back out again and help them. Everything was quiet and peaceful out there and there were no fights. No UMW tried to go to work while I was out there. I was there when the Marshall came out and he said we would have to leave and he put some paper out but I never read it. All of us were willing to leave and we did and all were satisfied. [REDACTED] came out after the Marshall came and said it was right for us to leave. The Marshall came out between 9 and 10 p.m. and I was the last one to leave there about 1 a.m. When the Marshall came out I think that [REDACTED] and a committeeman was out there. I never heard a thing about the mine trying to reopen a few day later after the Marshall came out. I voted at the Armory in Springfield, Ill., at the first NLRB election and it was by secret ballot and no one told me how to vote and first I met at [REDACTED] hall and then from the hall went over and voted. Before we went over and voted we had a meeting and the big president of the whole PMA gave us a talk and told us to vote how we pleased and he did not tell us to vote PMA or any special way. I voted PMA and it was a good and honest election and I heard that PMA won that election. I don't recall a thing about Mine B being reopened a short time after the election of UMW mine.

"Some time after this first NLRB election [REDACTED] (phonetic) [REDACTED] visited me at my home and he told that he once talked to FALCETTI in a saloon and that Falcetti told him that when he has his money invested he wants to get the benefit of it. I also heard during the last week that Elshoff was in Washington and that when the PMA men walked along they had their heads hanging down but when the UMW men walked along they had their heads high up in the air. [REDACTED]

"I never got a registered letter from Mine B but heard about it thru

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[REDACTED] INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] some one else and I went out there about a week or so later.

(continued) [REDACTED]

I saw Oscar Falcetti and he put me back to work in box [REDACTED] I guess, and [REDACTED]. He did not say a thing about what union I belonged to. Nothing was said about the wages but I thot it would be the regular Illinois wage scale. The gossip around was that when the PMA went over to UMW we would have a contract. I did not see many new men at this time but after a couple of months they hired a lot of new UMW men from Mo., Indiana and other states. About one quarter are still there but rest are all gone. They hired only UMW men and would not hire a PMA man. [REDACTED] (phonetic) of [REDACTED] Ill. and [REDACTED] (phonetic) also of [REDACTED] Ill., both were PMA men and they went over to Mine B and asked for jobs but they were told they had no openings but the next day they hired 4 or 5 UMW men.

"At the mine a track layer and a fellow named "Cotter" or something like that talked to me about joining over. I was working in box [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was in [REDACTED] send Bill, the track layer, in to see me and Bill told me I should join UMW because the shot firer had signed and that the check weight-man had already signed. I told Bill that [REDACTED] the check weigh-man had not signed and Bill then went back in and saw [REDACTED] and asked him and Bill came back and told me that [REDACTED] said that I was right and that [REDACTED] had not joined. This happened before [REDACTED] got beat up. I told Bill then that when [REDACTED] would sign up I would sign too. Bill did not threaten me.

"About a week later this "Cotter" asked me to sign up and he said that he would protect me and I told him he wouldn't have to protect me as I can protect myself.

"PMA did not do anything in regard to getting men to join over as they felt they still had the majority. No one caused me to be fined nor did anyone bother me but stole tools from my buddy, ANDY from [REDACTED] Ill., were stolen from him but they never stole mine. Later on when I had signed over to UMW this same "Cotter" told me that no one would lose any more tools. In summer of 1940 I never signed any membership card for PMA or UMW. When I went back to work I kept on paying dues to PMA and no one forced me to pay those dues. I was forced to sign over to UMW. "Scotty" BAUMGARTNER (phonetic) told me to tell [REDACTED] that he ought to sign up with UMW before the bricks start to fly and I told BAUMGARTNER that I would sign up only with [REDACTED] and this was why BAUMGARTNER told me this and this took place about a month or so before [REDACTED] got beat up. I told [REDACTED] about this and he got scared and never went back to work again, for about a month and then [REDACTED] went back to Mine B office and said he was coming back to work

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] and that night [REDACTED] BEAT Him up.

(continued) "It was gossip around the Mine B that if we PMA men did not sign up by a certain day that it would cost us more money and I signed up on the last day. I signed up because I felt that if I did not get over to UMW that I might get beat up and I would lose my job.

"I have shown to Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] a registered letter No. 18668 postmarked at Springfield, Ill., Jan. 29, 1941 which is addressed me to as [REDACTED] and it is from Chas. Bohannon, P.O. Box 1095, Springfield, Ill. This letter is dated Jan. 29, 1941 and I have given the envelope and letter to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

"The above letter told me that I should get sworn in but I did not go down to get sworn in because I still did not want to become connected with UMW. However, after I got the above letter I went down and got sworn in but then and even now I still am a PMA man in my own heart.

"I voted at the next NLRB election at the Armory in Springfield, Ill. but I don't think this was an honest election. When I got to the Armory this "Cotter" was in there and he was partly drunk and carried a big pistol and he grabbed me by the arm and walked up with me and said he wanted to see how I voted so he stood along side me and watched me how I voted so I had to vote for UMW altho I still wanted to vote for PMA. I did not vote the way I wanted too and I figure I was forced to vote UMW because of the above facts. I did not see the government man around. This "Cotter" is still at Mine B and he is Check No. 18.

"When I went back to Mine B it was in bad shape and had bad air. The south side never was reopened. I think it cost them about \$15,000 or \$20,000 to fix it up. I never heard a thing about a fire at Mine B when it was closed or in 1939.

"I heard that Glascock had some trouble and that Edmundson kicked him out and that Glascock was on the right side.

"I never heard anything at the time Mine B was closed as to how Elshoff was able to keep the mine going when it was closed.

"I can't read the English language very well and I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this 3 page typewritten statement to me and it is true and correct and I have sign it of my own free will.

[REDACTED]
WITNESSES:

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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RJ
7-22-47

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He did not appear to be willing to fully answer the questions put to him, and would not willingly testify on behalf of the Government, being hesitant because of his present employment. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 4, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized at Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED], and presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union in [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois and I started working in the [REDACTED] mine under the UMW. This mine was in North Springfield, but is not operating at this time. I worked at four other mines under the UMW before I started working at Mine B as a coal digger in [REDACTED].

"The only union office I ever held was on the Pit Committee at [REDACTED] Illinois [REDACTED] years ago. This was with the UMW.

"I am presently employed at Mine B as a coal digger.

"I took no active part in forming the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMW. I knew nothing about the circumstances under which PMW was formed. I liked the PMW leaders and I think the other miners felt the same way.

"I attended most of the PMW and UMW meetings while I worked under these unions.

"I liked the PMW better than the UMW because the PMW would not permit a man to hold office more than two consecutive years. In the UMW an officer can hold office for years.

"Before the strike started at Mine B in 1937 I never recalled a UMW picket line at that Mine. I saw no UMW literature during this period.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I knew the following miners who worked at Mine B at this time: Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"As far as I know these men did not agitate for UMW before May, 1937 when the strike started.

"I am not familiar with the circumstances involved in the wage scale controversy.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 and it was at a later date that I learned about the miners who were thrown out of PMA on that night. I did not hear about it the next day. However, on the morning of May 12, 1937 I was told to load the coal cars short by a member of PMA whose name I do not recall and I did load my cars short.

"I helped picket mine B for about two weeks.

"During the strike period when Mine B was closed I was unemployed.

"I believed I signed a PMA petition shortly after the mine closed. I do not remember anything about details or purpose of this petition. I do not recall any other petitions.

"By word of mouth I learned about the attempts to open Mine B in September and December of 1937 and in January, 1938.

"I thought the N.L.R.B. election held in December, 1937 was fair. I was in favor of the PMA and was not approached by any person to influence my vote.

"The second N.L.R.B. election in February, 1941 was also on a secret ballot and I voted in this election.

"I returned to work at Mine B in November, 1939 when the mine opened again under the open shop agreement.

"Just before the second N.L.R.B. election I signed up with UMW. No one ever tried to influence me to sign up with the UMW. I joined the UMW because some miners told me that the majority were going over to UMW and that I'd better join UMW.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I know nothing about the activities of the men whose names are mentioned above in this statement.

"I know nothing against the P.M. or the U.W.

/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 jointly interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED] on September 3, 1943 at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. This individual is [REDACTED] years old, he can
not read nor write and has no understanding concerning the matter under
inquiry. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 3, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of
the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, and I am
not now employed. [REDACTED] I was born on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I first joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred
to hereinafter as the UMW about [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Illinois, where I worked in
the local mine about three years. I worked in coal mines continuously
and started working in Mine B near Springfield about [REDACTED] and worked there
continuously until that mine closed on May 12, 1937. Right after Mine B
closed down in May, 1937, I went back to a place near the mine to help the
Progressive Mine Workers of America picket. I will refer to this latter
union hereinafter as the PMA. I never went back after that time to work
at Mine B, even when it tried to re-open. I did not try to go back to work
[REDACTED]

"I worked at Mine B from [REDACTED] to 1932 as a member of the UMW. I
was a digger in this mine. I voluntarily joined PMA in September, 1932
when the rest of the miners at Mine B joined that union. I did not like
the UMW because John L. Lewis did not favor an increase in wages and when
we voted, he claimed the ballot boxes were stolen.

"I thought the PMA was a good mine union and that its leaders and
the rank and file were satisfied with the PMA union and the way it was being
run. I did not take an active part in the formation of PMA as I could
not read or write and just went along with the rest.

"Elshoff appeared to get along alright with the UMW prior to 1932
but did not seem to be on such good terms with PMA from 1932 to 1937.
I think he liked UMW better than the PMA, but I never heard why. I knew
nothing about the details of the wage scale problem but I just wanted an
increase in wages.

"I heard in the Spring of 1937 that UMW had some organizers in
Mine B but they never contacted me. I heard that they contacted other miners

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEWER

(continued)

[REDACTED] read the newspapers to me commenting on it. I do not recall signing a petition of any kind in 1937. I did not attend the PMA meeting on the night of May 12, 1937 when the PMA miners were expelled.

The only reason I know the mine was closed down on May 12, 1937 was because the men wanted more money and Elshoff would not pay them more. I never went back to work in the mine after that, and know nothing about the mine from then on. This statement has been read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true.

Mark

"His X Mark

"His His
"His Mark

Witnessed:

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

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

"I [REDACTED] have read the two pages of this statement to [REDACTED] whose mark appears above and he acknowledges that the statement is true and correct.

[REDACTED] /S/

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well and when he remembers facts can express himself intelligently. He said he has no serious objections to testifying if necessary. [REDACTED] admitted that he has been arrested for drunkenness, but claimed to have no other criminal record. [REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 7, 1943.

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

"I am living at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., and employed at [REDACTED]. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized at Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED] and was a member of that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I started work at Mine B about [REDACTED] and joined the P.M.A. when all the other men at Mine B did. I had no part in the organization of the P.M.A., which was organized because the men were not satisfied in the way Lewis was handling their interests. Lewis had something to do with the disappearance of ballots of an election held by the men. I was never an officer in any union.

"From 1932 until 1937 things went along smoothly at the mine. I don't remember any strikes or shut downs at the mine, and was satisfied with the way the P.M.W. was being run. The P.M.A. officers always gave the men a square deal as far as I know. The men always seemed to be completely satisfied in the way the P.M.W. was being run. Before the strike in 1937, I don't remember of hearing of any trouble between the P.M.A. and the mine management. The members seemed to feel that P.M.A. could do as much for the men as the U.M.W. could, as far as wages and conditions were concerned.

"I don't remember any instances of picketing by U.M.W. men, or any literature put out by the U.M.W. before the strike in 1937. No one ever asked me to join the U.M.W., before the strike, although I heard that Austin, Albanese, Hale, Bohannon, Plotch, Carter, Ananias and the Jacaways, were trying to get men to join the U.M.W. [REDACTED] and took coal from Albanese's room, and I heard that he was agitating for U.M.W., although he never said anything to me. Bohannon was also a mule driver at this time, but never said anything about U.M.W. to me before the strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. On the day of the strike, at the end of the day, I heard there was a strike, and didn't go back to the mine the next day. I think the strike was over some wage dispute, but I'm not sure. I did hear that Frank Austin, and a couple of others whose names I can't remember were kicked out of the P.M.A. because of U.M.W. activities, but I don't know anything more about it.

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"I remember that I signed a P.M.A. petition just after the strike. As I remember, this petition was to find out how many men favored the P.M.A. It seems to me that I signed one at Mine B, but I don't remember who took the petition around, and I signed it because I preferred the P.M.A. to the U.M.W. No one made me sign it. I don't remember signing any U.M.W. petition this summer.

"In the summer or fall of 1937, Bohannon came to my home at [REDACTED] Springfield, and asked me to join the U.M.W., saying the mine was going to open up U.M.W. I told them that if they opened up U.M.W. they would open up without me, because I didn't like the U.M.W. He didn't threaten me or try to force me. There were some other fellows in the car, but I didn't recognize them. I started to work at my present job shortly after that.

"I remember getting a letter from Elshoff that the mine was going to open, and giving me a certain time to come back to work. I don't remember just when I got that letter, because I had my present job and wasn't intending to go back to the mine.

"In the fall of 1937 I was out at the picket line at Mine B, when I wasn't working. I wasn't forced to go out, and never saw any men there who weren't Mine B men. We were picketing, as I remember, to keep the U.M.W. men from going to work. I think the injunction was gotten to get the P.M.A. men away from the mine, so the U.M.W. men could get into the mine to work.

"In the election of December, 1937, I voted for P.M.A. because I liked it better than the U.M.W. I don't remember any strong-armed tactics at the election, and think it was a fair election. After this election I had nothing more to do with Mine B. I had made up my mind not to go back to the mines, and I will never mine coal for Lewis.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of about three and a half pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witnesses: [REDACTED]

Special Agents, F.B.I.
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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RJ
Answered

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed by [REDACTED] Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on September 4, 1943. He willingly furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 4, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. and am presently a digger, employed at Mine A. I was born on [REDACTED] I arrived in the United States in the year [REDACTED] and I was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED].

"I first joined a mine union in [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois at the [REDACTED] Mine. This union was the United Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the U.M.W.A. I worked there for about one year at which time a tipple fell in and I went to work at Mine B. I did not return to Mine B until about [REDACTED]. From [REDACTED] I continued to work at Mine B until May 12, 1937 when the mine closed. After the mine closed on May 12, 1943, I did not go back to picket and did not go back to Mine B when that mine attempted to open on three different occasions. I knew the mine was attempting to open from a notice in the newspapers and by word of mouth from other miners. I did not go back to work at Mine B until about December 1939. I worked at this mine until March or April 1940. I quit then and started working for the [REDACTED].

I never did go back to work at Mine B. In December 1940 I started working at Mine A and have continued working there until the present time.

"In September, 1932 I was working at Mine B and when John L. Lewis wanted the miners to take a reduction in wages, a vote was taken. The first vote taken was against the reduction and on a second vote, the U.M.W.A. officials claimed the ballots were stolen, and Lewis declared an emergency and proceeded to sign up with the Operators at a reduction in the wage scale. I voluntarily joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the P.M.W.A., with the rest of the miners in Mine B, in September, 1932. I never took an active part in organizing P.M.W.A. I never have held an office in any mine union. I feel that the P.M.W.A. was a good union and the rank and file were satisfied with that union and its officials.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

"Prior to 1932, Elshoff had some difficulties with the employees at Mine B, and he discharged the following men; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and about three others. Elshoff claimed that these men were creating dissension. These men were all member of the UMW. At this time, Elshoff did not belong to the Operators Association. The UMW arbitrated the case with Elshoff and he had his way. These men did not return to work. This was prior to any thought of organizing another union, namely, the PMA. The relations between Elshoff and the PMA from 1932 to April 1937 were good as far as I know.

"About a month before the mine closed down on May 12, 1937 there were a number of men in Mine B who began organizing for UMW. These men were Andrew Schrelevius, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, also known as John Cotton, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale, I heard that these men were contacting PMA members to get them to join the UMW. I'm referring now to the period before the mine went on strike in May, 1937. Both James Hale and Tony Plotch talked to me favoring the UMW and wanted me to join the UMW as it was a larger organization. I did not sign up with UMW because I felt that these men were being paid by UMW for their organizing work. Hale and Plotch hinted two or three times that it would be better if I joined the UMW.

"About a week before the mine closed, Pete Carter was seen by me passing out UMW cards out on top of Mine B, close to the office. The day before the mine closed, the PMA expelled Pete Carter and some others from that union for organizing for UMW. I did not attend this PMA meeting held on May 11, 1937 but heard about it the next day at the mine. On May 12, 1937 Elshoff refused to discharge these men that had been expelled from the PMA. On this day, I was doing company work due to a cave in. That afternoon the men were called out of the mine as Elshoff would not talk to [REDACTED] who was a PMA Board member. I did not know about loading coal cars short until I came out. However, this was not due to the wage scale question.

"After May 12, 1937 I stayed out of this mine until December 1939. I did not attempt to go to work before that. I am not familiar with the wage scale problems or the retroactive feature of the agreement between Elshoff and the PMA. I do not recall the PMA officials informing me about the details of this agreement.

"I voluntarily signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member. I did not sign any other petition.

"I believe that the NLRB election on December 15, 1937 was fair. I did not see any strong arm tactics on the part of members of the PMA or the UMW. I received notice of the election through the newspapers, and I went to the Arsenal and voted and no one tried to influence me.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

"I never heard of a big fire in Mine B prior to 1942.

"I was working in Mine A as a PMA member when Elshoff bought it. I understood Elshoff was going to close Mine A down or operate it through Mine B, if the miners did not join UMW. Mine A and Mine B are connecting mines. I joined the UMW only to keep my job. I would rather be a member of the FMA.

"I have carefully read this statement consisting of three and one half pages and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make this statement.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,
[REDACTED] was interviewed at Springfield Field Office on September 9,
1943, by Special Agent [REDACTED]. It is believed
that [REDACTED] although he was cooperative, will make only a fair witness.
He has no criminal record.

The following is a signed statement obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois
September 9, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois
do make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] who I know
to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats
or promises of any kind have been made to me; I have been told that I need
not make any statement and that this statement can be used in court.

"I first joined a miner's union about [REDACTED] the United Mine Workers,
while I was working at the Peabody Mine #6 near Sherman, Illinois. I joined
this mine of my own free will without any force or coercion. Although I
have belonged to unions ever since I have never held any office in a union.
I was first employed at Mine "B" about [REDACTED] and I worked there until 1938
shortly after the first N.L.R.B. election. I joined the Progressive Mine
Workers union in 1932 when the whole U.M.W. local went over and formed the
P.M.A. I took no active part in the move. From 1932 to 1937 I am aware of
no unfriendly relations between P.M.A. local #54 and Carl Elshoff. During
this period I was entirely satisfied with local #54 and believed that it was
a good union. Insofar as I know all of the other miners in the union felt
the same way about it. There was good attendance at the meetings and I
saw no force or intimidation and I never heard of any money being paid to
the union officials to get a job. During this period there was no strife
or friction between the P.M.A. and the U.M.W. to amount to anything. After
the Mine "B" was reopened as an open shop I quit work on account of my
health and I have never gone back. Consequently I was not at the Mine during
the trouble between U.M.W. and P.M.A.

"I attended the meeting of Local #54 on May 11, 1937 when the five
members were ousted on account of being spies for the U.M.W. As I remember
it was a regularly called meeting and a big majority of the membership was
there. Several of the miners testified that these men had come to their
homes and had tried to persuade them to go over and join the U.M.W. The
accused men denied this but the membership voted to throw them out of the
union. I worked at the mine the next day, May 12, 1937 but I did not observe
any of the negotiations or trouble. I worked all day and sent up full cars.
I did not find out about the trouble until I came up.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I remember that I signed the petition of the P.M.W. of May 27, 1937 to Mine "B" in which we claimed a majority (continued) of the miners. I did not sign any other petition nor did I subsequently join United Mine Workers union. I did meet Tony Plotch and two other men whose names I do not now recall, one Sunday afternoon and they told me I had better join the U.M.W. if I ever expected to go back to work at Mine "B". This was during the time Mine "B" was being operated as an open shop. I told them that if I had to sign for U.M.W. that I would never work there.

"I have read the within statement consisting of one page and it is all true.

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnessed:

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

[REDACTED] /S/
Special Agent F.B.I.
Springfield, Illinois"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH ██████████ ██████████ was jointly interviewed on September 5, 1943 by Special Agents ██████████ and ██████████ at his residence, ██████████ Springfield, Illinois. He willingly furnished the following signed statement and indicated that he would willingly testify to the facts as set forth therein:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 5, 1943

"I, ██████████ make the following voluntary statement to ██████████ and ██████████ whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I resided at ██████████ Springfield, Ill. and I was born ██████████ I first joined a mine union at Mine A at Springfield, Ill. about ██████████ This union was the United Mine "Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I worked at this mine for about six months and then went to Peabody Mine #57 and remained there until April 1, 1932 when the mine shut down due to the general strike. I was out of a mining job from this time until ██████████ I got a job at Mine B as a timberman, under the PMA and worked there continuously until the mine closed on May 12, 1937. I helped on the PMA picket line for several months in 1937. I was not out at this mine at any of the three times it tried to re-open. I heard it was going to open the first two times through the newspapers, but the third time I received a registered letter from Elshoff announcing that the mine was going to open.

"When Mine B opened as an open shop in November, 1939 I went back to work as a PMA member and I worked there until February 23, 1942. On that day, ██████████ said, "you are next. I'm going to drive your teeth down your throat." I was working as a cage man on the bottom at this time and was making extra pay. I think one of the UMW men wanted this job. I had already changed over to the UMW at this time. I never went back to the mine after that because the working conditions were not safe due to the activities of some of the UMW members who had been UMW organizers. Although the UMW had the bargaining rights at Mine B that union felt that they had many miners working under the UMW who were not sympathetic toward UMW, but who had joined merely to keep their jobs.

"From ██████████ to 1932 I was a member of UMW. I joined the PMA in September, 1932 at Springfield, Illinois. I was unemployed at this time. I joined this union voluntarily. I think the PMA was a good union and the rank and file miners got along well with their union officers. I remained a member of PMA, the Progressive Mine "Workers of America, until about

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

January, 1941 when the talk at the mine was to the effect that a miner could not work there unless he was a member of UMW. This was before the second NLRB election which was held in February, 1941. I joined the UMW against my will to keep my job. I have remained a member of the UMW since that time.

"I never held an office in any mine union. I never took an active part in the formation of the PMIA. I attended about half of the union meetings when I was a member of either union. The relations between Elshoff and the PMIA from the time I started to work there in 1935 until April, 1937 were good. I do not know of anything Elshoff said to indicate that he favored the UMW, prior to May, 1937. I knew the following men who were working at Mine B prior to May 1937 who were UMW sympathizers or organizers: Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale, Frank Austin, John Ahanias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway, James Hale, Andrew Schrelevious, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, Charles Bohannon. I heard that these men mentioned above were contacting the miners as agitators for the UMW, prior to the time Mine B closed on strike, but they did not contact me.

"I was not at the PMIA meeting on May 11, 1937 when some of these UMW organizers were expelled, but I heard about it the next day, May 12, 1937 at the time, by word of mouth. The PMIA Pit Committee went to Falcetti and told him these men should not work as they had been expelled from the PMIA. Falcetti was reported to have said that he had no authority to discharge them as they had a right to work there under the collective bargaining regulations.

"I went into the mine on May 12, 1937 and later some coal cars came up short. I do not know why the cars were shorted. Later, the men were informed they should come out of the mine. I was not familiar with the wage scale controversy. However, on May 12, 1937 some of the UMW organizers told me that the PMIA did not have a contract with Elshoff which was retroactive. [REDACTED] of the PMIA showed us miners a copy of the contract containing the retroactive clause that had Elshoff's name on it.

"I voluntarily signed the PMIA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMIA member. I also signed another PMIA petition in 1937, but I am not sure what it was for. I voted in the NLRB election. No one forced me to vote, and I never heard it was fraudulent. No strong arm tactics were used by either union to my knowledge. I also voted in the NLRB election on February 21, 1941. This election was fair as far as I know. We could vote anyway we wanted to. However, as I mentioned before in this statement, the miners at Mine B had already been signed up by UMW the month before as they had been informed they could not hold their jobs at that mine unless they did. Therefore the result of the NLRB election was known before the

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NO. JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] vote. I remember after this election at
(continued) a meeting held by UMW that organizer [REDACTED] (phonetic) got up in
the meeting and made a talk and said, "some of our membership do not be-
lieve in the U.M.W." He was referring to the vote taken in the NLRB election
when some miners voted for PMA, and they were all supposed to have signed
up with UMW before this election.

"I think Elshoff and Falcetti favored the U.M.W. Elshoff was paying
his lease rental when the mine was closed, therefore taking a loss, but I
don't know why he did not work the mine when he had plenty of PMA men
ready to work. I prefer the PMA union due to the leadership of John
L. Lewis.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the three and one half
pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my
knowledge."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED]
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that he had not been working for the past few years.

[REDACTED] Although [REDACTED] seemed to be of average intelligence, it was quite evident during the course of this interview that although he was attempting to recollect the event, he could not recollect the chronological order of events as they occurred at the time he was working for Mine B. In view of this fact it is not believed that [REDACTED] would make a good witness.

At the time of this interview [REDACTED] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 5, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement. I was born in [REDACTED].
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"I started working at Mine B about [REDACTED] and I was working there in 1932 when Progressive Mine Workers was organized. I had nothing to do with forming P.M.A. but joined when the rest of the miners did. As I remember, P.M.A. got along all right with the management of Mine B, and the members of P.M.A. were satisfied with the officers of the Union.

"I do not recall anything about any contract expiring on March 31, 1937, nor any argument about wages.

"I have a very poor memory and I don't recall anything about any P.M.A. members working for U.M.W. I remember there was a lot of things going on, but I do not recall what they were.

"On the day of the strike I was working in the Southwest part of Mine B. I don't remember anybody loading cars short that day, and I didn't know that there was any trouble until I came out of the mine at my regular quitting time. Then I learned that there was some trouble, but I don't think anyone knew just what was wrong. I don't remember anything about any men being expelled from P.M.A. I do not remember signing any petitions that

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

summer, but I could have signed one without
remembering it. I never attended many union
meetings. I do not recall about the attempted
opening of the mine in September, 1937 but I think I was on a picket line
a day or two. I do not remember voting in the NLRB election. I was
notified to return to work in 1939 but I was too old, my tools were buried,
and I did not return. I have not worked since.

"The above statement was read to me by Special Agent [REDACTED] and it
is true and correct to the best of my memory."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
"Manton M. Cummins) Special Agents, FBI
) U. S. Dept. of Justice"

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He has telephone number [REDACTED] and is presently employed at the [REDACTED] Springfield. He informed he has never been arrested. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English well, and has above the average miner's intelligence. He would make a good witness, but has little information to offer.

The following signed statement has been executed by [REDACTED]

*Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED]. I first started to mine coal in about [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Ill. I then joined the United Mine Workers of America Union. I started working in the Mine "B" in Springfield, Ill., in about [REDACTED]. From about the fall of 1932 until the spring of 1933, I worked at the Peabody #53 mine. During this time I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union and I quit the U.M.W. The reason I changed was because John L. Lewis's bunch stole ballots and declared an emergency and they said we had to go to work.

"I took no active part in the organization of the P.M.W. and I have never held an office in any union.

I did this to help fight John L. Lewis and his crowd.

"During the time from 1932 until May of 1937 I thought the P.M.W. was an honest union. I thought the officials were honest and I did not think there were any unusual assessments. About 1933 we were assessed 10% but this was for other P.M.W. men who weren't working and I didn't think this was too much. I had started working at Mine "B" again in the fall of 1933 and worked there until May of 1937.

"I remember the bombing trials along about 1935 and I don't think the men got a fair trial because from what I know and read