

THIS FILE IS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DECLASSIFICATION EFFORTS AND RESEARCH OF:

THE BLACK VAULT

THE BLACK VAULT IS THE LARGEST ONLINE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT / GOVERNMENT RECORD CLEARING HOUSE IN THE WORLD. THE RESEARCH EFFORTS HERE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THOUSANDS OF DOCUMENTS THROUGHOUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND ALL CAN BE DOWNLOADED BY VISITING:

[HTTP://WWW.BLACKVAULT.COM](http://www.blackvault.com)

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO FORWARD THIS DOCUMENT TO YOUR FRIENDS, BUT PLEASE KEEP THIS IDENTIFYING IMAGE AT THE TOP OF THE .PDF SO OTHERS CAN DOWNLOAD MORE!

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

L C 670

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "During Nov. 1939 or so I received a registered letter from Mine B offering me back my job under an open shop.
(continued) I understood that wages were to be the regular Illinois wage scale. The miners did not like the idea of going back under the open shop as PMA was the local there but we all had to go back in order to live as we had been off for 33 months. After the mine opened it seemed as tho UMW wanted to destroy PMA. PMA did not use any force to gain members as they always had the majority. During this time many new outsiders came to Mine B and they were UMW organizers two such UMW organizers, one from Colorado and another from Virginia, talked with me and asked why I didn't join the UMW and after I told them the full and complete story they said I was right and they quit and went back to their homes. The management of Mine B never said anything to me about which union they favored. It was the policy of the management of Mine B to place PMA men in bad rooms and give them the worse jobs so that they would get disgusted and quit and whenever a PMA quit or was laid off they would bring in new UMW men to take their places. UMW men from Indiana, Missouri and other states were all brot in and local men could not get a job at Mine B altho they were taxpayers.

"After the mine opened in Sept. 1939 some one used to place sulphur rock on my cars of coal and one week I was fined \$17.00 because of this but I complained and it was taken away. It was gossip that the money from the fines was being used to pay back the money loaned to Elshoff by UMW and to pay the UMW organizers who were being kept at the mine. In regard to this \$17.00 fine I went to UMW headquarters and saw [REDACTED] and complained to him and he went to the supt. of the company and I got my money back. The night before this another UMW organizer [REDACTED] told me that I would continue to be docked and that I should keep my mouth shut or else--and that the money has to come in. [REDACTED] told me this in Mine B. I feel that some UMW men were putting this sulphur rock on my cars just to cause me trouble as my partner never got fined and he was a UMW man.

"On another case I switched my identification cards number with my buddy and put some bad coal with his good coal and I got docked for giving good coal but my buddy did not get docked altho his car had bad coal on it and this proved that UMW men were getting by with everything.

"In regard to the next NLRE election in Feb. 1941 I feel that the election was properly held but the results were favorable to UMW because UMW had gotten rid of PMA men and replaced Mine B with their UMW men and thugs. It was not necessary to use any force or anything for UMW to win that election as they had enough UMW men packed in Mine B to swing the election over to them.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I don't recall if I signed any cards in 1940 or not. I
(continued) think they were presented to me but I refused to sign them.

"I am still at mine B digging.

"I was at some meeting when Glasgow said something about money and he was put out of the meeting because of it.

"I have had [REDACTED] read this 4 page statement to me and it is true and correct and I have signed the same.

"WITNESSES

"x [REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)
Spec. Agt. FBI
St. Paul, Minn.

[REDACTED]
Spec. Agt. FBI
Milwaukee, Wis.
[REDACTED] (signed)

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

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

Agents interviewed [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, phone [REDACTED] Agents interviewed [REDACTED] at his home in the presence of his wife and son. He advised he could not read the English language and it was noted that he spoke it rather poorly and it was necessary for his wife and son to assist in the interview.

He advised that he had no criminal record and presently is working at Mine B.

It is believed he would make a rather poor witness as his testimony would have to be given through [REDACTED] interpreter. He further claimed to know little or nothing of the activities between the time the mine shut down and when it reopened. He could, however, testify as to the violence used against him allegedly used to make him switch from PM to UMW.

In the files of the Springfield Field Division of this case there is a copy of the following affidavit which he reaffirmed to Agents:

"STATE OF ILLINOIS } SS
COUNTY OF SANGUINON }

[REDACTED] after first being duly sworn on oath deposes and states that he lives at [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois and is an employee at Mine B Coal Company.

"Affiant states that he finished his room in the mine on September 17th about 3 o'clock and asked the driver, L.O. Bumgarner for an empty car to transfer his tools. The driver paid no attention to this affiant although he asked for an empty car a number of times, and finally when affiant again asked for an empty, affiant states that L.O. Bumgarner jumped from the front of the cars and began striking this affiant about the throat and jaws, and jugular region, severely injuring this affiant.

"Affiant states further that while striking him, L.O. Bumgarner cursed this affiant and called him a dirty son-of-a-bitch and told him he would kill him. Affiant states that he has been unable to return to work since being struck by Bumgarner and has suffered severe pain, the injury impairing his speech and causing him severe pain when eating. Affiant states that since suffering the injury he has been under the care of a physician.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH ANTONIO CLIFFETELLI
(continued)

b7c
b7D

"Affiant further states that he took the matter up with the Superintendent, Oscar Falcetti, but he refused to discharge Bumgarner, who is a United Mine Worker."

(signed) [redacted]

"(seal)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of January,
1941

(signed) [redacted]

Notary Public

My commission expires Sept. 9, 1941"

The following one page signed typewritten statement was obtained from [redacted] in the presence of his wife and son [redacted]

[redacted]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 27, 1943.

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

"I was born [redacted] and I became a citizen in [redacted]. I first joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. and I never have held any office. I started to work at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. on [redacted] and I joined PMI then. I had no objection to joining that union as it was the only one there. I liked the Progressives and they never caused me any trouble. I worked till the last day, May 12, 1937 at Mine B and I did not know anything about a strike coming on until I was called out of the mines, and I don't know what the cause of it was. I just did what the PMI officials told me to do.

"I never went back to Mine B until in fall of 1939 when I got a letter from Mine B telling me to come back to work and I went out to Mine B and they told me I could not work for a month or so as the room was not ready and then about a month later [redacted] came to my home and told me my room was ready and I went back to work in Dec. 1939.

"From Oct. 1937 until Dec. 1939 I worked in the [redacted] Mines. .

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

was fighting us in the mine.

"When I went back in Dec. 1939 I still
was a Progressive but some time later
signed over to UMW because everybody

"I voted twice at National Labor Relation Board elections in the
Armory in Springfield, Ill. and the first time I voted for PMA and second time
for UMW because I was then a member of that local. I had to join the UMW
because there was no more PMA there at Mine B. I did not want any trouble so
I joined UMW.

"Both elections were alright as far as I know and I voted PMA
first and then UMW. I never attend any meetings and just pay my dues and any
fines because I don't go to meetings.

"I recall that I signed one petition for PMA which they said was
going to be sent to Washington, D. C. and I never signed any for UMW. No-
body forced me to sign it.

"I can't read the English language so I have had [REDACTED]
read this to me and it is true and correct and I have signed it."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"WITNESSES:

[REDACTED]

"I also wish to say that in fall of 1940 L. O. BUMGERNER, a
UMW car puller, told me I had to go to the UMW meetings and I told him I
never went to any meetings and just went home and at that time I still was
with PMA. A few days later I asked him for an empty car to haul my tools
away and he turned around and hit me on the side of the neck. I reported it
to PMA too and signed an affidavit for them. I also told OSCAR F. LOCETTI
and he never said nothing about it at all. While in Doctors office some
lawyer came by and Dr. had him take me to Police where warrants was issued
for BUMGERNER but he won the case in Court. Doctor is [REDACTED] (1)

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Special Agent Federal Bur. of Invest.
Milwaukee, Wis.

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

006439

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted
by Special Agents [REDACTED] and
[REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on August 27, 1943.

On August 27, 1943, [REDACTED] Telephone [REDACTED] was interviewed with her husband in connection with her husband working at Mine B and she advised that [REDACTED] is her husband's brother and that prior to the time PIA took over in 1932 at Mine B, [REDACTED] took a trip [REDACTED] stayed for about [REDACTED] months and then returned to the United States. He returned and worked at Mine B until about [REDACTED] and stayed for about [REDACTED] months and then returned to the United States.

She felt that [REDACTED] could not furnish any information of value relative to the instant case as he was not there.

However, she advised he has been working at Mine B until this Spring when he got sick and during the spring of 1943 he went to [REDACTED] (phonetic), Box [REDACTED]. He went there to regain his health and she said she does not know how long he will remain there but probably will return to Springfield, Illinois in two or three months.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted
by Special Agents [REDACTED] and
[REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on August 27, 1943.

[REDACTED] advised Agents she is the mother of [REDACTED] and that he formerly did work at Mine B. She advised that he is now with the U. S. Navy and is overseas and that he has been with the Navy for [REDACTED] months. She further stated that her husband, [REDACTED] never worked at Mine B.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

was interviewed at his resi-
[redacted], Illinois,

on the afternoon of August 29, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] was born [redacted] Illinois. He owns his own home. He has been in the mines all of his life, and is presently employed as a track layer at Panther Creek Mine #2. [redacted] is above the average miner in intelligence, and ability to express himself. He was quite excited about events which occurred at Mine B. He can express himself well and would not be easy to confuse on cross examination. He is believed to be a good, potential witness. He furnished the following information as set forth in a signed statement.

III,
August 29, 1943.

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

"I have been in the mines all of my life. I first went to Mine B in 1935 or 1936. I do not recall exactly what year it was. I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America at the time tht I went to Mine B. After the Strike at Mine B was over I went back and worked there until I could see that the Mine was going to be a United Mine Worker mine. I did not want to belong to the United Mine Workers so I quit. I got a job at mine A then, and when after two months it signed up as a UMW mine, I quit and went over to Panther Creek Mine #2, because I did not want to belong to the United Mine Workers. I was not particularly interested in the Union affairs. I went to the meetings occassionally, but not too often. I knew that there was some discussion at the mine and some greivances, but I do not know what they were. There were no slow downs or trouble before the strike as far as I know. Everything was going along smoothly. I did not attend the meeting of the local the night before the strike started. I was laying track at that time and was down below when the strike started. I noticed that the men were sending up small cars, and I told them that they would not get anywhere with that. I do not know what they were quarrelling about, and I did not know that there was going to be a strike until it was called.

C O 60441

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(Continued)

"I went back out to mine a few days after the strike started to sign some papers. I do not remember what it was about. The Progressive

Committee man called me in for it. We went to Falcetti's office to get something and got the papers there in the office.

"I knew that there was a local formed for the UMW the summer of 1937. I heard something about a contract with that local, but no one ever asked me to join that local. I did not go out to the mine the day that the picket line was formed. I went out a few days later and stayed quit a bit of the time. The men on the picket were all men who had worked at Mine B. There were no strangers staying out there all of the time.

"After the injunction stopped the picket, they tried to open the mine, but I did not go to work. They did not want any of us to come, and only were going to let the men who had been causing trouble at the mine come to work. I have never heard any of these men say anything personally.

"I voted in the election which was held in December 1937. It was a fair election. No one tried to influence my vote, tell me how to vote, or anything else. I voted exactly as I pleased. After the election the mine did not reopen for several months. Most of that time I could not get any work, but I did work for a while at a couple of the other mines. When Mine B was reopened, I went back out to work.

"When I went back which was a few days after they reopened, I did not see any evidence of any big fire out there. There had been a few falls and cave ins but, there was no serious ones. Some of them I do not think have been opened yet. They weren't when I left mine B, in about January 1941.

"After the mine reopened I was asked many times to join the United Mine Workers. The men who asked me to join, and argued with me were not the old men who had worked at the mine before. Most of them were new men, who I had not known before. They were in the mine, but did not do much work. One was a fellow named [REDACTED]. I never saw him do much work. He spent all of his time trying to organize. Another was [REDACTED]. He did not do any work either, but spent most of his time running around trying to organize. [REDACTED] asked me to joining the United Mine Workers several times. I do not know what he was supposed to be doing in the mine. He did not do any work that I ever saw.

006442

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

L
67D
INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
(Continued).

All he did was go around and talk to the fellows. He was supposed to be some sort of boss I guess. I know I saw him and Oscar Falcetti, the Superin-

tendent arguing a couple of times. Once I saw them come out of the office. I do not know what they were arguing about, but I heard [REDACTED] tell Falcetti that if he did not like it he could leave, or go somewhere else. I wondered right then who I was working for.

"I did not get threatened or anything like that. I had heard that some of the other fellows had been beaten up. I was pretty stubborn about it and would not join the United Mine Workers, and I was afraid to stay down there for fear that I would be hit too. The men were signing up for the United Mine Workers, and I could see that the mine was going to go over to the UMW, and I did not want to, so I went over to mine A when I heard that they wanted a track layer and grader. I knew that the Mine was going over to the UMW because it couldn't do anything else. The Progressives were being beaten. They were losing checks off their cars and things like that. I knew that the management must be favoring the United Mine Workers or it would have stopped that sort of thing going on.

"I went over to Mine A in the last part of January 1941. I was sent a card to vote in the election at Mine B, and went to vote. [REDACTED] stopped me from voting. He stopped me when I was there at the voting place. My card was still in the local at Mine B and I thought that I was eligible to vote, but they did not let me vote. I was not the only one who was not allowed to vote the day of the second election. I had not been working at Mine A more than a couple of days before the election. Harvey Williams, who is dead now, went down to vote with me, and [REDACTED] stopped him from voting too. He was not working anyplace at that time.

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

/S/ [REDACTED]

/s/
/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents FBI"

006443

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on August 28, 1943.

At [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] and at first he was somewhat reluctant to answer any questions at all as he said he did not want to get mixed up in anything as he still is at Mine B and was afraid that something might happen to him if he talked about the matter.

He advised Agents he has never been arrested in his life and in regard to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised he only went to the Fifth Grade but it was noted that he was well versed in mine matters and appeared to be much more intelligent than the average miner. It is believed that in the event he is called to testify he will make a good witness altho he would not like to have to testify inasmuch as he still is at Mine B.

After some conversation he freely furnished the following signed typewritten statement.

[REDACTED]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 28, 1943.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] Ill. and am an American citizen. For the past [REDACTED] years or so I have been at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. and am a coal digger. Around [REDACTED] or so I first joined the United Mine Workers at [REDACTED] Ill. I have never held any office in any union. I don't know if Mr. Carl Elshoff got along with U.M.W.A. prior to 1932. Prior to 1932 I felt that U.M.W.A. was trying to do all they could for the miners. When P.M.U. was formed at Mine B in 1932 I felt that everyone wanted to new union as they did not want to take any cut in wages. The trouble started then when John L. Lewis signed a contract under an emergency, after he said the ballots were stolen from the second election and the miners did not like that. I think that P.M.U. operated pretty smoothly from 1932 until the mine closed down in 1937 and I never heard or knew of any trouble with Elshoff or P.M.U. officials. I never heard Elshoff or FALCETTI complain that P.M.U.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

b7c b7d

officials were crooked or wrong.. I never heard anything prior to the strike about getting rid of F.M. and getting back U.M.W. I and others felt that the F.M. officials were doing a good job and we did not suspect them of anything and felt that they were running Local 54 alright for us. It was run in an orderly fashion. F.M. never used any force to make us miners do things or vote any special way. I used to attend the important F.M. meetings but did not attend all of the ordinary meetings. I and other miners have felt that some of those F.M. men who were convicted in the bombing case could have been not guilty. I and others were all satisfied with the money reports from F.M. officials and we never suspected them of doing anything wrong with the money.

"From 1932 to 1937 I don't recall of U.M.W. ever picketing Mine B or causing a strike there and I never saw or received any literature nor did anyone try to make me join U.M.W. and leave F.M.. I have never heard anything about any parties between Elshoff and U.M.W. men. I never knew anything about the wage question in the spring of 1937 until one afternoon about 2:30 o'clock when [REDACTED] F.M. board member, called us out of Mine B and told us miners that they had been unable to reach a wage agreement. I did not attend any meeting the night before the strike but heard at the mine that some F.M. fellows were expelled at that meeting.

"Before the strike began in 1937 it was common gossip that Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale, belonged to one club at Mine B and that they were giving information to U.M.W., altho they belonged to F.M..

"On the morning of the strike I did not know that some F.M. men had been expelled and I went to work as usual. During that day I did not hear anyone talk about the wage question nor talk about the expelled men. I was taken by surprise when I got called up at 2:30 P. M. On that day I loaded my cars the same as before but at some time I heard something about cars being loaded short but I never found out what it was all about. I did not know we were going out on strike till we got to the top of the mine that afternoon. I don't really know what the cause of the strike was. I can't say if it was over the wage question or because of the expelled men not being fired.

"When I went home that night I had no idea that we would be out on a strike. I might have signed some petitions in summer of 1937 but I just can't recall about it now. I may ave signed some. If I signed any no one forced me to sign it and it was done voluntarily by me.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

L-5
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

"I don't believe I was contacted by anyone in July, 1937 to join the UMW local. I heard about it then. I don't know what the above mentioned fellows were doing in 1937 or therabouts. I did not go back to work in fall of 1937 as at that time I did not do any picketing and I was sick around that time anyway. We were told PMA officials that if we did not help in the sit down strike that the UMW men would get out jobs and I went over off and on a few times to help them out. At that time I was on relief and had to work out some of the money. I was not at mine B when the Marshall came out with the injunction. The sit down strike was run in a very orderly manner and we were there to protect the property and would go back as PMA but would not go back under UMW. We washed the rooms, guarded the powder house, and protected the mine property. While I was around UMW did not bring in any men to work there. PMA men were in the strike and no outsiders were brought in to help us. I understand that when the Marshall came out PMA men left peaceably and there were no fights. We were not forced to go on the sit down strike.

"I did not go to Mine B in Dec, 1937 when they tried to reopen it. I took part and voted in the First NLRB, voting for the PMA. I voted for them of my own free will feeling that they had a majority anyway, so far as I know no threats or violence was used in anyway to influence the men to vote. We met at the PMA hall and went to the armory to vote in pairs or groups, there were no strong arm methods used to influence us in the way we voted. Voting was by secret ballot and under the direction of a Government man. I have no recollection of being contacted by any UMW men in an attempt to tell me how to vote.

"I don't remember going out to the mine when an attempt was made to re-open it in Jan. 1938. I don't recall receiving any notice to go to work as I recall it now I just heard about it through talk. I am unable to give any first hand information as to what happened at this attempt to open the mine. From shortly after this time on I was on PMA and didn't take any active interest in what was going on in the mine. I heard rumor at this time that Eishoff was getting money from the UMW, but so far as I know no one could prove it.

"When the mine opened the last time in 1939 I believe I received a registered letter from Eishoff, in response to this I reported back to go to work. At that time they told me when to report back to go to work. As I remember it I had no personal knowledge as to the nature of any agreement as to wages or anything else, I believe however that the scale must have been the same as Union wages throughout the state or else the men would not have gone back at all. I believe that when they were ready for me to come back to work some of the other miners in the neighborhood came by and told me they were ready for me to come back to work. When the mine was first opened up everything seemed to me to go along fine and dandy for about a year I believe. Prior to shortly prior to the last NLRB election they

RE: JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

b7D

wouldn't let any of the sons of the miners come to the mine to work, but during this period they would let them come in providing they would join up with the UMW, it is my belief that this was the method used to enlarge the UMW membership at mine "B" so they could call for a NLRB election and be sure of winning. I don't know who made this rule, whether it was a Union Rule or a Company one, nor do I know who revoked it. I believe however it was done by what I call Elshoff's gang, in the UMW. During this period all of the new men hired were members of the UMW, they would take on no new PMA men at all. The UMW men did me no harm personally. I heard of dirty tricks being laid to other men and knew of one man whose name I do not recall at present being beat up and spending some time in the Hospital.

"Some time between the opening of the mine and the last election, Tony Plotc and "Cotton" Mananias, visited me at my home and tried to get me to sign up with the UMW. I told them I would do whatever the majority wanted. They said to "Hell" with the majority we want you now. I finally rejoined the UMW because my son wanted a job in the mine and I had to be a member of the UMW in order for him to get it.

"If I hadn't joined the UMW, I believe I would finally have had to get out of the mine. I base this on what I heard and saw done to other miners who wouldn't join. I don't feel that I joined the UMW of my own free will but because of the pressure brought on me as I have indicated here, if it hadn't been for this I would have stayed with PMA as I was satisfied with that Union. I know of nothing else done by the management that would indicate preference for the UMW. So far as the PMA men were concerned they just had to take it and keep their mouths shut. I do not recall signing any membership cards in either PMA or UMW during the summer of 1940.

"I do not think that all of the men who voted in the last NLRB election, I feel that a lot of the UMW men who voted were hired at the mine simply so they could vote and give UMW a majority. As far as the election itself was concerned I feel that it was run honestly. I voted for the UMW in this election myself because I had joined the UMW and felt that it was best that I should vote this way in order to avoid any trouble.

"I believe that Mine B is in bad condition and that if it had been closed for another year they would have been unable to reopen it at all. It appears to me that the Fire-clay under the coal has heaved up and would have blocked the mine entirely, if it had remained closed much longer. I have no present recollection of the fire in the mine in 1939 at all.

"I do not have any personal knowledge concerning the time when Glasgow was kicked out of the UMW meeting, I do know that he wasn't elected to a union office the last time he ran.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)*b7c b7d*
"I felt that conditions were better under
the PMA and as far as I personally am con-
cerned I would rather have them represent
me.

I have read the foregoing statement of 3 pages and it is all true
and correct to the best of my knowledge. I am therefore signing the same."

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed

[REDACTED] Spec. Agt. FBI, US Dept. of Just. (ST. Paul)

[REDACTED] Spec. Agt. FBI, US Dept. of Just. (Milw.)

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

Out
Noted

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on August 25, 1943, by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a meek individual who evidently had no interest in the affairs at the mine as long as he could work. He would not make a good witness because he does not recall events which occurred, does not remember names, and was not in a position to know much about what happened at the mine because he worked above ground. He would make a fair appearance, can be understood, but does not possess aggressive qualities sufficient to withstand any cross examination. He is presently employed [REDACTED] He was born [REDACTED]

The following is a signed statement obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 25, 1943

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

"I got a Job at the Mine "B" sometime along in January of 1936. Soon after I started working There I was approached by three men on the company property. I do not remember their names. They asked me to join the Union. I told them I would if necessary. I asked the Superintendent if I should and he told me I should so I joined The Progressive Mine Worker's of America. They took my dues right out of my pay check.

"I worked in The Rail Yards and Tipple most of the time. I worked below only a couple of months.

"I recall when the strike occurred. I had not heard any discussion about a strike, and was surprised when the strike occurred. I did not know of any difficulties in The mine over wages or over discharging. I had no idea about what the strike was all about until after the strike. I do not remember what was told me about why the strike was caused. I did not stay around the mine much after the strike was called.

"A Few days after the strike was called I went back to the mine. The men were Just standing around. I went to work a few days above ground. No one tried to keep me from working, but there was not much to do so I quit and did not even go Back to The mine since that time. I got another Job and have never returned to mine "B".

0
06445

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b2d

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"While I was a member of The Progressive Miner's I did not attend more than 3 or 4 meetings. I was not particularly interested in what happened. I had no trouble with the Union. I did not see anything wrong with the P. M. W. I did not care much which Union was running the mine. I thought most of the men at the mine wanted the Progressive Mine Worker's and were satisfied. There were a few men who were disatisfied with the P. M. W. But I do not recall who they were or what they objected to. I do not recall anyone saying that They wanted to change Unions. I do not recall any talk about changing Unions.

"I do not recall if I signed any papers or Petition. I recall that there were some petitions passed out by Both the P. M. W. & U. M. W. Worker's around the mine. But I do not recall having ever signed any paper's at all.

"I do not recall any violence or threats. There was no wage trouble. I just did not know why the strike was called, or have much interest in The Union at all.

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

/s/

F. B. I.

F. B. I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

67C 67D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at the Springfield Field Office on the evening of August 27, 1943, by [REDACTED] Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] resides with his family in a home which he owns, located at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. He is a naturalized American citizen, having been born [REDACTED]. He is presently employed at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. [REDACTED] was considered by interviewing agents to be a good potential witness. He claims that he can read but cannot write English. He speaks English rather well, does not have a pronounced accent and is fairly easy to understand. He can express himself in English fairly well. He would make a good appearance. Interviewing agents have some doubt, however, as to his ability to undergo a rigid cross-examination. He would probably be easily confused, and would follow a leading question and probably become confused in some inconsistency.

Upon being interviewed he executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

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

"I first started to work at Mine B in [REDACTED] when I first came to this country. Except for a short period in 1923 or 24 I stayed at Mine B until the strike in 1932. During that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers. I attended meetings every two or three months. I was not an officer. In 1932 when the strike occurred, I had some money saved up. [REDACTED]. I lost all my money after a while, and could not get a job back in the Mine B because [REDACTED] was an officer of the Progressive Mine Workers Union and he did not like me and kept me from getting a job. I worked on WPA and other things until 1936 when I was able to get back into Mine B.

"In those days Tony Piatto [REDACTED] He did not like the idea of joining the Progressive Mine Workers, and I saw many men come from the mine and argue with him, trying to get him to join the PMW of A. He also told me about it, and that he wanted to stay with the United Mine Workers.

"All the time from 1932 to 1936 I tried to get a job at the Mine B. Many times I would be out at the mine and ask for a job, and Oscar Falcetti

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] told me and ther other men that there were no jobs.
I know, however, that when Joe Albanese or some of
(continued) the other men who wanted the United Mine workers
brought someone to Falcetti to ask them to hire them,
that Falcetti always would hire them. I know this because I was standing
around trying to get a job. I saw Falcetti hire men introduced to him by
Joe Albanese and Jimmy Hale just after he had told me and other men that
there were no jobs in the mine.

"Finally I got a job at Mine B. I joined the Progressive Mine
Workers of America. I went to the meetings every now and then, mostly just
to elections and to Special meetings. In those years there were several
fellows who were causing trouble at the meetings and in the mine. I did
not hear all of them, but I did hear Joe Albanese, Tony Plotch and Jimmy
Hale say in the Progressive Mine Workers meeting, that is at Local #54
that someday we would all have to join the United Mine Workers again, and
that we would be better off if the local were connected with the UMW instead
of the PMU.

"At other times in that year before the mine went on strike I
overheard Domenic Pasquale say several times that we ought to join the
UMW. I also heard [REDACTED] say the same thing.

"Those men I named and also others such as John Sirtout, Andy
Schrekevius, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Cotton Ananias, Charley Bohannon,
and the young Jacaway were tried by the union and expelled. They were tried
a couple of months or so before the strike if I recall accurately.

"I attended the meeting of the local #54 the night before the strike.
I think that it was a special meeting. I think that there was an announcement
in the paper, but I am not sure. There was an announcement on the mine
bulletin board. There were over 200 men there that night. We decided that
we would not go back to work until these men had been fired. I think these
men had been tried before, but the union decided that night to kick them out
of the Union, and ask Falcetti to fire them. The next day we went to work,
and went down into the mine. We did not want to work as long as these other
men were working there, and we only put a little coal into each car. Finally,
they called us out.

"As far as I can remember there was no discussion about a contract
or wages at the meeting the night before the strike. We did not quit work
because of wages or the contract.

"At that time I was very well satisfied with the way the Progressive
Mine Workers were running, and was satisfied with local #54. I did not
want to change unions. I think everybody else was satisfied also with the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] local, except those few men who had been kicked out. I heard no complaints about assessments, dues, check offs and etc.

(continued)

"After the mine went down I went back home. The next few days I went out to the mine with the rest of the fellows. I was ready to go to work if they would fire the men, and would recognize the Progressives as the union. I had heard that Falcetti had said that he would not recognize the Progressives as the union there any more. I do not recall every signing any papers about the strike, either for the PMW or the CUME. After a while I tried to get another job, and I did get a job on the WPA.

"That summer I knew that a UMW local was formed for Mine B. I did not know that a contract had been signed with this union by the Mine B company. That summer both Joe Albanese and [REDACTED] asked me to join this UMW local, but I did not. I did not want to.

"In September, I went back with the rest of the men when they tried to open the mine. I did not want to go back to work unless they recognized the Progressives as the Union. There were a large number of us there that day. Oscar Falcetti got up and told us all that we could come back to work but that we would have to join the UMW in order to work at the mine because they had signed a contract. I did not want to work as a UMW because I was a progressive and wanted to stay a progressive. Only 12 men went down that day. The next day we all came back, and those 12 men did not go back into the mine. We stayed around the mine then for about 2 months until the United States Marshall brought us an injunction. I heard about Elshoff trying to open the mine a few days after that, but did not go down to work because I was told that I would not be able to work unless I was a UMW.

"A few days after that I voted at the election. No one told me how to vote, bothered me, or threatened me in any way. I voted just as I wanted to. I think it was a fair election.

"I heard that they tried to open the mine again, but I did not try to go back to work because I did not want to work as a UMW. I got another job on the WPA.

"In the fall of 1939 they decided to reopen the mine. I guess Falcetti told the men that he would recognize the Progressives as the union. I never heard anything about it.

"I went back to work on the first day that the mine was open. I went back to where I had been working before. That part of the mine was in good condition. I know that there were a few falls in the mine. I guess there were a couple of bad ones, but they had not fixed them when I left.

Re: JOE L. LEJIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"After two or three months or so they started hiring new men at the mine. I was not present but I heard that Falcetti was doing again the same things about hiring that he had done before, that is, telling the men who came to ask for work that they were not hiring, unless they were introduced by Joe Albanese or some of the other U.M.W. men. I did not see this. After that several times I was asked to join the United Mine Workers. I was asked by Joe Albanese, and also by a man named [REDACTED]. He had never worked at the mine before the strike. He was supposed to be a timberman, but he only worked a little bit each day, and the rest of the time he ran around the mine talking to men. He came to me several times to ask me to join the U.M.W. I told him that I would not, because I was a Progressive and did not want to change.

"I knew [REDACTED] in the mine. He never talked to me about joining the U.M.W. He had the job of air check man. He was supposed to go around and check the air. All the time I had been in the mine before there never had been an air check man in the day time. One of the men checked the air at night.

"Nothing unusual happened to me in the mine after it opened. I stayed right in my same room all the time. I know, however, that when a room ran out, that Falcetti treated a U.M.W. better in giving him a new place than he did to a P.M.W. Falcetti did that quite a bit after the mine reopened. Joe Albanese seemed to run the place. He would be in the office, and it seemed that whatever he said was done. That was done to a certain extent before the mine went out on strike in 1932. Falcetti always seemed to give Albanese the best consideration in everything, and the men that Albanese brought to the mine got the best places to work, and were treated best.

"A couple of months before the second election, I came to the mine one morning to go to work, just as usual. It was cold, and dark. I was walking towards the wash shed with my bucket under my arm and my hands in my pockets. [REDACTED], who was a new man who had just been hired at the mine, walked towards me and knocked me down into the snow with his shoulder. Before I could get up he and 10 or 12 other men who were hanging around came up and kicked me and beat me. The only one I recognized and knew by name was Cudgel Baumgardner. I recognized some of the other men but they had just been hired and I did not know them by name.

"I got a chance to get up and did, and got away from them, and went in and told Falcetti what had happened. He told me that he was sorry but did not do anything about it. I called my father up out of the mine that day, and quit. I never went back to the mine at all. The company clerk sent me to the company doctor. He checked on my back. The company sent me a letter telling me that the company would not pay my expenses. So I had to

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

b7D
go to another doctor. He told me that my back had been hurt pretty bad, and I had to take treatments for a month or so.

"I was never dissatisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers. I did not want to join the United Mine Workers. I voted in the election held a couple of months after I quit. It was a fair election too. I could not get a job after that for more than half a year. I would have liked to stay on at the mine, but I did not want to stay on and work under those conditions.

"I have read the above statement on this page and five other pages. They are all true and accurate, and I am willing to go to court, if necessary, and repeat all or any part of it.

[redacted] (signed)

FBI"

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] (signed) FBI"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of August 26, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] having been born in [REDACTED]. He is a naturalized American citizen. He cannot read or write. At the present time he is unemployed. [REDACTED] is apparently an intelligent individual. He is extremely difficult to understand. He is very definite in his opinions, and would be very difficult to cross up on cross examination. Because of his speech difficulties he would not make a good witness. He gave the following signed statement, which was read to him by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 26, 1943.

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

"I was working at Mine B several years before 1932. I was a member of the United Mine Workers because I could not work at that mine unless I was a member of the United Mine Workers. In 1932 there was some trouble and all the men at Mine B joined up with the Progressive Mine Workers. I joined up too at that time, and was willing and anxious to do so. I belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers all the time until I quit working at Mine B in 1941. I never had any complaints against the Progressive Mine Workers. I was satisfied in every way with the treatment I got from them and the way they acted. They never threatened me with anything or asked me to do anything that I did not want to do.

"Then the mine went on strike in 1937 I was down. I did not know about the strike until they told me that the strike was on. I came up to the top and they told me that the trouble was about some contract, but I do not remember the details. After the strike I came home and did not go back to the mine. I did not sign any petition.

"Then the men were called to go back to work in September of 1937 I did not go back. I told the men that I would wait and see if they actually did stay there before I went back. I had a job with the WPA so I wanted to be sure that the mine was going to work before I went back.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

L7C L7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

I kept on working with WPA. I voted in the election in December 1937. No one told me how to vote or made me do anything that I did not want to do. I voted just the way I felt at that election.

"I only heard of the mine trying to go back once, between the time of the strike and the time that the mine actually started to work. When I went back to work I did not see any indication of any big cave in or fire. The mine was in good shape when we went back to work.

"After I went back to work it was a year before anyone asked me to join the United Mine Workers. About the same time my clothes were stolen, and my tools were taken. I talked to Elshoff, and Falcetti about it but they did not do anything. I quit work the day that [REDACTED] was beaten, which was just a few days before the next election at the mine. I voted at the election, but I never went back. I never joined the United Mine Workers but I had been asked to do so many times.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers. I never wanted to join the United Mine Workers. None of the Progressive mine workers ever threatened me or asked me to do anything that I did not want to do.

"The above statement on this and one other page has been read to me by [REDACTED] It is true and accurate.

[REDACTED]

F.B.I.
[REDACTED]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 26, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a naturalized American citizen, having been born [REDACTED]. He is presently employed as a miner at Panther Creek Mine #4. [REDACTED] was quite definite in his statement. He does not recall the details of what happened at the mine and apparently was not too interested, mainly just wanting to work. He is an aggressive sort of individual and would not waver on cross-examination. He requested one statement to be deleted from his signed statement because he did not want anyone to have the idea that anyone would think that any member of the Progressive Mine Workers would threaten or cause any violence. He speaks good English, is easy to understand and would make a good witness in every particular except that he does not have much information of value. Upon interview he executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ohio
August 26, 1943.

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

"I first was employed at the Mine B two or three years before 1932. When I first was employed there I belonged to the United Mine Workers because I had to belong in order to work. In 1932 there was trouble and I went over to the Progressive Mine Workers because that was what all the rest of the men at Mine B did. I had no objection to the United Mine Workers then, but I had no objection to joining the Progressive Mine Workers. Both Unions treated me alright, and I would belong to either one in order to work. I joined the Progressives because the majority of the men at Mine B joined. There was no trouble at the mine with the Progressives so far as I know. I was very satisfied with the Progressive Union. They were a fine bunch of men. I am still a member of the Progressive Mine Workers. When I was at Mine B I used to go to the Union meetings of the PMW regularly. For a while I was door keeper at the union meetings. Most of men were to all the meetings. I do not recall how many there were, but there were quite a crowd at many of the meetings. There were so many at the meetings because the men were interested in what was going on. There was no disatisfaction with the way the Union was being run.

"On the day the strike started I was working on the track below. I had not heard of any trouble, and was surprised when someone came down

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b2d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] and told me to quit working because there was a strike. I had not known anything about it. Some of the men told (continued) me what the strike was about afterwards, but I do not remember it very well, as to just what the reason was.

I stayed around the mine for a week or so after that waiting to see if I could not go back to work. The men would not go back and I would not do anything that the majority would not do. While I was there I signed a petition for the Progressives, but I do not recall exactly what it was for.

"In September I was called back to work, and took my bucket and went out to the mine to go to work. When I got there there was a big bunch of fellows there all wanting to go to work. Oscar Falcetti told us all while I was there that we would have to join the United Mine Workers in Order to go to work. I did not want to join the United Mine Workers. The majority of the fellows wanted to work as Progressives and I was not going to go against the majority. I did not want to go against the majority because I was satisfied with the Progressives, and wanted to work with those fellows. When we could not work that day, I stayed there on the company property for a few days off and on while the other men stayed. It was a couple of months later that we got an injunction to keep us off. We all left right away. There was no trouble of any kind.

"I voted at the election for the mine to decide which Union we wanted. It was a fair election. There was no fighting or threats or anything. None of the men from the Progressives threatened me, or told me how to vote. The progressives did not tell me to come to vote, furnish me with a ride or anything. I went to the headquarters, and they told us where to vote.

"I went there and voted. There was no trouble. It was a fair election.

"Soon after the election I got a job at the Panther Creek Mine. I never heard of any attempt to open the mine except the time I went to work and the time that they did reopen the mine in 1939. In 1939 I went to work at Mine E, but only worked one day because of the change in conditions in the mine and I thought I would be better off at the Panther Creek Mine. If there had been any other times that I could have gone to work at Mine B I would have gone. I decided that I would be better off because I was digging coal at the Panther Creek mine, and was getting too old to lay track any more. My quitting had nothing to do with the Union situation.

06455

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. They treated me fairly, never threatened me, or abused me in any way. I was never threatened or mistreated by anyone.

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

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)

F.B.I.

[REDACTED] (signed) FBI"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS

b7c

b2D

006460

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on August 30, 1943.

At [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, telephone [REDACTED] Agents interviewed [REDACTED] who advised he has never been arrested.

He appeared to be more intelligent than the average miner and it was noted that he fully understood questions when asked and he appeared to have a very excellent memory as he recalled many dates and specific instances. He speaks the English language but at times he is difficult to understand. He also appeared to be well versed with the mine conditions and it is believed he would make a good witness. He indicated a willingness to testify in the event it was necessary.

[REDACTED] gave Agents the following signed statement which he signed on the last page and initialed on the other pages:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943

"I [REDACTED] give the following signed statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Spec. Agts. of the Fed. Bur. of Invest. No threats or promises have been made me.

"My address is [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I was born [REDACTED] I came to U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a citizen [REDACTED] in Springfield, I first joined a union in [REDACTED] in Penna. this was a U.M.W. union. I have never held a union office. I started working in Mine B as a coal digger in 1936, I am still working there. I joined the Progressives in 1932 as that time I was working in the copper mine.

"During the year and half prior to the strike I knew of no trouble at Mine "B". I know nothing of anyone trying to cause any trouble at that time. I was always satisfied with the P.M.A. and felt they were O.K. I attended P.M.A. meetings about once a month, because I felt it would look bad if I didn't.

"I heard about the men being convicted of bombings but have no personal knowledge of it.

"I was satisfied that the P.M.A. officials were handling the union money O.K.

"While we had a P.M.A. union and before the strike I saw no trouble with U.M.W. men bothering us. I did not know anything about any U.M.W. spies being in A.M.W. and knew nothing about any body trying to swing A.M.W. miners

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b6 *b7D*

INTERVIEW WITH

to U.M.W.

(continued)

"I have no knowledge of Elshoff giving any parties for U.M.W. officials.

"I heard in April of 1937 that Elshoff didn't want to sign a contract with the Progressives. I don't remember of anyone trying to cause any disturbance or make us think that PMA couldn't get as good a contract as U.M.W.

"I don't remember any commotion at the mine over wages.

"I did not attend the meeting at which the spies were expelled, but I knew there was to be a meeting. The next morning I heard talk at the mine that these men had been expelled. I don't remember the next morning what the argument was about I I think maybe it was about wages. I remember the miners being expelled from the union and that the management wouldn't expell them, the miners did not like this because it was a closed shop and they should have been expelled. I remember the cars being short loaded on May 12, this was done because the Company was not going to give back pay. I loaded one short, we miners did this ourselves just because of back pay. When I went to work that day I did not know there was going to be a strike. As I remember the strike was called both because of back pay & because they would not fine the expelled miners.

"I signed the P.M.A. petition in May of my own free will. We signed this petition on the road outside the mine to show the Co. we were all Progressives. I signed another petition for P.M.A. to show we were still all Progressive, I signed this of my own free will. I never signed any U.M.W. petition.

"Nobody asked me to join the U.M.W. local formed during the summer of 1937. I heard that some miners were visited at their home to get them to sign, but no one bothered me.

"In the summer of 1937 I heard that Elshoff had signed a contract with the U.M.W.

"I returned to the mine to go to work in Sept. 1937. Some U.M.W. men went down, the Progressives wanted to go down, FALCETTI told us that if we wanted to go down we would have to join the U.M.W. DOMINIC PASQUALE, CHAS BOHANON, ANDY SCHRELEVIUS, "COTTON" ANANIAS, JOE ALBANESE, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, and I believe JOHN SIRTOUT and GEO. & EMORY JACKAWAY and JAMES HALE went down to work that day. told FALCETTI that if he wanted P.M.A. men they would go down but he wouldn't let them go down. I don't know whether or not P.M.A. had had a meeting to decide what to do.

(C) (C) 06462

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"That day we had a meeting and decided to go back the next day to picket the mine. We stayed night and day after that. We stayed there and watched the place after that. We stayed there and watched the place after that.

The men who had gone down the day before were in the office and the Sheriff came out and let them go home. We stayed about 55 days after this to watch the property. I was there every night. We were guarding the property so that no one would hurt it and blame the P.M.A. No P.M.A. men were brought in from outside to aid in this. I went out of my own free will to protect my job.

"I was at the mine when the Marshall came & said we had to leave. We all left without any trouble.

"I did not go out when an attempt was made to open the mine in Dec. 1937. I had heard it was to be opened.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. voting for the Progressives because they were the ones I wanted. I feel this was an honest election.

"When they tried to open the mine in Jan. 1938 I heard that it was to be opened but did not go out as I knew P.M.A. had an injunction at the time.

"I never went back after this until I got a registered letter in Sept. 1939. I do not remember anything unusual between Jan. 1938 and Sept. 1939. The mine was already opened when I got my letter. I had first learned the mine was to be opened through the papers. I went out when I got my letter. FALCETTI put my name on the list and told me he would call when they were ready for me. [REDACTED] came to my house and told my wife to have me come out the next day. When I went back they gave me a good room. When we went back nothing was said about the wage scale, we worked for what we could get after being off so long. No one asked me what union I belonged to. Someone from the U.M.W. saw me in the mine and asked me to sign over, about 2 months after I went back to work. I don't remember his name. Before I joined the U.M.W. three men came to my house to ask me to join the U.M.W. I told them to get out though they did not threaten me. No one ever put anything on my coal to cause me to get docked. The men I mentioned came to my home in July 1940, they were ANDY SCHNELEVIOUS, young JACAWAY, and a big fellow named ~~X~~ GEORGE.

"I signed no membership cards between the time I went to work and the time I joined the U.M.W. I don't remember anyone getting beat up or any trouble prior to the second N.L.R.B. election. When the second N.L.R.B. election was held I already had joined the U.M.W. but did not pay any dues till after the election. "CUDGE" was the man I signed up for the U.M.W. with. I did this because everybody was signing over to U.M.W. We signed over because we felt if we didn't they would fine us the first chance they got.

106463

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

b7c b7d

When the second election was held I still voted P.M.A. because I felt this was the best Union, I still feel this way and wish they were back. I believe U.M.W. won the election because there were a lot of U.M.W. men had been hired at the mine. Many of these men still work there. I feel however that the election was fair and honest.

"When I went back to the mine there were lots of falls in it. I heard nothing of a big fire at the mine while it was closed. I don't know GLASCOW and did not attend the meeting at which he was kicked out.

"I have had the above nine page statement read to me and it is all true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am therefore signing the same and initialing each page thereof.

/s/

WITNESSED:

Spec. Agent, FBI (Milw.)
" " " St. Paul

Springfield, Ill Aug., 30, 1943

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on August 29, 1943. It was noted that [REDACTED] appeared to be more intelligent than the average miner and that he can read and talk the English language rather well. He advised that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He stated that he has never been arrested in his life. When [REDACTED] signed the following statement, his wife said to him that she supposed now that they would have to go back on relief as her husband might lose his job at Mine B for talking to agents. It is felt by agents that if he were called to testify he would probably be a reluctant witness.

The following is the signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 29, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and I am an American citizen. I still am employed at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., where I am a company man and I have been with them for about [REDACTED] years. In [REDACTED] I first joined the UMW at Springfield, Ill. About [REDACTED] years ago I was financial secretary with UMW at Mine A in Springfield, Ill. As far as I know UMW got along with the management at Mine B prior to 1932, and things were alright. Back in 1932 I was neutral as it didn't matter to me if I had to join over with PMA but I did not like the idea of taking a cut at that time. I did not help organize the PMA in 1932 but I went over as the majority went over. I don't know of any trouble between PMA or Elshoff or the management of Mine B. I don't know of any strikes or any trouble between 1932 and 1937 when the mine closed. While with PMA we got the union scale and the contract was lived up to. I attended most of the PMA meetings between 1932 until the mine closed. The men themselves in PMA voted upon all matters that came up and there were not a few who ran the show. I don't know if those PMA men who were sent to jail for the bombings were guilty or innocent as I never paid much attention to that matter. As far as I know there never was any trouble over money affairs with PMA officials. To my knowledge no UMW men bothered us at the mine B prior to the strike in 1937, and I never saw any literature from UMW then. I never was approached by anyone to swing over to UMW prior to the strike. I never heard about any parties being given between Mine B officials and UMW men. I don't know anything about the contract expiring in March, 1937."

C O 306465

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

67C
67D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] as that matter was left to the officials of PMA. I don't recall the nature of the trouble over the wages between March 1937 and the strike but it seems to me that we got back pay for it but I am not sure. None of us were complaining about our pay as that matter is left up to the Scale Committee and we abide by their wishes. I don't recall of anyone telling us the PMA could not get a contract and that we should go over to UMW. Any wage question is left to the ~~Scale~~ Committee and the Pit Committee and the rank and file don't know much about those matters.

"I did not attend any meeting the night before the strike and I don't know if it was a regular or special meeting but I did hear something about a meeting to be held that night.

"On the morning of the strike I did not hear a thing and did not know anything about a strike to be called over the wage question. I did not know that some men were expelled the night before. I just went about my work and did not know about all things going on. About four of us were taking out iron in the old part of the mine and that afternoon word was sent into us to come on out but nothing was said then about a strike. After I got up on top I learned thru the gossip that there was a strike. This was the first I knew of it. I went right home and never learned why the strike was called that day, and I don't know who called the men out at all and don't know if it was called by PMA or by the management of Mine B. On that day while coming out of the mine I noticed several cars partly loaded with coal on the bottom of the mine.

"I don't recall if I signed a petition shortly after the mine closed or not but if I did I would have signed for PMA. I don't believe I signed any petitions during the summer of 1937. In summer of 1937 I heard that UMW had formed a new local and got about 18 or 20 members but I never was approached in regard to it. Nothing unusual happened that I recall of during summer of 1937 when mine was closed. It was rumored around that during the fall of 1937 the UMW was going to open the mine so about 40 or 50 of us showed up that morning and started to picket the mine. We were supposed to have the contract with the Mine B and we went out to protect our jobs. PMA did not bring in any outside men to picket but they were all from local 54. I recall of seeing about 12 or 15 UMW men in the office of the coal company that morning and they did not go down at all, and I don't recall who they were.

"No one at Mine B ever asked me to join over to UMW and I know Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale but none of them ever contacted me and I never knew they were spies of UMW.

(C) (C) 606456
Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b2d
INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I went to Mine B to picket to protect my job and no one forced me to go there at all and I never heard of anyone being forced to go there. The strike was very quiet for those 2 months and there wasn't any fights there that I know of and we were just protecting the property.

"Early that morning I was at the mine on that strike and the Marshall came to me and took my name and then gave me a subpoena and then I went home. None of us complained at all after the Marshall told us we would have to get off the property and we all left peaceably and there were no fights or anything like that. I was at the mine about one-half of the time during the strike.

"I did not hear anything about the attempt to open the mine in Dec. of 1937, did not go to the mine at that time.

"I voted in the first NLRB election voting for the PMA. This election was by secret ballot and so far as I know was held in an honest manner. I voted for PMA because that was the union organization at the mine at that time. I was always well satisfied with the way they ran things.

"I did not hear anything about the attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938 and did not go to the mine at that time.

"I recall nothing unusual during the period from Jan. 1938 and the time the mine opened, during most of this time I was on the WPA and was not paying much attention to what was going on in connection with the mine.

"When the mine reopened in 1939 I received a letter from the mine to come back and go to work. I reported for work understanding at the time that I was to be paid the regular Illinois wage rate. I went back to work that same morning working as always as a Company man. When I went back to work no one asked whether I belonged to the Progressive or the UMW and so far as I know no one else was asked. I still have in my possession the letter received telling me to go back to work and of the stipulation between the Mine "B" Coal Co. and the Union, which provided for our return to work.

"About 4 or 6 months after my return to work I joined the UMW. I joined this Union at that time because I felt this was the way the majority was going. No one threatened me and I don't know of anyone who was threatened or beaten. I did hear gossip around the mine about some men having been. I did not at that time care which Union I belonged to. I heard no statements on the part of the management as to which Union they wanted the men in the mine to belong to. I never saw any person favored by the management because of the Union to which they belonged. I was treated the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

L-1 b7D
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] same way while belonging to one Union as while I belonged to the other. I have no recollection of having signed any (continued) membership cards during 1940 for either the PMA or UMW.

"I know nothing about how the Company got the money to keep the mine up while the men were on strike, I dont believe it took a great deal to do this, so far as I know they only had one clerk and a watchman out there.

"I voted UMW in the second NLRB election, so far as I know this was an honest election.

"When we went back to work the mine was in pretty bad shape, I dont know how much it cost to start it back in operation, but I imagine right much. Boxes 2 and 9 have never been cleaned up and put back in operation.

"I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 2 pages, to the best of my knowledge and recollection it is all the truth. I am therefore signing this statement and initaling each page thereof.

Signed [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]
Spec. Agt. FBI
St. Paul

[REDACTED]
Spec. Agt.
MLW.

Springfield, Ill. Aug. 29, 1943"

006468

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b2d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on August 27, 1943.

In the rear of the home at [REDACTED] lives [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who said his first name is not [REDACTED]. It was noted that he could not speak the English language in an understandable manner and he advised he could not read it either. With him was a friend named [REDACTED] [REDACTED] no relation, [REDACTED] Illinois, who was just visiting for the day. With the assistance of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who acted as an interpreter, it was determined that [REDACTED] has been working at Mine "B" continuously since [REDACTED] with the exception of the time when the mine was out on strike. It was learned that at the time of the strike in May 1937, [REDACTED] was a member of PMA and he said he had no choice as to which union they had at Mine "B" as he felt that one was just as good as another. He stated that during the period in question he took no interest in the union affairs as in 1937, at the time of the dispute. [REDACTED] He stated that these personal matters took up all of his time and he paid no attention to union matters.

(C) (C) 006469

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

520
52D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on August 29, 1943. [REDACTED] stated he does not have a criminal record. He would make an unsatisfactory witness as he has a difficult time speaking and understanding English.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943

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

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

"I was just employed as a miner in Ill. in [REDACTED] at which time I became a member of UMW. I was employed in several different coal mines in Ill. until [REDACTED] when I stopped mining

"I have never been an officer in any union, nor have I taken an active part in any union.

"I was employed by the [REDACTED] Mine, [REDACTED] Ill., in 1932 at which time I discontinued my membership in UMW and became a member of PMA. The reason I changed from UMW to PMA was because I heard some representatives of John L. Lewis stole some votes cast in Springfield, Ill. in 1932 concerning the wage scale at [REDACTED] mines.

"I did not take an active part in the formation of PMA.

"I was employed by Mine 'B' as a miner in about 1934, therefore I am unable to make a statement as to what occurred at Mine 'B' prior to that time.

006470

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

*b1
b7D*
INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(continued)

"From about 1934 to November 7, 1936 the management of Mine 'B' seemed to have been on good relations with PMA. No one attempted to make me dissatisfied with PMA during that period of time.

"I liked PM, and thought it was an honest union, there were no unusually high special assessments up until Nov. 7, 1936. I took no interest in the bombing cases and can furnish no information concerning the cases.

"During the time I was employed at Mine 'B' UMW did not set up a picket line nor did UMW distribute any literature. From 1934 to Nov. 7, 1936 no one contacted me concerning changing from PMA to UMW and I had no knowledge of an intended change of Mine 'B' from PMA to UMW.

"I did not see any of the management of Mine 'B' with any officials of UMW during the time I was employed at the mine.

[REDACTED]

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed: -

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

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

(O) (O) 306471

Re: JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon [REDACTED] of August 28, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] and is an American citizen. [REDACTED] has been in the mines all of his life, and is presently employed at Mine B. He is unable to read or write English. He speaks English poorly, and understands English poorly. He appears to be rather intelligent, however.

(Handwritten notes: C.V. and Name)

A signed statement was not obtained due to [REDACTED] express desire. He advised that he did not know that he understood interviewing agents correctly. He stated that he had been at Mine B since [REDACTED]. He belonged to the United Mine Workers when the contract was with the UMW and with the Progressive Mine Workers when the contract was with the PMA. He had no interest in the union and did not attend the meetings. He was unable to recall the day of the strike, and the events that occurred that day. He did recall that he had been on the picket line at the mine. He voted at the election in December, 1937, and voted in the manner that he wanted without any threats or compulsion of any kind. He was satisfied with the PMA prior to the strike and did not join the UMW at Mine B until after the second election and he was forced to join in order to continue at Mine B. He had no further information pertinent to this investigation.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d
b7e

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, located at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born at [REDACTED]. He has been in the mines [REDACTED] years, and at mine #5 since [REDACTED]. He would make a fair witness, having good command of the English language, a fair ability to express himself, a fair appearance and an intelligence above average of miners. He gave information set forth the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943.

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

"I started working at Mine B in [REDACTED]. When the local went over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America from the United Mine Workers. At that time I was not particularly anxious to join the PMW of A but I was working at the mine and the PMW of A had the contract, so I had to stay in the PMW in order to keep my job. In 1937 when the strike was called, however, I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and local #54. If I had a chance to have changed unions at the time of the strike, I would not have changed unions.

"I was not particularly interested in the unions affairs. I was never an officer of the local. I did not attend meetings regularly. When the strike was called in May 1937, I was down below working on recovering some track. I had not heard that there was going to be a strike. There had not been any discussion about wages or a disagreement, and so I was completely surprised when I was called out. When I got out of the mine I asked a little about it, and went home. I do not recall what they told me that the strike was called for. I was satisfied with the way things were going at that time. I went on home, and I do not think that I went out to the mine again after that. I was not interested in the quarrels out there, and did not want to go on a picket line. In the fall of 1937 when they attempted to open the mine, I was out in the country and did not hear about it until a few days later. I did not go out and sit on the picket line or stay on the company property. I heard about the formation of a UMW local, but no one asked me to join it, and I did not take much interest in it.

RE: JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

b7c b7d

"I voted in an election held in the fall of 1937 about the union for Mine B. As far as I know that was a fair election. No one tried to influence my vote, or tell me what to do. I voted at that election exactly as I wanted to. vote.

"I did not hear of any other attempts to open the mine.

"In 1939 when the mine was actually opened, I did go back to work at my old job, of working on emergency matters, etc., for the company. I traveled over most of the mine. There had been some big falls in the mine. Box 1 and 2 and box 9 had falls, and they have not been cleaned up yet. Box 5 had a fall, and it was finally cleaned up and opened. I do not know how big a fall it was because I did not help clean it up, but I did put in track afterwards.

"I knew [REDACTED] after the mine reopened. He was supposed to be a first aid man, or air check man or something like that. I never saw him do any work. My partner and I are supposed to keep track of air and first aid in the day time, and we kept on doing things just as we had before. There never had been a special man for that before the strike started, and after the strike and [REDACTED] left, no one else was hired to do that kind of work. I knew [REDACTED]. He was supposed to be a timberman. He did a little timbering, but not much. All I ever saw him or [REDACTED] do was go around and talk to the men. [REDACTED], were working there. They spent a lot of time in the mine talking to the men and I thought that they must be organizing. The only favoritism that I saw of the company, in helping one union over the other was that the company seemed to favor these men, and let them spend time in the mine to help organize for the United Mine Workers. I did not see anyone beaten, or threatened in any way, although I heard that was being done.

"Cudge Baumgardner, and Jimmy Hale asked me if I was going to join the United Mine Workers. I told them that I would, but I put it off for quite a while because the men who I rode with were pretty much set against joining the UMW, and I did not want to be the only one in the car. Finally, [REDACTED] asked me when I was going to sign up, and I signed up with him. That was pretty late in the organizing out there, but was shortly before the second election. I joined up with the UMW because I could see that the mine was going to be UMW and I would have to join up to keep my job. It looked to me like the men were all switching, so I did too. I would just as soon have stayed in the Progressive Mine Workers, but it did not make too much difference to me which Union I belonged to. If things had

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

been different out there, I would have preferred to stay in the P.M. No one in the P.M. ever asked me to do anything that I did not want to do. I liked that union.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Special Agents F B I"

(C) (W) 006475

DE. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and is a naturalized citizen. He has been in the mines all of his life. He is presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #4. [REDACTED] would not make a good witness. He has good command of the English language, but he is unable to give a coherent description of events. He have information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

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

"I worked at Mine B from soon after the last war until about 1941. I was a member of the United Mine Workers before 1932 and joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was a member of that Union all the time that I stayed at Mine B, and I am still a member of the Progressive Mine Workers. I have always liked the Progressives, the local and the International. I never wanted to change to the United Mine Workers. Most of the men at Mine B were satisfied with the PMW of A.

"I voted in the election at the mine in 1937. No one told me how to vote or made me do anything that I did not want to do. It was a fair election, and I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"Then the mine reopened. I went back to work. [REDACTED]

I could have argued about it, but I did not want to work there any more under the United Mine Workers, and so I did not argue about it. When I went back after my pay [REDACTED] and another man I do not know beat me up and kicked my ribs in. I never got my pay. //

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

F.B.I.

006476

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b2d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of August 27, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] and was naturalized years ago through his father. He is presently employed as a miner at Mine "B". [REDACTED] stated that he could not read well. He, however, understands English well, and speaks English well. He is a little slow and his mentality may be somewhat dulled. He is very definite in the things that he does remember and would be stubborn enough to withstand cross-examination. He would make a fairly good appearance on the witness stand. It is believed that he would make as good a witness as the average miner. Upon interview he executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

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

"I have been working in Mines A and E since [REDACTED] I worked from A over into B, and have stayed at B ever since. I joined the United Mine Workers, and was a committee man on this union in [REDACTED] In 1932 I went over with the rest of the men at Mine B into the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was not involved in organizing the Progressive Mine Workers, but I was glad to go over into the new union. After that things went better. Things were better after that. I never was an officer of the Progressive Mine Workers, but I attended meetings about once a month. About 50 to 100 men attended meetings regularly. On special meetings a lot more men came to the meetings.

"I do not recall any trouble with the unions with Elshoff. I guess he got along alright with both the UMW and the PMW.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers. I liked the union. I had no complaints about the way it was being run, nor about the assessments, check offs or anything else. I think most of the men at the mine liked the PMW of A except about 12 men who wanted to change the mine over to the United Mine Workers.

"I recall that before the strike in May 1937 there had been some slow ups. I do not know what they were caused by, unless it was that there was not enough orders for the coal. There was no dissatisfaction among the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

men about the wages then. I attended the meeting of the union held the night before the strike. It was a special meeting. I do not recall exactly how many men were at that meeting. I do not remember exactly what it was that they decided that night. There was some talk about having some men fired from the company, and some talk about short cars. I know I went to work the next day, and did not know that there was going to be a strike. There were short cars coming up that day, because the men would not leave a car in the room long enough to let it get filled up. I did not come up until about quitting time, and then learned that a strike had been called. I was told what the strike was for, but I do not remember exactly what they told me. I went home that night, and came back to the mine for a couple of days after that but did not work. I do not remember whether I signed any papers for either union at that time or not.

"I could not get any other job, and stayed at home. I remember when they had some trouble at the mine in September. I do not recall exactly what happened or what it was supposed to be about, but I know I went out to the mine. I did not expect to work that day, and there was something said about going down if those 12 men who had been wanting the United Mine Workers went to work. These men had never talked to me. I do not know what they said. Someone else told me that they wanted the United Mine Workers. I did not want to, and wanted to stay in the Progressive Mine Workers.

"After that day we had a picket line and stayed out there by the mine until the marshall came out with an injunction and told us to leave the property. I stayed out there part of the time. A little after the injunction there was an election. I voted in that election, and voted exactly as I wanted to. No one told me how to vote, or threatened me in any way. No one told me how to vote. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"Until the time that the mine reopened I did not have any work. I did not know of any time that they started to open the mine. If they had tried to open the mine I would have heard of it, and would have gone back to work, but I never heard of it at all.

"When I went back to work, which was the first day that the mine was opened, I did not see any evidence of any big fire. There had been some cave ins. Some of them were pretty bad, and they have not opened them up even yet. There were some that took two or three weeks to clean up.

"When I went back to work at Mine B, I still belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers. There were some men working in the mine who did not do anything but go around and talk to the men about joining the United Mine Workers. [REDACTED] was one of those men. He never talked to me. He did not seem to do any work. He just talked to the men. They called him an air check man. In all the years that I was at the mine, he was the first

006478

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] aircheck man they ever had. Before that the man did that at night. After [REDACTED] left the mine, about the time of the second election, they did not have any air check man. He was the only air check man we ever had at Mine B. I do not know if there were any other men there.

"No one ever threatened me, beat me, stole my tools, put dirt on my cars, or took the tags off of my cars, but I heard that that was being done. I knew some of the men got beaten.

[REDACTED] and some other fellows there asked me to join the United Mine Workers. I told them that I would not, and that I would wait until the very last chance before I would change to the United Mine Workers. I did not join the United Mine workers until after the second election, and they told us then that we had until the 16th to join or we would have to pay \$25 to get into the United Mine Workers. I do not remember who it was who told me that. I waited until the last day and then joined the United Mine Workers. I joined the UMW because I had to in order to work in the mine. I did not want to join. I voted in the second election, exactly as I wanted to. No one threatened me or told me how to vote. Both of the elections were fair and honest elections as far as I know.

"I did not want to join the United Mine Workers. I would go back to the Progressives now if I could, because working conditions were better than than they are now under the UMW. I had no choice but to join the UMW, or lose my home, so I joined the UMW and am a member now. I go to the meetings about once a month.

"The above statement on this page and three other pages have been read to me by [REDACTED]. It is all true and accurate.

K.V. (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed) FBI."

(C) (C) 306479

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

67C 67D

*Big
max J. R.*

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, [REDACTED] on the afternoon of August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born at [REDACTED] He is presently employed at Mine [REDACTED] near Springfield, Ill. [REDACTED] would make an excellent witness for what information he does have. He has good command of the English language; can express himself clearly; makes a good appearance, and appears to be quite intelligent. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

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

"I have been in the mines all of my life. Prior to 1932 I was a member of the United Mine Workers, but in 1932 I joined up with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was unable to get back into the mine that I had been working at because I was a P.M.W. of a member. I did not get a job at Mine B until about 1934. I worked at Mine B until the time of the strike in 1937. I was a member of the union, but did not go to the meetings too often.

"I did not know much about what was going on at the mine. I was not particularly interested in the union matters. I was satisfied with the way that the Progressive union was being operated, and did not want to change unions. I did not particularly care, but I would not have changed as long as the majority were P.M.W. of A. At that time it seemed to me that almost all of the men were satisfied with the Progressive Union.

"I had heard that there was talk about being a strike, but I had not been at any of the meetings just before the strike, and when it was called I was surprised, and did not know anything about it. On the day that the mine went out on strike, some of the men were loading short cars of coal. I heard afterwards that they were objecting to

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

67c 67d
working with some men in the mine who wanted the United Mine Workers. I did not particularly care.

"When the mine went out on strike, I did not come back I got a job with the city almost right away and stayed with the city during almost all the time that the mine was on strike. I did not go out and picket, but I did visit some of the men who were out at the mine on the top when they were occupying the mine property.

"I voted in the election of the unions in December 1937. No one told me how to vote, or threatened me in any way. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote at that time. I voted for the Progressive Mine Workers of America at that time because I preferred that Union at that time.

"I did not go to Mine A until about December 1941. At that time Mine A was a UMW mine, and I joined the UMW because that union was at the mine. I had not voted at any other election at Mine B because I was not working there.

"I am now a member of the United Mine Workers because I now prefer this union. No one connected with P.M.W ever threatened me, or bothered me in any way.

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

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

(C) - (O)

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c
b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born at [REDACTED]. He has been in the coal mines all of his life. [REDACTED] He is not considered by interviewing agents as a good witness due to his weak voice, and apparent disinterest in what occurred at the mine. Upon being interviewed he executed the following signed statement:

Springfield, Ill
August 28, 1943

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

"I have worked at Mine B for many years. I do not recall when I first started there, but I was working there as a United Mine Worker when the Progressive Mine Workers were organized. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers then - I never was an officer of any union, and did not attend the meetings of the union very often. I was always satisfied with the way the Progressive Mine Workers were being run. I never wanted to change to any other Union."

"I last worked at Mine B on May 12, 1937. I do not recall what it was that caused the strike. I was not interested in what was going on, and did not pay much attention to anyone. I just worked. I did not hear much about it. I do not recall ever signing any petitions for any union after the strike. I was out at the mine on the picket line for a while in the fall of 1937. I voted in the election held down town about which Union I wanted at the mine. This was a fair election. No one told me how to vote. I voted exactly as I wanted to at that election. I never went back to work at Mine B when the mine was reopened."

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

[REDACTED]
F. B. I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on August 27, 1943, at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. [REDACTED] was present during the interview.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] his memory is failing him and that he can recall incidents of years ago only with much time and effort. [REDACTED] was cooperative but exhibited a fear of "union ruffians". [REDACTED] it is believed that he would not make a good witness. He advised that he has never been arrested.

The following is a signed statement taken from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

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

"At present I am residing at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I am not working [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized in Springfield, Ill., on [REDACTED].

"I first joined a union when I was working as a miner in the mines at [REDACTED] Ill., about [REDACTED]. This was the United Mine Workers union. I stayed in this union until I changed to the Progressive Mine Workers of America in [REDACTED]. I never was an officer of any union.

"I started to work at Mine B in [REDACTED]. From the time I started to work there until May 1937 there was no trouble at Mine B between the management and the miners to the best of my knowledge. I don't recall any efforts of the management to discredit the leadership of the P.M.A.

"As a member of the P.M.A. I attended the union meetings. I don't know of any member of the union feeling that the P.M.A. was run by racketeers. I do know that many miners felt that the P.M.A. was more considerate of its members than was the U.M.W.

"Prior to the strike which started in May 1937, I don't recall any pickets by U.M.W., or any propaganda being distributed by U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] I was working at Mine B on May 12, 1937, but I don't know what the true reasons for the strike were.

(Continued)

"After the strike was a few weeks old, I recall that I signed a P.M.A. petition. At this time I was in favor of the P.M.A. union.

"Some time later, I don't recall the exact date, I signed another petition which I had been led to believe was a petition of the P.M.A., but it really was a petition of the U.M.W. At that time I was living at 2029 N. 11th St., Springfield, Ill., One day two men, whose names I think are Tony Plotch and Joe Albanese came to my house. In the presence of my wife, they asked me if I wanted to work at Mine B. They said that I could not get work there unless I signed the petition which they had, and which they said they were taking from house to house for all miners to sign. They said they wanted me to sign the paper so the mine could reopen. The paper which they asked me to sign had the word "progressive" at the top of the page. The paper was one of a tablet. They talked me into signing the paper, and I did sign the paper not knowing that these men were really in favor of U.M.W., and not in favor of P.M.A. After I had signed the paper and they left the house, I learned from Joe Plumbo (PH), who is now dead, that these men were trying to break up the P.M.A. and were for U.M.W.

"In the fall of 1939 I recall that I signed another petition at the office of the P.M.A. At the mine I learned that I had been tricked into signing a petition for U.M.W. I did not like this because at this time I really favored the P.M.A.

"When I was living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., I recall that Tony Plotch and Joe Albanese came to my house again. They again told me that I would have to sign their paper to get work at Mine B. They told me that if I signed with them my son could also get a job at Mine B. At the end of the week they again returned to my house, at which time I signed my name to a paper which looked like a receipt. I knew that this was a membership receipt of the U.M.W., but I really did not want to sign it. The reason I did not want to sign the U.M.W. was because I was in favor of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I felt that I had to sign with the U.M.W. in order to get a job at Mine B, which job I needed very much because I had been on public relief. I had no choice in the matter. I either had to sign with the U.M.W. or go without work.

"I don't recall the exact time or place, but I do remember hearing that some of the money which was received by the U.M.W. from the fines imposed on members for "dirty coal" was being used to pay trouble makers at Mine B.

C O
Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d
INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"In the fall of 1937 I recall that I picketed Mine B for about 30 days. The purpose of this picket was to keep U.M.W. men out of the mine.

"In December 1937 I voted in the election at the State armory which election was sponsored by the National Labor Relations Board. I went to this election voluntarily. I don't recall how I received notice of the election. Nobody told me how to vote. I voted for the Progressive (P.L.A.) because I liked the Progressives better than the United Mine Workers. I felt that the P.L.A. was more considerate of its members than the U.M.W.

"When I returned to work at Mine B in 1939, I recall that some parts of the mine were in good shape, and others were in bad shape. I do not recall any fires at the mine after I returned.

"After I returned to Mine B in 1939, there was some trouble at the mine. I recall that one day I was fined \$5.65 for sending up dirty coal. For several weeks after this I received fines almost as large as this for dirty coal. I feel that someone was dirtying my coal because I have always been a careful worker, and never before had been fined such large amounts, never over one dollar. This trouble at the mine was in contrast to the quiet working conditions that had prevailed at the mine prior to the strike in 1937. There was no trouble that I recall prior to 1937.

If I had voted at this time, I would have voted for the United Mine Workers because I was afraid to vote for the P.L.A. I was afraid of losing my job. I also was afraid that I would be given a poor room in which to work. Prior to February I had been given good rooms, and the track was always laid close to the wall. However, just before I got sick, I was given a bad room in which to work, and on several occasions the track was not laid close to the wall. Because of these conditions I feel that I would have been compelled to vote for U.M.W. in the hope that the conditions would be changed for my benefit.

"Even after I was a member of U.M.W., I continued to get bad rooms in which to work. I don't know why these rooms were given to me.

"This statement consisting of this and three other pages

C - 1 - 76985
Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] has been read to me, [REDACTED] I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I have read this statement also.

/S/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

The following is a signed statement taken from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

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

"Some time late in 1939 I heard [REDACTED] (PH), wife of [REDACTED], who resides on [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., say that Dominic Pasquale had received \$500.00 from the United Mine Workers for his actions in stirring up trouble at Mine B. Because of his accepting this money, Dominic's family had nothing to do with him. I also heard about this incident from other sources, but I can't remember when or where. I recall that similar information was received by me concerning Tony Plotch.

"After the trouble at Mine B in 1937 my husband, [REDACTED] was afraid that something would happen to him. When Tony Plotch and Joe Albancse talked with him in 1937, and later when he joined the U.M.W., they inferred that he had to join the U.M.W. for his own safety. My husband never has been in trouble, and did not want to get into trouble with these men.

"I have read this statement of one page and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/S/ [REDACTED]

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

00648

006486

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b2d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at the home of his father where he is presently residing, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of August 27, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is an American citizen, having been born in Illinois on January 13, 1912. He is presently employed as [REDACTED] of Mine B. [REDACTED] is apparently a rather intelligent individual. He seemed to know what the scope of the investigation was and know what kind of answers he should give. Interviewing agents had some doubt as to the veracity of his statements, but he could not be wavering from the story as set forth. He is quick and firm in his opinion. He was unable to recall events which, [REDACTED], it would seem that he should have recalled. He would make a good witness because of his appearance, his ability to express himself and he would be very difficult to confuse on cross-examination. At the time of the interview, he executed the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

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

"I was first employed at Mine B in [REDACTED]. At that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers because I had to belong to that Union in order to work. In 1932 the Progressives were formed and I joined that Union. I did not know much about what was happening, and was willing to join the Progressive Mine Workers of America in order to work. At that time I did not care much which Union I belonged to, just so I could work. In fact, that is the way I feel today. I don't care which one I belong to now, if I can work.

[REDACTED]

"Before 1932 there was no trouble at the mine that I know of. After 1932 things went pretty well at the mine with the Progressive Mine Workers. Some of the men were complaining about the large assessments that the Progressives were making. They thought that the assessments and

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

deductions were too much. Some of them complained about the State officers of the PMU of A, saying that although they were only supposed to hold office for two years, that the same men kept control of the Union by switching offices. There was no complaint about the way the local was being run. It was not a racket run outfit. I was pretty well satisfied with the way the Progressive Union was being run. I went to the meetings. There was not a great deal of trouble at the meetings. Not many men went to the meetings, unless it was a special meeting, but there was no complaint that the local was not being run by the men themselves.

"Before the strike I was satisfied with the way the Progressive Mine Workers were working, and the operation of the local. It did not make much difference to me, though, which Union I belonged to. In fact, when they had an election in December 1937 as to which Union we wanted, I voted for the United Mine Workers.

I voted for the United because I thought it would be a better union. The assessments were less, and did not come as often. That is the reason I decided that I would rather belong to the UMW. That election in December 1937 was a fair election. No one told me how to vote, or made any threats or requests of me in any way. I voted just as I pleased at that election.

"At the meetings of the PMW local, there was no complaint. There were a few personal fights among members once in a while, sometimes over things that arose in connection with the union business, but there was no compulsion, or anyone making anyone do anything that they did not want to do at any of these meetings. No one was forced to attend or do anything that they did not want to do. Before the strike I did not hear anyone complain particularly about the PMW. I did not hear anyone say anything about switching Unions. I know that several men were tried by the Union for saying things against the Union. I did not hear them say anything though. These men were tried one or two at a time. I do not know how long before the strike they were tried, nor if all of them had been tried before the strike. I do not know exactly who the men were who were tried and kicked out of the union before the strike. I know that Frank Austin, Tony Flotch, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Cotton Annias, Emory Jacoby, Charley Bohannon, and Jimmy Hale were kicked out before the strike. I am not sure who else was tried. I did not hear any of these men say anything about switching Unions.

"I remember the days before the strike fairly well. The strike occurred on May 12, 1937. There was some discussion at the mine about a contract. I do not recall exactly what it was, but a few days before the strike actually started there was some talk about a strike then. I recall that Oscar Falcetti called me and asked

06488

06484

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

me to read a statement to the men. He asked me [REDACTED] I guess. [REDACTED] was there at that time. I asked him if it was alright if I read it. He said that it was and if I recall his name was signed at the bottom. I do not remember what was on the paper that I read, but it had something to do with the contract. After I read it the men all went back to work.

"The night before the strike, or shortly before the strike there was a meeting of the local. I think this was a special meeting. It was so long ago, that I do not recall exactly what went on. There was a fairly large bunch of fellows there that night. They did not try any men, they had all been tried before. I was at the meeting and they decided that they would not go back to work as long as the men who had been tried and kicked out of the Union were still at work. I remember that there was some discussion at that time. I do not remember exactly what happened, but I think the men decided to go to work the next day. I know we did. I was working, and had filled one car full. One of the drivers told me that they were not filling full cars that day, and I told him that if I couldn't fill a car I wouldn't work. I left and started home. I was on top when [REDACTED] called the strike. I went home. I think the trouble was over the firing of those men who had been kicked out of the Union. I recall vaguely that Oscar Falcetti told a group of the men while I was there that he would not fire these men until he got some more information on the Wagner act. I do not recall if that was the day of the strike or the day before.

"After the strike, I went home. I went back to work the next day, but none of the men were working so I went on home. I went out the next couple of days after the strike. While I was out there I signed some papers for the Progressives, I think. I remember signing something. I know that I did not sign anything for the United Mine Workers. I was a member of the Progressives at that time. I wanted them to get back to work as soon as they could. I was dissatisfied with the deductions, but I was not doing anything about switching Unions or causing any discussion among the men. I was satisfied to stay in the Progressives if I could get back to work. After a few days I quit going out to the mine, and started looking for another job. I did not take part in any discussions that were going on that summer.

[REDACTED] I had a job, and I did not think that they would be working because there was a picket line. After the men stayed out there, I went out with them and stayed out there at night for a while.

[REDACTED] and then men tried to talk me into staying there at the mine at night, telling me [REDACTED] and that it was my duty. I was not threatened or anything for not staying, the men just tried to talk men into staying there. After the job was over I went back out to the mine.

(O) 006485 006431

Re: SETH L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I did not try to go back to work at mine B at any other time until the mine was opened in 1939. I did not know that they ever tried to open the mine again. I know I did not hear about it. I was not working most of that time and would have gone back to work if they had tried to open the mine.

"I voted in the election a few days after the injunction was given to us. I voted for the United Mine Workers, but no one tried to tell me how to vote. It was a fair election. No one threatened me or anyone else that I know of. I voted just as to how I wanted.

"During 1938 I got a job at the [REDACTED] mine for a few weeks. That was a UMW mine, and I joined the UMW then. After I quit working at the [REDACTED] mine I had my membership in the UMW switched over to the local 7469 of the UMW AT mine B. [REDACTED]

"When I went back to work at mine B, which was the first day of the opening, I went right back to work at the same place that I had been working before. There was no evidence of a big cave in or fire in the mine in that part. There were a few small cave ins, but the mine in that part was pretty well kept up. There had been a big cave in on the South side of the mine, but that was never fixed up. In fact, it has not been fixed up even now. [REDACTED] I know that it has not been repaired yet. It is all blocked off now, and no one can get close to the cave in because of the black damp.

"I was a member of the UMW all the time after I went back to work at Mine B. I did not see anyone beaten or threatened. I did not pay much attention to what was going on at the mine during that time. I do not know of any organizing that was being done in the mine. I did not talk to anyone about the union, ask anyone to change or etc. My brother and father were working out there. They did not switch unions and nothing was done to either of them.

"I have read the above statement on this page and five other pages. It is all true and accurate. I was never threatened or mistreated in any way by either of the unions at Mine B. I never cared much which Union I belonged to. I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

when I was a member of that union. I am satisfied with the United Mine Workers now.

(continued)

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)

F.B.I.

[REDACTED] (signed) FBI"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, Springfield, Illinois, in the presence of and with the assistance of [REDACTED] interpreter. The interview was conducted on the morning of August 27, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] and is a naturalized citizen. [REDACTED] He cannot understand English well. He cannot speak English well. He is ill and professed lapses of memory. He is not believed to be a good potential witness. Upon interview he executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,
August 27, 1943.

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

"I worked at mine B from [REDACTED] until sometime in [REDACTED] I belonged to both the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers while I was working there.

[REDACTED] I never went to any union meeting. I was always satisfied with the unions. When I was a member of the United Mine Workers I was satisfied. When I was a member of the Progressive Mine workers I was satisfied. I did not care which union I belonged to. I voted in the election in 1937. I also voted in the election in 1941. No one ever told me to how to vote. I voted just as I pleased. Both of them were fair elections as far as I know.

[REDACTED] has read the above statement over to me. It is true and accurate.

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

006492
-06481

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence by Agents [REDACTED]
and [REDACTED] on August 30, 1943. He was a willing
talker, and cooperated. He admitted no criminal record. It is believed
he would be a satisfactory witness.

The following is a signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. I [REDACTED] do not work. I was born in [REDACTED]. I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized in a Federal court in Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED]. My certificate of naturalization is numbered [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was a member of the United Mine Workers. When I came to the United States, I was a member of the U.M.W. in the United States without having to pay any extra dues. I stayed in the U.M.W. union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America union in 1932. I stayed in this union until 1940 when I rejoined the U.M.W.

"I began to work in Mine B about [REDACTED]. I took no part in the formation of the P.M.A. at Mine B. If the majority of the miners at Mine B were in favor of the P.M.A., that was satisfactory with me. It made no difference to me to which union I belonged. I just wanted to work so that I could make money to support me and my family.

"I don't remember any trouble at Mine B from 1932 to 1937 between the P.M.A. and the management of the mine. I don't think there was any trouble in the P.M.A. I did not attend many union meetings because I was not very much interested in union activities. Whatever the majority of the miners decided to do with O.K. with me.

Prior to 1937 I don't remember that any person asked me to join the U.M.W. I don't know of the activities of any persons who might have tried to get members for the U.M.W.

"I don't know the reasons for the strike in 1937. I did not attend the P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike, and I don't

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

006493

006481

b7C
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

remember if I knew about the meeting. On the day of the strike, I walked out with the rest of the miners because I wanted to be with the majority of the miners. I don't remember if I signed a P.M.A. petition in 1937, nor do I remember signing any petitions for any union. No one asked me to join the U.M.W. that year, and no one threatened me in an attempt to make me join the U.M.W. I did not picket Mine B in the fall of 1937 because I did not want to get into any trouble. I wanted to stay away until everything was settled.

"I recall that someone told me about an election in December 1937, but I don't remember if I voted in the election. I don't know how I would have voted in the election, but I probably would have voted with the majority in favor of the P.M.A."

"I don't remember getting any notices of the reopening of Mine B except the last notice. I did not go up to the mine because of the fighting that was going on between the members of P.M.A. and U.M.W."

"I went back to work in Mine B, as I recall, in 1939. After I returned to work I saw a man in the mine who was known as an "air checker." I don't remember his name. This man was permitted to go all through the mine in his job. As he did so, he talked to the miners trying to get them to join the U.M.W. He did not ask me to join the U.M.W., and I can't remember the names of the miners who told me what he was doing. Prior to the strike in 1937 there was no "air checker" in Mine B. I think that this man was only trying to get members for U.M.W. I think his name was [REDACTED]

"I rejoined the U.M.W. some time in the fall of 1940, as I recall. Then my wife died in [REDACTED] I went to the P.M.A. officials and asked them if they would help me pay for [REDACTED] They told me that they did not have any money to help me. They also told me that they could not do this because I had not paid any P.M.A. dues. The Mine B company had not checked off mine dues for either union, as I recall.

"Some time in 1940 Dominic Pasquale came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.W. He told me that if I would join the U.M.W. [REDACTED]

I joined the U.M.W. and they paid me \$100.00 with a check. I deposited the check to my account in the First National Bank of Springfield which is located on 5th St., in Springfield, Ill.

"From the time the mine opened in 1939 until the election in 1941 I saw no trouble at the mine. I heard that some men were beaten up,

06494 20648
Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(continued)

b7D
but I don't know anything about the reasons for these beatings. I don't know the names of any of the persons involved in these beatings. In the election of 1941 I voted for the U.M.W.

"I prefer the U.M.W. because that union took care of me when the P.M.A. refused to help me. If the U.M.W. had not helped me [REDACTED] I think that I would have no preference as to what union to belong to. Unions are all alike to me; one seems to be as good as any other.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence, on August 29, 1943, by agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He gave information freely and willingly, and said he would be willing to testify, however, it is not believed he would be a satisfactory witness. He admits no criminal record.

The following signed statement was taken from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943

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

"At present I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I was born in [REDACTED] I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized on [REDACTED]

"I first joined a mine union when I joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] I first started to work at Mine B about 1926 or 1927. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. in 1940. At no time have I ever been an officer of any union.

"As long as I have worked in the mines it has made no difference to me as to which union I belonged to. I always have been interested in making a living, and have not taken much interest in union activities. I have tried to vote with the majority of the workers so that we would always be able to work.

"In 1937 I voted for the P.M.A. because I thought that the majority of the miners wanted that union. In 1941 I changed my vote to U.M.W. because at that time I thought the majority of the miners wanted that union. Some of the men had said that under the P.M.A. Mine B had remained closed, and they also said that under U.M.W. the mine would reopen. They said that if the U.M.W. got the majority of the miners, the mine would stay open. I don't remember the names of the men who were saying these things.

"I don't remember signing any P.M.A. petition in 1937. I was not interested in union affairs. I don't recall that I went to a meeting of P.M.A. on the night before the strike started in 1937. On the day of the strike all that I remember is that the men did not go into the mine. I

006496

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C
b7D

[REDACTED] don't know why the miners struck that day.

(continued) "I don't recall that anyone of the U.M.W. tried to get me to join that union in the summer of 1937. I remember that I was in the picket line at Mine B in the fall of 1937. I did not have to go to the picket line. I went because I wanted to, and because I had nothing else to do. I went to the picket line a couple of times with men from my neighborhood. I think that only Mine B men were doing the picketing. There were no outsiders."

"As I recall, I joined the U.M.W. about 5 or 6 months after I went to work in Mine B in 1940. No one forced me to join the U.M.W., but I felt that if I wanted to work in Mine B, I would have to be a member of U.M.W."

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

[REDACTED]
Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C

b7D

CJ
Notes
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Spring-
field, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
Springfield, Illinois.

This witness has a very difficult time understanding English and
cannot express himself in English. [REDACTED] would not make a good witness
because of his difficulty with English. [REDACTED] advises he does not have a
criminal record. [REDACTED] telephone number is [REDACTED]

Following is a signed statement obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 26, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED]. I emmigrated to the U.S.
from [REDACTED] and I was naturalized as a citizen of the U.S. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I am employed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was employed in a coal mine in [REDACTED] as a member of
UMW and worked in several mines in [REDACTED] as a member of UMW from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was employed in a coal mine in Springfield,
Ill. as a UMW and worked in several coal mines in Springfield, Ill. up until
[REDACTED] when I was employed as a miner at Mine "B", Springfield, Ill.
as a member of UMW.

"In September 1932 I became a member of PMA because the local UMW
union wanted to change to PMA.

"I have never held any offices in any union and never took an
active part in any union.

"Prior to September 1932 the management seemed to be getting along
with UMW and after the mine, Mine "B", changed over to PMA the management
of Mine "B" seemed to have no difficulty with PMA until May 12, 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

b7C
b7D

"There were no strikes or close-downs at Mine "B" between September 1932 and May 12, 1937. Neither FALCETTI or ELSHOFF of Mine "B" mentioned to me or showed any partiality toward UMW. The management of Mine "B" so far as I know never showed any hostile attitude in settling grievances between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937.

"I and other members of PMA I know, felt that PMA was an honest union, not being operated as a racket, no measures of compulsion were used to force me to be a member of PMA. PMA did not make any unusual special assessments and so far as I know there was no kick-back to local PMA officials. I knew of the bombing cases, but I do not know how other members felt toward the conviction of PMA members. I took no interest in the case.

"Between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937, UMW never set up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did UMW distribute any literature at the mine. No one talked to me between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 in an effort to convert me from a member of PMA to UMW.

"I never saw or heard of any association between the management of Mine "B" and UMW officials between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937.

"In the spring of 1937 I did not know of any controversy about the wage scale at Mine "B", so far as I know employees at Mine "B" were satisfied with the wage scale at Mine "B" in the Spring of 1937 and no one made any mention to me about it.

"I do not remember a meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937 and could not say if I was notified of a meeting that night or not.

"On the afternoon of May 12, 1937 I was told by someone to stop work as there was a disagreement between PMA and the management of Mine "B" about the union contract. I do not know what the disagreement was nor can I furnish any information as to why the mine closed May 12, 1937.

"I do not know anything about five UMW spies being expelled from PMA.

"I did not load any coal cars short on May 12, 1937, on purpose, nor did I see any other miners loading coal cars short on May 12, 1937, on purpose.

"I did not know of an intended strike on May 12, 1937.

"I cannot say whether I signed a PMA petition of May 26, 1937 or not as I cannot remember such a petition,

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b1c b2D

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I did not sign any UMW petition or any "Wildcat" petition in the summer of 1937.

"I did not know of the formation of UMW local 7469, July 29, 1937. No one attempted to get me to become a member of UMW in the summer of 1937.

"I may have attended some PMA meetings in the summer of 1937 but I did not take an active part. So far as I know there was no violence in the Summer of 1937.

"I was informed by an agent of PMA that Mine "B" was to open. I do not know the date but it was sometime in September, 1937. I reported for work that morning and was told by some of the miners that Mine "B" officials had made the statement that anyone who wanted to work would have to be a member of UMW. I do not know the names of the miners who furnished me the information. I remained at the mine that particular morning as a picket and returned for a few hours the following morning as a picket. So far as I know PMA did not import any outsiders as pickets. I did not act as a picket but for the first two days after Mine "B" was to have opened in Sept. 1937. I did not see any violence at the mine nor did anyone threaten me if I did not act as a picket.

"I do not know anything about an attempt to open Mine "B" Dec. 13, 1937. I was not notified that the mine was to have been opened.

"I do not know anything about a Federal Court injunction Dec. 9, 1937.

"On Dec. 15, 1937 the NLRB held an election to determine if Mine "B" should have been a UMW mine or a PMA mine. I voted PMA as I was satisfied with the union. So far as I know the election was fair and no one was threatened if they did not vote PMA. I went to vote at my own free will, no one carried me to the election or told me that I was to vote.

"I do not remember an attempt to re-open Mine "B" Jan. 4, 1938 and do not know if I received notice that the mine was to open on that date.

"I do not know if I attended any PMA meetings between Jan. 1938 and Nov. 1939, so far as I know there was no violence during that period of time.

"I received notice in Nov. 1939 that Mine "B" was to open and I returned to work a few days later. I do not know whether there was any question as to the wage scale when I returned to work or not. I do not know the attitude of PMA members because they could not get a contract. I did not care whether the mine was an open shop or a closed shop.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c *b7D*

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

to Nov. 1939.

"When I returned to the mine, Mine "B", in Nov. 1939 there were many cave-ins in Mine "B", I heard of only two small fires in Mine "B" subsequent to Nov. 1939 but I did not hear of or see any large fires subsequent

"Between Nov. 6, 1939, and Feb. 21, 1941 no one threatened me or attempted to persuade me to become a member of UMW or to remain a member of PMA.

"In the summer of 1940 a man the name of whom I do not know, informed me that I have to join UMW as the mine was to become a UMW mine. I knew I would have to become a member of UMW in order to work at Mine "B" as I heard many others were joining UMW and I heard violence was being used against PMA members because they did not join UMW. I never saw any violence and never saw any fights. On one occasion I heard a man hollered when UMW members were beating him, but I did not see the fight and could not furnish the names of the persons fighting. In the summer of 1940 I joined the UMW to prevent any violence being used against me by UMW members. I stopped paying dues to PMA when I joined UMW.

"I voted at the election Feb. 21, 1941 for PMA because I was satisfied with PMA before UMW attempted to organize Mine "B". So far as I know the election was fair. I did not see any violence during the election.

"I am unable to say whether the management of Mine "B" favored UMW or PMA.

"Up until the summer of 1941 I had good rooms to work in, but in the Summer of 1941 I got a bad room. I complained to the Board Members of UMW, the name of whom I do not know about the room at which time he told me that I was in sympathy with PMA and he would not help me get a good room.

"In [REDACTED] I stopped working at Mine "B" as I was tired of working in a coal mine and not because of the bad rooms I was getting.

"This statement was read to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on August 27, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He gave information willingly, but because of the limitation of his knowledge, it is not believed he would be a good witness. He stated he has never been arrested.

Following is a signed statement obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and work at the Panther Creek Mine #5. I was born at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I came to the United States and was naturalized in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] I have never held an office in any union. In 1928 or 1929 I began to work in Mine B, and worked there until the strike in 1937. I returned to work in November, 1939, and stayed until [REDACTED] when I quit.

"I don't remember any trouble at Mine B from the time I began to work there until 1932, and don't know the reason for the trouble in that year. At that time the men started the Progressive Mine Workers union, and as most of the men seemed to want that union, I stuck with the majority. From 1932 until 1937 there was no trouble at Mine B, and I was satisfied with P.M.W. It made no difference to me which union, P.M.W. or U.M.W., covered the mine because I was satisfied with any union which satisfied the majority of the miners in the mine. All during this time the miners seemed satisfied with P.M.W.

"During the period between 1932 and 1937 I went to some of the P.M.W. meetings, but not very many of them. I did not go to the meeting the night before the strike in May of 1937, and I can't remember now whether I knew whether or not there was to be a meeting. I didn't know anything about any U.M.W. organizers in Mine B, and I don't know the reasons for the strike.

"I did not go to the mine on the morning of the strike because the day before Benny Sontocrossa had told me that the miners were going to strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

He did not say why they were going to strike. Benny is now dead.

"I had to support my family, so instead of going to the mine for the strike, I went out to look for another job.

"I don't remember signing any petition for the P.M.A. and I don't remember signing any petition for U.M.W., although I might have. I just can't remember. As I said before, I was agreeable to what the majority of the miners wanted and did not care if the U.M.W. came back or if the P.M.A. stayed in the mine.

"I don't remembor that I received any notice of the opening of the mine either in September or December, 1937. In December, 1937, I voted for the P.M.A. in an election at the State armory because I felt that was the union the majority of the miners wanted.

"In the fall of 1939 I received a letter from the mine operators advising that the mine was going to reopen in November. I went back to work in November, and was at that time a member of the P.M.A. Some time in 1940 or 1941, I think it was August, Joe Albanese and [REDACTED] came to see me at my home several times. They always came together. They told me that if I were smart and wanted to keep my job I should join the U.M.W. They showed me a long list of names of men who they said had already signed up with U.M.W. I agreed to join the U.M.W., and signed up with them at that time.

"In the election of February, 1941, I voted for the U.M.W. because I had signed up with that union, and because I thought the majority of the miners were in favor of that union. I had no preference for the U.M.W. at this time, but voted for them because I had been told that I would lose my job if I did not vote for U.M.W. I had nothing against the P.M.A. Joe Albanese and Dominic Bartolomeo were the men who told me to vote for U.M.W.

[REDACTED] when I came back to work at mine b, my face boos, [REDACTED] gave me a bad room. I examined the room, and when I saw that it was a bad room, I picked up my tools and quit my job. I don't know why I got the bad room because I had never caused any trouble with any of the men in the U.M.W..

[REDACTED] I began to work in the Panther Creek Mine where P.M.A. has a closed shop agreement, and I joined the P.M.A.

"This statement consisting of this and two other typewritten pages has been read to me by [REDACTED] and I state that it

006503

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

(continued)

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

Permit B.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 27, 1943, by Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] gave information willingly, but it is not believed he would be a good witness. He says he has no criminal record. The following signed statement was executed by him.

*Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943.

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

"At present I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., where my telephone number is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I came to the United States in [REDACTED], and was naturalized in Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

"In [REDACTED] I joined a local union in Pennsylvania where I was working in a coal mine. I do not remember the name of the union. I came to Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED] where I continued to work in the mines around Springfield. I joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED]. While in any union, I have never held any office. In 1932 I dropped my membership in the U.M.W. and joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. It did not make any difference to me to which union I belonged. I recall that in 1932 when we were allowed to vote as to the union which we preferred, I voted for the P.M.W.

"From 1932 to 1937 there were no strikes or trouble at Mine B to the best of my knowledge. I attended meetings of P.M.W. during this time. I would have been fined if I had not attended the meetings. All during this time I was quite satisfied with P.M.W. as a union, and with the men and officers of P.M.W. While I was a member of P.M.W. I know nothing about any attempts of the U.M.W. to organize the men from P.M.W. to U.M.W. No one ever asked me to join the U.M.W.

"From April 1, 1937, until the first of June, 1937, [REDACTED] and know nothing of the strike at Mine B until my wife wrote to me about it in a letter. I do not know any reasons for this strike. After the strike, I recall that I signed a U.M.W. paper, but I don't remember what the paper was about. I don't recall signing any paper for P.M.W. At that time it made no difference to me in which union I was a member.

006505

JOHN L. LEVIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"In the election that was held in December 1937 in the State arsenal, I recall that I voted for the P.M.A. union. Most of the miners were for P.M.A., and it did not make any difference to me which union was at the mine so I voted with the majority of miners. I voted for the Progressive Mine Workers also in 1939 for the same reason.

"In November 1939 I returned to work at Mine B, and at that time was a member of P.M.A. About 10 months later, as I recall, I changed over to the U.M.W. I recall that some of the men, whose names I don't recall, started talking about going back into the U.M.W. It seemed to me that most of the men wanted this union, so I went back to U.M.W. It made no difference to me. I had been satisfied with P.M.A. up to this time.

"This statement has been read to me [redacted] and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/s/ [redacted]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed on August 28, 1943, at his residence by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He stated he had never been arrested. He gave information freely and voluntarily, said he would be willing to testify and it is believed he would make an excellent witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Illinois
August 28, 1943

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

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

"I first joined a mine union in [REDACTED] when I joined the United Mine workers in Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED]. I was a member of this union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was not working in a mine when I joined the P.M.A. I joined that union because I felt that I wanted to belong to that union in case I started to work in the mines again. I started to work in Mine B, as I recall, in 1935. I was a member of P.M.A. until 1941 when I had to join the U.M.W.

[REDACTED]

"As far as I know the P.M.A. had no trouble with the management of Mine B from 1932 until 1937. As for myself, I was absolutely satisfied with the P.M.A. I was dissatisfied with the U.M.W. because I felt that John L. Lewis had not played fair with the members of that union. It seemed to me that he took all the money the miners made by means of assessments. Lewis and the U.M.W. said the miners would get back the money they paid in special assessments, but they never did. I believed at that time, and I still do believe, that the P.M.A. is a wonderful union. Whenever, the P.M.A. asked for a special assessment, which was not very often, the officers always explained just why the assessment was being asked. All of the men who were members of P.M.A. were fully satisfied with the union. If a man missed a P.M.A. union he was not fined, but in the U.M.W. union, a member

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] was fined 50¢ for each meeting missed. After the election of 1941 I was forced to join the U.M.W. to keep my job at Mine B. I joined because I had to and not because [REDACTED]
I wanted to. [REDACTED]

In all the time I was a member of the P.M.A. I attended many meetings and know that the P.M.A. always did everything in their power to help their members.

"From the time I began working at the mine until the strike in 1937, I did not know of any time when the U.M.W. set up a picket line, although I do remember of one or two occasions when a man stood at the highway by the entrance of the mine and passed out handbills, telling the men to join the U.M.W., and that they could join without paying an initiation fee and that they would get a cut on their dues for a certain period of time.

"In June of 1936 an election of officers for P.M.A. was held. Just before this election, 12 men, namely, Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale, all members of the P.M.A., had begun talking to the men and attempting to cause dissatisfaction with the P.M.A. to try to get the men to join the U.M.W. Approximately a year before the strike, because they were afraid that the above named men might be hurt, the Mine B company gave these men a separate wash room in the office building at Mine B. Some of these 12 men were drivers, some were company men, and some loaded coal. The drivers and the company men could get all over the mine and were in a position to talk to the miners and to agitate them to join the U.M.W.

"These 12 men were pretty thick with the management and were in with the management much of the time. They had the best of everything, and the diggers would get the best rooms. All of these men went around with Falcetti, and I know that they went out together. I heard that Falcetti was along at one time when some of these men tried to get miners to join the U.M.W., but I don't know if this is true or not.

"At the time the contract between the company and P.M.A. ended in 1937, the leaders of P.M.A. told the men that they had no contract, but that the men were working under an extension of the old contract until a new one could be signed. The members of P.M.A. were willing to do whatever the leaders thought was best. At this time there was some trouble about the back pay question, namely, the pay the men were to receive from April 1, 1937, until the new contract was signed at a higher scale. This question was finally settled, the union giving into the management, and agreeing that the wage scale would begin at the time the new contract was signed. The men were satisfied with this arrangement because they did not

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

want to make any trouble with the management and they did not pay any attention to the fact that the men working in U.M.W. mines got their raise in pay sooner, because the men in P.M.A. knew they were going to get a raise anyway. This matter was discussed at a P.M.A. meeting and the men said they were satisfied to let the leaders of P.M.A. work it out with the management. The wage scale and all other matters concerning the contract had been decided between the union and the management, and the men were just waiting for the management to sign the contract with P.M.A.

"On May 11, 1937, a notice was posted by the P.M.A. on the bulletin board at the mine, advising that a special meeting was to be held that night at Progressive Hall, 6th and Washington Streets, Springfield, Ill. This meeting was well attended, all the chairs being taken. Some of the members had to stand. I think there were about 450 men there. Although the notice did not say what the meeting was to be about, I had been told that the meeting was to ascertain what the members of the P.M.A. wanted to do about the 12 named men who were agitating for the U.M.W. Just prior to this time the company had stopped checking off dues for the P.M.A. for 12 men. The activities of the 12 men were well known to the P.M.A., and it was known that these were the 12 men whose dues were not checked off by the company. The meeting was called to draft a petition to the management saying that these 12 men should be forced to rejoin the P.M.A. or else be discharged from Mine B. The referendum vote on the petition resulted in a vote of all the men present for the petition. I believe that seven of the 12 men later agreed to rejoin the P.M.A. and their names were deleted from the petition. None of the 12 men was present at this meeting, although the notice was posted in the usual place and no restrictions were placed on the persons attending the meeting. I don't know how the seven men were advised of the action taken at this meeting.

"The next morning, upon arriving at Mine B, the petition was presented to Falcetti, and he was told that the remaining five men either had to rejoin the P.M.A. or be discharged from Mine B, because the P.M.A. men refused to work with two unions in the mine. Falcetti said that he would not fire the men, and that from that time on no dues for the P.M.A. would be checked off from the salaries of any of the men. When the management refused to fire the 5 men, the P.M.A. members began loading the cars short. This action had been decided upon at the meeting the night before and it was further decided at that meeting that if the loading of the cars short did not influence the management, the men would strike. The strike was called after the management refused to fire these five men.

"As far as I know this was the only reason for the strike. Nothing concerning the wage dispute had been mentioned, and I don't believe it had anything to do with the strike. We began to picket the mine because we did

006509

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

not want the 12 men to go to work until the sheriff came, and after he told us that no one would go to work in the mine until the trouble was settled, we went home.

"I don't remember signing the P.M.A. petition in May 1937, and I don't remember anything about it, although I might have signed it. I don't remember signing any petitions that summer.

"During the summer of 1937 [REDACTED] (Ph), a U.M.W. agitator brought up from the South, who had been brought up to work in the mines a couple of months before the strike, asked me several times to join the U.M.W. I saw him several times in Springfield, Ill., and he asked me at those times. One day during that summer, [REDACTED] came to my home in [REDACTED] and asked me to join the U.M.W. I don't remember anyone else asking me. I was not threatened in any way by these men.

"During the summer of 1937 the P.M.A. paid me my gasoline and meal expenses, and I went around trying to keep the members of P.M.A. together. I talked to them on the streets, and I saw them in their homes, trying to keep them in the P.M.A. We had P.M.A. meetings about once a week, and the officers reported to them what was going on. Most of the men felt that even though they were out of work, the officials of P.M.A. were trying to do the best they could for them, and that they should wait for word from the officials as to what should be done. As time went on however, and men could not get work, some of them began to sign up with the U.M.W. I talked to several of them after they had joined the U.M.W., and they said that they wished that they could still be in P.M.A.

"In September, 1937, I received a notice from Mine B, saying that the mine would reopen. Later I received another letter from Mine B, saying that a closed shop contract had been signed with the U.M.W. We had a special meeting of the P.M.A. at which we decided that if the management gave the contract to P.M.A. we would work the mine, and if they refused, we would picket the mine when it was reopened. The P.M.A. did this because we had a majority at that time. The men wanted to work and were ready to work, but when the management would not give the P.M.A. a contract, picketing began. This had been decided upon by a referendum vote of the P.M.A. members. I was a picket, and all of the pickets were men who had worked at Mine B. The men were all in agreement that they would not work under a U.M.W. contract.

"At the time of the Federal injunction I felt, and I believe that the majority of the men did likewise, that the purpose of it was to keep the men from going to work. I don't remember getting any notices in December 1937, or January 1938.

"In the election of December, 1937, held at the State armory, I voted P.M.A. because I believed then, as I do now, that the P.M.A. is the best

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
 [REDACTED]
 (continued)

b7C b7D
 union. I went to a window at the State armory, received a ballot, checked the union I preferred, and deposited the ballot in a box. I think the election was on the square because I think most of the men wanted the P.M.A. at that time.

"In November of 1939 I received a notice from P.M.A., or from Mine B, I don't remember which, that the mine was to reopen. I don't remember now that anything was said about the wages we were to receive. Most of the men I talked to were still satisfied with the P.M.A., but were mad at Elshoff because he would not sign a contract with P.M.A.

"When I returned to work in November, 1939, there was some fall in the mine, but I don't think it would have cost the company a lot of money to fix it. I don't remember any large fire or accident occurring since I returned to Mine B in November 1939.

"Between November 1939, and February 1941, when the U.M.W. gained a majority in the election I saw several men receive beatings, or rather the result of the beatings. Some of the men who were beaten were: [REDACTED] (Ph), and a man known as [REDACTED]. There were several others who were beaten, but I don't remember their names. Each one of the men told me that he was beaten because he did not want to join the U.M.W. Bohannon, [REDACTED] and Baumgardner, and several others were the men who beat these men. I myself was never threatened, or beaten for failing to join the U.M.W. After the election of February 1941, Bohannon and Falcetti told me that if I did not join the union (U.M.W.), I would not be allowed to go into Mine B that day. During this period I never heard the management of Mine B say or do anything that favored U.M.W., but I do know that U.M.W. men got better rooms, better jobs, and better treatment, than the P.M.A. men.

[REDACTED]
 I had several meetings with Elshoff, and although he treated me nicely, he would not cooperate with me or give me anything. Just before the election in February 1941, if I presented a grievance on the part of a P.M.A. man, Elshoff would not listen to me. I also had several conversations with Falcetti who acted the same as Elshoff. On one occasion when a P.M.A. man had his tools stolen, I went to Falcetti, and asked him to furnish or buy some more tools for this man as his tools had been stolen in the mine. Falcetti refused, and said 'I don't give the Progressives nothing. I'll give you everything if you will join the United Mine Workers. Why don't you join the United Mine Workers?'

"In the election of February 1941, when the mine went U.M.W., I know that the majority of the men who were P.M.A. voted U.M.W. because they

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

b7c b7D
were afraid that they would be beaten and harmed if they did not vote for U.M.W. Since that time in talking with the men I have been told by many that they still favor the P.M.A. I favor the P.M.A. because it is a square union, and the U.M.W. is not.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and 7 other typewritten pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

[REDACTED] (signed)

Witnesses:

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)
Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill."

006512

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield,
[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 30, 1943,
by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] professed to have a poor memory, and this seemed evident because
of the difficulty he had in remembering incidents at Mine B. It is not
believed that this man would make a good witness because of his memory and
his limited knowledge. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following is the signed statement obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 30, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as
Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I give this freely,
without any force or violence being used, and no promises made.

"I lived at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., and was
born in [REDACTED]. I came to this country in [REDACTED]
and became a naturalized citizen at Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED].

"I first joined a union in [REDACTED] the United Mine Workers, when I
was working in [REDACTED]. I became employed at Mine B in 1936, and joined
the Progressive Mine Workers of America at that time. I joined the P.M.A.
because they had a closed shop agreement, and I had to join to go to work.

"I was satisfied generally with the P.M.A., although to me, one
union is just like another. I didn't attend very many meetings, because
I wasn't especially interested. I don't remember attending a meeting of
the P.M.A. the night before the strike in May of 1937. I might have seen
the notice of the meeting, but don't remember it.

"I don't know the reason for the strike in May, 1937. I remember
that I was told a strike had been called, so I quit with the rest of the
men. I heard some talk before the strike, that some men were trying to
agitate the men into joining the U.M.W., and I don't know anything more
about it, and no one contacted me.

"I don't remember signing any petitions although I will not
say I did not, for I might have. Neither do I remember anyone trying to
get me to join the U.M.W.

"Then the P.M.A. picketed the Mine B in the fall of 1937, I
went to the picket line several times. I don't remember if I heard about
the picket line at a union meeting or if some of the men told me, but I do

006513

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(continued)

b7C
b7D
know that I was not forced to picket by threats or anything of that nature. I do not remember seeing anyone but U.M.W. men from Mine B on the picket line.

"In the election of December, 1937, at the arsenal, I voted for U.M.W. because most of the men seemed to be in favor of that union at that time. I did not join the U.M.W. until after the election which they won, the one in February of 1941. I voted for U.M.W. because the majority of the men seemed to favor it, and also because the general feeling was that the mine would not stay open unless U.M.W. won the election. I do not know where I heard this, nor who I heard it from, but that was the feeling that the majority of the men had. The management seemed to favor the U.M.W., but I can give no instances of such favoritism.

"I was not forced to join the U.M.W., but knew that if I wanted to keep my job at Mine B I would have to as far as I am concerned, one union is as good as another, and I have no preference. The U.M.W. has more money, and can pay larger benefits, but, generally speaking, I have no preference.

"I remember that, when we returned to work, one man had a job as air checker. I don't remember ever seeing one in the mine before the strike. I don't know if he was agitating the men to join U.M.W. or not.

"I have have read to me the foregoing, consisting of approximately three hand written pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the presence of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is blind, and seems to have lost much of his memory. He was unable to recall many of the events which happened while he was employed at Mine B. Because of his poor memory, and because [REDACTED] did not take much interest in union activities because of his inability to speak and understand English very well, it is believed that [REDACTED] would not make a good witness. No attempt was made to have [REDACTED] sign the statement set out below, which was read by [REDACTED] who said that it represents the facts as they are today. [REDACTED] could not concentrate on the reading of the statement to remember it.

The following statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.

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

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

"I don't recall when I first joined a mine union. It was many years ago. I never held an office in any union.

"I have worked at Mine B on several occasions, and I don't remember the exact dates that I worked there. I don't remember when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I joined this union because it had a closed shop agreement with Mine B. I have gone to very few union meetings.

"I was working at Mine B when the strike started in 1937, but I don't know the reasons for the strike. I don't remember signing any petition in the year 1937. I was not asked to join the U.M.W. that year.

"In the election held in December 1937, I did not vote because I was sick.

"I don't remember when I rejoined the United Mine Workers, but it was after I started back to work at Mine B after the mine was opened in 1939.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

b7C
b7D
"I joined the U.M.W. because I thought they would have a closed shop agreement with Mine B. I can't tell which union is better.

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

Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED] was not asked to sign the above statement because [REDACTED] who read it and said it was true so far as she knew, said that he would not listen to her read it because he did not understand English very well.

306516

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C
b7D

B-17
Intercepted by FBI - Springfield, Ill.
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] furnished his information in a cooperative manner. He admitted that he had been put in jail for drunkenness, but claimed to have no other criminal record. This admitted failing on part of [REDACTED] might injure his credibility as a witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. I was born at [REDACTED]. I am working at Panther Creek Mine #2.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [REDACTED] when I was working in Springfield, Ill. I stayed in this union until 1933 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. As I recall I began to work at Mine B some time in 1933. I quit working there in the first part of [REDACTED]. I have never held any office in any union. I had no part in the formation of P.M.A. I joined the P.M.A. when I started to work at Mine B. That union had a closed shop agreement with the mine company.

"As I recall there was no trouble at the mine between the management and the P.M.A. I liked the P.M.A. union better than the U.M.W. union because the P.M.A. treated me squarely and fairly. I was glad to join the P.M.A. because I did not like the way the U.M.W. had been taking so much of my wages in special assessments. I did not think that this was right.

"Before the strike started in 1937 I recall that there were some men trying to agitate for U.M.W. and to pull members from P.M.A. I remember that Frank Austin talked to me in Mine B. He said he was tired of P.M.A. and suggested that we join the U.M.W. I was not in favor of this and told Austin that I was satisfied with P.M.A. I also remember that Jimmy Hale talked to me in Mine B. He said that the U.M.W. had over 100 members, and that I might as well sign up with U.M.W. No one else ever said anything to me about U.M.W. before the strike in 1937.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH HENRY
(continued)

"I did not know much about the controversy over the wage scale. I went about my work, and was confident that the P.M.A. officials would take care of the miners. I knew that we were working under a temporary agreement which had been signed by the mine management with the P.M.A. It was an extension of the old agreement which the P.M.A. had. I understood that the extension was to last until the wage problem was settled.

"I did not go to many union meetings, and I don't remember going to the P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike started in 1937.

"On the day of the strike I worked part of the day in the mine. Then the strike was called. I don't know who called the strike. The reason for the strike was that the P.M.A. men refused to work with the U.M.W. men in the mine. It was satisfactory with me if the leaders of P.M.A. thought it was necessary to call a strike. In that part of the mine where I was working, I don't recall that any of the coal cars were being loaded short. I think that the only reason for the strike was the presence of the U.M.W. men in Mine B, and I think there was no concern over the wage issue.

"I signed the P.M.A. petition in May 1937. I don't remember why the petition was brought around. I also signed a membership card for P.M.A., but no other petitions. I never signed any petitions for U.M.W.

"During the summer of 1937 no U.M.W. man ever contacted me about joining that union.

"In the fall of 1937 I received a notice of the reopening of Mine B, but I did not go out to Mine B because I was working at Panther Creek Mine #2. I went out to Mine B once in a while at night and did a little picketing. I went out to the picket line because I wanted to and not because anybody forced me. I saw only local men in the picket line; no strangers.

"I don't know the attitude of the miners about the Federal injunction in the fall of 1937. I felt that Elshoff got the injunction to keep the men off of his property.

"I did not go out to the mine on any of the attempted reopenings except the one when the mine did open in 1939.

"In the election of December 1937 I voted for P.M.A. because I felt that the P.M.A. had treated me fairly, and I did not want to go back to U.M.W. I think that most of the miners in Mine B felt the same way as I did.

"In 1939 I think I received a notice from the management that the mine would reopen, and advising me as to when I should come back to work. At this time I was still in the P.M.A. union.

P.O. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b2D

INTERVIEW WITH HENRY [REDACTED] "After the mine reopened I stayed at Mine B only a couple of months. I could not get along with (continued) Charles Bohannon. Bohannon and John Sirtout were given fast mules in Mine B, and I was given a slow mule. Because my mule was slow I could not keep up with Bohannon and Sirtout, and because I was slow I always caught "hell" from the boss. Neither Bohannon or Sirtout ever tried to get me to join U.M.W. However, both of them did everything they could to make me look bad in my job, and get me fired. I think that they saw to it that I got the worst mules and the dirtiest jobs, while they obtained the easy jobs for themselves. Bohannon, Sirtout, and Carter would lay off 2,3, or 4 days at a time and nothing would happen to them. One time I laid off one day and Falcetti told me that if that ever happened again I would be fired. After a couple of months I became fed up with Mine B, quit, and went to work at Panther Creek Mine #2 where I am at the present time.

"I never saw any beatings taken by any of the miners, although I did hear that some of the men were beaten after I left.

"Falcetti, Bohannon and the other U.M.W. men were always hanging around together, joking and having a good time. I have seen Falcetti with some of the U.M.W. men in Springfield during the evenings, but I don't know how much they associated socially. I don't remember seeing Falcetti or any of the mine officials talking or associating with any of the P.M.A. men.

"I did not vote in the election of February 1941 because I was no longer employed in Mine B. However, I am still a P.M.A. man and still believe that is the best union.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and three other type-written pages, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, AL

b7C b2D

006519

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

Springfield,

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on August 29, 1943. He was free in giving information, and it is not believed he would be a good witness. He admits no criminal record.

The following signed statement was given by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943.

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., where my telephone number is [REDACTED]. I was born on [REDACTED]. I joined the U.M.W.A. [REDACTED] I remained in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I rejoined the U.M.W.A. some time in 1940. I began to work at Mine B in [REDACTED] and then after a short absence from Mine B, I again went to work there in 1932. I have never held an office in any union. I did not help to organize P.M.W.A.

"During the period from 1932 to 1937 there was no trouble at Mine B. So far as I know there was no trouble in the P.M.W.A. The officers ran the union fairly and squarely. I don't recall any trouble with the men in U.M.W.A. During this period I don't remember any picketing by the U.M.W.A. or the distribution of any literature by that union. I don't know of any agitating.

"I have not gone to many union meetings. I have never taken much interest in union activities. I always have been able to get along very well with the men in any union.

"Before the strike started at Mine B in 1937 I heard from some of the men that there was going to be a special meeting of the P.M.W.A. on the night before the strike. I did not go to this meeting, and I don't know the purpose of the meeting. When I arrived at Mine B the day that the strike started I went to work, and some time later I was told there was a strike. I don't know anything about the causes for this strike.

"After the strike started, I recall that I signed a P.M.W.A. petition to the effect that the P.M.W.A. had a majority of the men in the mine and were ready to go back to work. I thought that the petition was being