



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**JOHN L. LEWIS**

**PART 10 OF 13**

**FILE NUMBER: 44-845**

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT JOHN L. LEWIS

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 12

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is exceedingly difficult to understand due to a heavy accent. He can not read English. He was born in [REDACTED] and has been an American citizen for about [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised that he joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] and has always liked the U.M.W. better than any other union because of this. He did not like to get in trouble that was caused over the unions. He did not go to any of the meetings wherein the matter of changing unions was discussed. He wanted to change back to the U.M.W. so that there would be no union trouble, but did not go to any of the meetings because he was afraid that there might be trouble. He signed up for the U.M.W. at the U.M.W. Building in Springfield, on the last day, after everyone else had signed applications. He know nothing of the reasons the other men had for joining the U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at his residence on September 15, 1943. He appeared willing to answer the questions put to him, but due to his age, and poor knowledge of English, he would not make a good witness. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I entered the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED]. I live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and I am not employed because I am too old.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union at the [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED] I worked at various mines in the Springfield Area under the UMW.

"I started working at Mine A under the UMW about [REDACTED] I left Mine A in April, 1941. The mine shut down and I never returned to work when it opened up again under Elshoff. I was too old to work any longer.

"I was in favor of the change at Mine A from the UMW to the PMA in 1932. I do not want to work in a union that is led by John L. Lewis. I always liked the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"I heard about the operator, Mr. Ryan, of Mine A selling out to Carl Elshoff because it was mentioned in the PMA meeting at the PMA Hall about a week after Elshoff bought the mine.

"I did not want Elshoff to buy Mine A because he would try to get the UMW in the mine. There was some talk about this at the PMA meeting which I attended. I did not want to join the UMW, so I quit the first part of April, 1941.

"Everyone seemed to be satisfied when they worked under the PMA.

"No one talked to me about joining UMW. I attended two PMA meetings at the PMA Hall. It was brought of at these PMA meetings that

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

Elshoff said he wanted to operate the mine under the UMW. These PMA meetings at the PMA Hall were in September, 1941. The notice of these meetings was posted on a bulletin Board at the PMA Hall. I do not remember who presided at these meetings.

"I was not on any committees.

"I saw no fight. At these meetings the miners were telling about having families and that they had to keep on working, and so to keep their jobs they had to join the UMW. I know nothing about the union trouble at Mine B.

"I saw no agitators or organizers for UMW at Mine A, or at the PMA meetings. I do not know the names of the men who did most of the talking at these meetings, but they said when Elshoff bought the mine he was going to get the UMW the bargaining rights.

"I did not go to the meeting at Redman's Hall.

"I went to the meeting at the Elks Club on Sunday afternoon, in September, 1941. A man named [REDACTED] (phonetic) was in charge of this meeting.

"I could not understand much of what was said at this meeting. I never knew any UMW organizers, so I can not say if there were any at this meeting. As I said, I had quit at Mine A, and was just interested in what went on. Most of the talked I could not understand.

"I can not read the English language, so I have had [REDACTED], read this statement to me which consists of two and one half pages and it is true and correct, and I understand what it says.

"

[REDACTED]  
"His X mark

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)

Special Agent, F.B.I.

[REDACTED] (signed)

Special Agent F.B.I."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 16, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is presently working at the Panther Creek Mine #5, Springfield, Illinois under the PMA. He is alert, readily answered all questions, but did not attend any of the PMA meetings in September, 1941 when the PMA Local at Mine A was discussing joining the UMW. He stated he was contacted by former PMA men to join the UMW and did so merely to keep his job. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 16, 1943

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

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed at the Panther Creek Mine #5, Springfield, Illinois, which job I have had since about the first of March, 1943. I was employed at Mine A from about [REDACTED] until February, 1943. I quit working at that mine to get a job nearer my home. I was born in [REDACTED]. I arrived in the U. S. in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized and became a U. S. citizen at Springfield, Illinois about [REDACTED].

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I worked in the mines in [REDACTED] until [REDACTED] when I came to Springfield. In 1932 I was working at Peabody Mine #59 and I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, at this mine of my own free will. I worked there until I went to Mine A in [REDACTED]. I was satisfied working under the PMA. I first learned that Elshoff had bought Mine A, in 1941 by talk among the miners. I did not welcome the change from Ryan to Elshoff, because I thought the conditions at the mine would be better under Ryan, and the PMA and as it worked out, that was true. Under Ryan and the PMA, the working conditions were good.

"No UMW organizers approached me to join the UMW, but [REDACTED] (phonetic), a PMA man and five or six others whose names I do not recall, came to my house. [REDACTED] told me if I wanted to keep my job, I had to join the UMW as the mine would not open unless the miners joined the UMW. He did not use any threats or explain why he thought it would be like this. [REDACTED] and several men with him were talking to the other

Re: JOSEPH L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] miners to get them to join the UMW. [REDACTED] contacted me about a week after the Elks Club meeting. I did not go to this meeting.  
(continued)

"I heard a rumor that Elshoff might try to operate Mine A through the Mine B tipple, but I did not believe it because it was not practical. This did not bother me, and I told the other miners so.

"I heard the rumor before [REDACTED] contacted me that Elshoff would open the mine on the condition the men joined the UMW. I believed this to be true as I knew about Mine B not opening until the miners working in that mine joined the UMW. Since Elshoff was now the operator of both mines, I thought the same would be true at Mine A. I joined the UMW only to keep my job. I would have rather been a PMA member. I feel most of the miners wanted the PMA because they knew about the Mine B trouble. They did not want to be out of work, so they joined the UMW.

"I heard from other miners about the meetings when the local of PMA at Mine A was meeting and talking about changing to the UMW. I did not go to any of the meetings. I thought the miners would join the UMW. I decided not to go to the meetings. I only went to the UMW Hall and signed up with that union.

"When Elshoff first started operating mine A in 1941, the conditions in the mine were not as good as they had been under Ryan and the PMA. Under Elshoff and the UMW, they refused to provide good air in the mine and did away with the measures taken by Ryan to improve this situation. They docked us excessively and did not tell us why. At that time, men were easy to get. Now, the conditions are better because men can get jobs elsewhere, and do not have to put up with that sort of thing.

"I have read and fully understand the two and one half pages of this statement and it is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.\*

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED]. He was cooperative, answered all questions asked; however, he had no information of particular value relative to this inquiry. He executed the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 18, 1943

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

"I am presently residing at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and I am employed at Mine A as a digger. I started working there in [REDACTED] and have worked there ever since. I was born in [REDACTED] arrived in the U. S. in [REDACTED] and was naturalized at Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED]. Prior to 1932 I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, but in 1932 I voluntarily joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, to get away from John L. Lewis. I was well satisfied with the PMA.

"I first learned Elshoff had bought Mine A, from the miners. Ryan was a good operator and I would have rather worked under him. I knew working conditions under him were good.

"No UMW organizers tried to get me to join the UMW. It made no difference which union I belonged to.

"I heard a rumor that Elshoff might operate Mine A through Mine B, and also that the mine might not open unless the men joined the UMW. I did not care. I thought I would have my job anyway.

"When the miners were discussing joining the UMW, I only went to one PMA meeting and this was at the Elks Club in September 1941.

"I heard about the meeting from the miners. [REDACTED] presided at this meeting. I believe the men had made up their minds to join the UMW before the meeting. They took a standing vote to join the UMW and it carried almost 100%. There were no UMW organizers in the meeting and no fights. After the vote, Edmonson of the UMW was sent for to take us into the UMW. Edmonson arrived with a notary public and the miners signed UMW membership cards. Edmonson made a speech welcoming the miners back to the UMW, and told

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

the same.

us the mine would open within a week, and it did.

"I was not on any committee and had no contact with officials. The conditions under both unions are about

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED] (signed)  
Special Agents, F.B.I.

[REDACTED] (signed)  
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence on September 15, 1943. He willingly answered the questions put to him, and he indicated he would be willing to testify. Because of his age, [REDACTED] is not mentally alert and generally would not make a good witness. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943

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

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently unemployed. I was last employed at Mine A, and I stopped working there on [REDACTED] because of physical disability. I was born in [REDACTED] I arrived in the United States in [REDACTED] and I became a naturalized citizen at Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at [REDACTED] I worked as a member of the UMW in the State of Illinois from [REDACTED] About [REDACTED] I went to work in mine A and worked there until [REDACTED]

"In 1932, I was working at Mine A and joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I joined when the majority voted that way. It did not make any difference to me which union had the bargaining rights. After I joined the PMA in 1932, I was satisfied.

"In 1941, I first learned in the newspaper that Elshoff had purchased Mine A. I was glad he bought it, because it had been closed all summer, and I wanted to go back to work. No one asked me to join the UMW at this time. The working conditions had been satisfactory in Mine A under the PMA.

"I heard a rumor that Elshoff might operate Mine A through Mine B, but did not know if he would, and it did not make any difference to me. I also heard a rumor that Elshoff might open Mine A upon the condition that the miners would join the UMW. I did not know if it was true, but I was in favor of joining UMW to get some money.

"The only PMA meeting I attended when Mine A miners swung over to the UMW was at the Elks Club on a Sunday. Some of the miners told me about the meeting. The fire boss at the mine, [REDACTED] (phonetic), presided at the meeting at the Elks club. They had a door keeper and no one got in except PMA members of the local. A vote was taken as soon as the meeting

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

started. In a standing vote all the men voted for the UMW. I was not named on any of these committees. After the vote, Edmundson, of the UMW was called in to take us as a local of UMW. Edmundson arrived with another man. I do not know what Edmundson said, but he had everyone sign up for the UMW.

"I never talked to any officials of the UMW, but went with the majority. I was glad Elshoff bought the mine as he opened it up right away. The mine had been closed all summer. I did not care what union they had at the mine.

"I have read this statement of two pages and it is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

" [REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnessed:

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

[REDACTED] (signed)  
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] by Special Agents [REDACTED] on September 15, 1943. This witness speaks broken English, and therefore is not easily understood. He appeared to have no knowledge of pertinent facts and would not appear to be a good witness. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] entered the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized at Chicago, Illinois about [REDACTED]. I am presently employed in Mine A as a digger, and live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

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

"I do not remember exactly when I started working in Mine A, but I think it was in [REDACTED] years before the Progressive Mine Workers of America organized at Mine A. This union will be referred to hereinafter as the P.M.

"I started working at that mine under the U.M. I was in favor of the P.M. organizers at the mine in 1932, because everyone said it would be better than U.M. I did not see any difference. I was satisfied with the P.M., and liked to work under that union,

"I did not care whether Elshoff or Ryan operated the mine. I just wanted to work. When the majority of the miners joined the U.M. in 1941, I joined too. I knew that Elshoff wanted the U.M. in this mine from talking with other miners.

"The miners liked to work under the P.M. before 1941. These miners were as satisfied as I was, working under the P.M.

"I heard miners say that Elshoff said he was going to try to operate Mine A through Mine B.

"I attended the two P.M. meetings held at the P.M. Hall,

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. at that time in September, 1941 when  
(continued) the miners were telling about joining the UMW and shortly  
after Elshoff became the operator of Mine A.

"I knew about these meetings from notices posted at the P M A Hall. The President of the PMA local presided at these meetings. I did not hear much of the conversation at these meetings because they talked too fast or I was too far away. I saw no fights. I was not a member of any committee. The conversation I heard was by the PMA local President who asked the men to decide what to do and ask them if anything was wrong with the working conditions at the mine, and such questions as that.

"I did not go to any other union meetings. I did not go to Redman's Hall or the Elk's Club, meetings.

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

(Signed) [REDACTED]

WITNESSED:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 15, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well. He was cooperative and stated that he is willing to testify if necessary. He denied having a criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 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 reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am employed at Peabody Mine #59.

"I was born on [REDACTED] About [REDACTED] I began to work in Mine A. Prior to that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers, and continued in that union after I started at Mine A.

"In 1932 I was in favor of the switch from U.M.W. to Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was fed up with the way that U.M.W. was running things at that time. When the men switched over I went along with them. From 1932 to 1941 I was completely satisfied with P.M.A.

"Sometime in September 1941 I heard that Mr. Elshoff had bought Mine A from Mr. Ryan. I heard that there was to be a special union meeting of P.M.A. to discuss this new development at Mine A. As I recall this meeting was held on a Sunday in the Elks Club, and [REDACTED] ran it. There was discussion in the meeting about switching from P.M.A. to U.M.W. This discussion was brought about because of the talk going around that we, the miners, had to join U.M.W. because Mine A had been bought by the owner of Mine B, and because we wouldn't be able to get jobs in Mine A unless we joined U.M.W.

"I don't remember hearing any talk about working Mine A through Mine B, or about Elshoff refusing to do business with two unions.

"There was no rumpus in the meeting at the Elks Club. I think that all of the miners were afraid that Mine A would not open up in the fall of 1941 unless they joined U.M.W. I recall that somebody sent for Edmunsden, but I think this was after the vote when the miners voted to

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

turn over to U.M.W. I only recall that Edmundsen thanked the men for turning over to U.M.W.

"At this meeting I signed up with U.M.W. I went along with the majority of the men. I figured that if I didn't go along with the majority, I would not get my job back. I didn't want to have the trouble at Mine A like they had at Mine B.

"I don't recall going to any other union meetings in September 1941. I heard [REDACTED] say that he had seen Elshoff but I don't remember if he told me what they talked about. I remember that [REDACTED] said something about his not being able to stay out of work all summer so he got wise and started to talk to miners about swinging over to U.M.W.

"When I heard that Elshoff bought Mine A, I thought he would start to work it right away. I didn't give the sale any thought until the meeting at the Elks Club. After that I thought that there might be trouble at Mine A like there had been at Mine B.

"I left Mine A in April 1942 to get a better job. I was not dissatisfied with U.M.W. when I left Mine A.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 15, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] does not understand English well, and has a very limited speaking ability. During the interview [REDACTED] had to act as interpreter. According to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943

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

"I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Panther Creek No. 7. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I have gotten my first papers, and am not yet a citizen. I joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] and stayed in that union until 1932, when I went along with the Mine A over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I began at Mine A about [REDACTED] and quit in [REDACTED] of 1943, because the air was bad, and was making me sick. I was satisfied with the switch from U.M.W. to P.M.A. in 1932. As far as I was concerned, it made no difference to me. I was willing to do what the men did.

"I saw that the Mine A was sold to Elshoff in the newspapers, and thought I might lose my job on account of the sale, because I figured Mine A would go U.M.W., and only U.M.W. men be employed there. I knew what had happened at Mine B, and thought the same thing might happen at Mine A if the men didn't join U.M.W. No one talked to me about joining U.M.W. before Ryan sold it.

"I went to a P.M.A. meeting, held, I think, some place on 5th Street, in September of 1941. [REDACTED] was one of the speakers, but I don't know the name of the man who led the meeting. [REDACTED] told the men that Elshoff planned to operate Mine A through Mine B, and that he wouldn't operate Mine A unless the men joined U.M.W. I felt that I would have to join the U.M.W. or I'd lose my job. However, it didn't make any difference to me what union I belong to. I don't know of any special committee being appointed, and didn't go to any other meetings. I signed up with the U.M.W. at that same meeting, on a Sunday. I only signed because I thought I'd lose my job if I didn't. Since the U.M.W. has been back at Mine A, conditions have been all right.

[REDACTED] has explained this statement, consisting of this and one other page to me and I state that it is true

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

(Signed) [REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his home on September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] speaks English well, and understand it well enough to testify which he said he is willing to do. He said he has no criminal record. The following signed statement was obtained from him:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943.

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am employed in Mine A. I was born on [REDACTED] In [REDACTED] I came to the United States, and I became a citizen on [REDACTED]

"I began to work in Mine A in [REDACTED] when I was a member of the United Mine Workers. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was in favor of the switch because of the raw deal the miners got under the U.M.W. when the ballots were stolen, and when the U.M.W. signed a contract giving the miners a cut in pay. All the time I was in the P.M.A. I was entirely satisfied with that union.

"Some time in September 1941 I saw in the newspaper that Mr. ELSHOFF had bought Mine A from Mr. RYAN. Before I went back to work in the fall of 1941 I signed up with U.M.W. at the U.M.W. building. I heard many miners saying that if the men did not sign up with U.M.W. They would not have any jobs at Mine A. I am an old man, and I know that if I did not have a job at Mine A, I could not get a job in any other mine because I was too old. I signed up with U.M.W. only because I was afraid that I would not be able to get a job in any other mine. I signed up with U.M.W. after most of the miners had signed up at the meeting in the Elks Club.

"Previous to my signing up with U.M.W. I went to a union meeting at P.M.A. hall where the men discussed whether they should join the U.M.W. in order to work at Mine A. The local union president presided at this meeting. I think it was [REDACTED] The men voted against joining the U.M.W. at this meeting. I don't remember anyone

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

██████████ talking for U.M.W., and I don't remember any committee being appointed at this meeting.

"I heard that ELSHOFF was going to pull coal from Mine A through Mine B. I know that ELSHOFF could not do this because there had to be a lot of digging first.

"I heard about a second meeting of the miners in P.M. hal, but I did not go to this meeting. I heard that some men talked for U.M.W., and that there was a fight, but I don't know what the fight was about.

"It seems to me that I received a letter from RYAN and ELSHOFF advising that RYAN had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF. I think that the letter stated that ELSHOFF was going to open Mine A under a U.M.W. contract.

"When I went back to work in Mine A, the company was bringing in men from all over the country. They began to double up in some of the rooms. The company got men that did not know how to work in this kind of a mine. Some of the men began to quit. Conditions at Mine A now are just as good as they were. At first it seemed that the company was trying to push all the old men out, but now the war is on, the company seems to be satisfied with the old men.

"I heard the local president, ██████████, tell some of the men that if the federal agents came to their houses, they should tell the agents that they do not know anything. The men whom ██████████ told were formerly employed at Mine B. He never said anything to me.

"Under the U.M.W. the men have to do just as the president says. If they question what he says, they may get beat up. This is what happened under ██████████ but conditions are better now. I was at one meeting when a minor was beaten up, but I don't know his name.

"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.

Witnesses:

██████████  
Special Agents, FBI,  
Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill.,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence on September 18, 1943, by  
Special Agents [REDACTED]. This  
man speaks and understands English sufficiently well enough to testify, which  
he will do if necessary. He admitted having been arrested for drunkenness  
in Springfield, Illinois, but claimed to have no other arrest record.

Springfield, Illinois  
September 18, 1943

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

"I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and  
am working at Mine A. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the  
United States when I was about a year old. I received my citizenship when  
my father was naturalized. I started working at Mine A in [REDACTED] having been  
a member of the U.M.W. since [REDACTED] when I joined at [REDACTED]. In 1932,  
I switched over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I voted for the  
switch, and was in favor of it, thinking it would be a change for the better.  
In 1941, I rejoined the U.M.W.

"I saw in the newspapers that RYAN had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF.  
I didn't think anything about it, and didn't hear any rumors that he might  
operate Mine A through Mine B, or that he would work with U.M.W. men only  
in Mine A. No one talked to me about joining the U.M.W. at the time I saw  
the notice. I joined the U.M.W., signing up at U.M.W. Hall. I haven't gone  
to any meetings at all, either of the P.M.A. or U.M.W. I saw [REDACTED]  
uptown one day, and he told me there was going to be a meeting at U.M.W.  
Hall for the men to sign up. I don't know of any other meetings which might  
have been held, and don't know anything more about the matter. Since I have  
been working under U.M.W. at Mine A I have seen no difference in conditions  
from what they were under P.M.A. at the mine. I signed with U.M.W. because  
I thought I had to to keep my job, and know I couldn't get any other job.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]. This man stated that he is not a citizen of the United States because he cannot read or write English, and is not even able to write his own name. He does not understand English except short, simple words. [REDACTED] was present during the interview. She read the statement set forth below and advised that it contained everything that [REDACTED] had said in the interview. [REDACTED] declined to sign the statement with a mark, but said that everything in the statement is true. [REDACTED] said he has never been arrested.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 14, 1943.

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., and I am employed in Mine A. I was born on [REDACTED]. I came to the United States. I have not become a United States citizen.

"I joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] and stayed in that union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. in 1941 when I was working at Mine A. I began to work at Mine A in [REDACTED].

"It makes no difference to me to which union I belong. I think that P.M.A. is as good as U.M.W.

"I saw in the newspaper that Mr. Elshoff bought Mine A from Mr. Ryan.

"Before I went to work in the fall of 1941, the pit committee of P.M.A. told me that I would have to join the U.M.W. before I went back to work at Mine A. I did not know why I had to join the U.M.W. I heard that Elshoff wanted both Mine A and Mine B to have the same union.

"I signed up with U.M.W. at a meeting on a Sunday in September 1941 at the "lks Club. At 1 AM on Monday morning Elshoff signed a

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

[REDACTED] contract with the U.M.W. I don't know why the contract was not signed on Sunday. A man by the name of [REDACTED] ran this meeting. He told the men present that if they wanted to go to work in Mine A, they had to sign up with U.M.W. Eimundsen also was at the meeting. He said that if the man did not sign up with U.M.W., they would not get a job at the mine.

"I do not know anything about any special meetings other than the one I mentioned. I don't know anything about any special committees being appointed to talk things over with the mine management.

"The reason I joined the U.M.W. was only to keep my job at Mine A. I was afraid that I would not have a job if I did not sign up with U.M.W. Since then U.M.W. has treated me O.K. It makes no difference to me which union has the contract with Mine A.

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

"Witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

( [REDACTED] read this statement and stated that it contained everything [REDACTED] had said in the interview. He said the statement was true, but declined to sign it with a mark.)

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 18, 1943, by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well. The statement set forth below was read by [REDACTED] who stated that everything in it is true. However, he declined to sign it without giving any reasons. It is believed his position on the U.M.W. Pit Committee may have influenced his refusal.

" Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am employed in Mine A. I was born on [REDACTED]

"In 1932 I began to work at Mine A under the United Mine Workers. A few months later I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America when they obtained the bargaining contract with Mine A. In 1941 I rejoined the U.M.W. At present I am on the Pit Committee for U.M.W. at Mine A.

"I don't know any reasons for the switch from U.M.W. to P.M.A. in 1932. I was not too satisfied with P.M.A. at Mine A because it seemed to me that the union didn't even try to enforce the rights of the miners under their contract.

"In September 1941 I read in the newspaper that Mr. ELSHOFF bought Mine A from Mr. RYAN. At the time I did not think that Mine A would open up because I thought that ELSHOFF would try to operate Mine A through Mine B. At that time Mine B did not have sufficient facilities and equipment to get full production from both Mine A and Mine B at the same time. Before ELSHOFF bought Mine A, I heard some men say that Mine A could be operated through Mine B.

"Mine B was a newer mine, and the shaft of Mine B was really closer to the diggings in Mine A than the shaft of Mine A. I thought I would get a job at Mine B if they attempted to mine Mine A through Mine B. I knew that I would have to join U.M.W. in order to work at Mine B. I did not hear any rumors that Mine A would be operated only with U.M.W. men.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(CONTINUED)

"In September 1941 I went to a P.M.A. meeting at P.M.A. Hall. At this meeting we elected a committee of six to meet with ELSHOFF to ascertain if he was going to open Mine A. I don't remember who was elected to this committee. After the committee was elected, I left the meeting. I heard that there was a fight at this meeting, but I did not see it, or know the reason for it.

"I went to no other group meetings except a meeting at the Elks Club on a Sunday in September 1941. I don't remember who told me about this meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to see if the men wanted to stay in P.M.A. or swing over to U.M.W. Some big man whose name I don't know presided at the meeting. [REDACTED] was the man who proposed the question as to whether we should stay in P.M.A. or go into U.M.W. A vote on secret ballot was had, and the majority favored going into U.M.W. After the vote, RAY EDMUNDSEN came to the meeting. He said he was 'glad to have the men back.' At this meeting a committee was elected to go to see ELSHOFF. I was elected to this committee. Also on this committee was [REDACTED]

I don't remember if any others were on this committee. We met ELSHOFF in EDMUNDSEN'S office. OSCAR FALCETTI was also there. For some reason unknown to me we could not make a contract with Mine A at that time because it was Sunday. As I recall EDMUNDSEN called ELSHOFF by phone and asked him to come to his office. I think EDMUNDSEN called ELSHOFF two times. This meeting in EDMUNDSEN'S office was about 5 p.m. We discussed some provisions of the contract and the pay rate. There wasn't much argument over the contract. ELSHOFF seemed agreeable.

"After this meeting I went home, and about midnight I went to ELSHOFF'S office. ELSHOFF signed the contract without any trouble.

"Since 1941 conditions at Mine A seem to be better. The men got everything they want. I think ELSHOFF is easier to get along with than RYAN was.

"I joined U.M.W. in 1941 of my own accord. I was getting tired of P.M.A. I did not have any reason to believe that I would not get my job back at Mine A if I did not join U.M.W.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

(CONTINUED)

[REDACTED] read this statement and stated that everything in it is true, but he declined to sign it.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 15, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This man does not speak English too well, and at times he has trouble expressing himself. He is also hard of hearing. He understands English when it is spoken slowly and clearly. If necessary, he will testify. [REDACTED] said he has no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943.

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

"I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine A. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED] I became a citizen at [REDACTED] I joined the U. M. W. in [REDACTED] and was a member until 1932, when I became a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I never held an office in any union. In all the time I was a member of the P. M. A., I liked the union, was satisfied with it, and didn't want to rejoin the U. M. W.

"I saw in the paper that Ryan had sold the mine, and Elshoff bought it. Just after this, a special P. M. A. meeting was held at Progressive Hall. Notices of the meeting had been sent out by a committee. The meeting was for the purpose of finding out what was going on, and a committee was appointed to find out whether Mine A was going to stay closed, or whether it would operate. The pit committee of the P. M. A. refused to go see Elshoff at Mine B, and refused to have anything to do with him. There was a lot of arguing, and almost some fights. This meeting was presided over by [REDACTED] I think that's the name, president of the P. M. A. local. There was too much confusion in the hall to know what was happening, and I don't know how the committee was appointed. The special committee went out, I thought to see Elshoff, and weren't gone more than ten or fifteen minutes, when they came back. [REDACTED] was on this committee. When they came back to the hall, they told all the men that Elshoff would operate Mine A, but only with U. M. W., and that the men could go back to work only if they joined the U. M. W. I don't know whether they say Elshoff or not.

"When I first heard that Elshoff had bought Mine A, I did wonder what would happen to me. Regardless of the union Elshoff wanted, I would have to work there, because I was too old to get a job somewhere else. I was satisfied with P. M. A., and hadn't been approached by any U. M. W.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(CONTINUED)

men, but would join U. M. W. only to keep my job at Mine A. I didn't hear anything about Elshoff working Mine A through Mine B and didn't hear anything about having to join U. M. W. to work in the mine, before the union meetings, where these things were discussed. This action at the meeting came so quickly that it looked like it was planned.

"About three days after the P. M. A. meeting mentioned above, I went to another one at Progressive Hall. At this time, [REDACTED] was the leader of a special committee, and reported to the men for the committee. He said that the men would have to join U. M. W. to work in Mine A, that Elshoff told the committee this, and Elshoff would open the mine if the men went U. M. W. The committee was then told to find out if Elshoff was planning to work Mine A through Mine B. Another meeting was set for the next week. At this meeting, where [REDACTED] reported, some of the younger Progressives got up and left, and didn't come back. I didn't go to the next meeting, because I was disgusted and told them that if everyone else joined United, I would. I don't think there were any U. M. W. organizers at these two meetings, although there might have been. I wanted to say something at these meetings, but was afraid I'd lose my chance to go back to work if I did, and also because I didn't think it would do any good.

"I signed up with the U. M. W. at a Sunday meeting at the Elks Club. [REDACTED] led the meeting and told us, 'Boys, you see what happened in Mine B. If we want to go to work, we have to join U. M. W.' I was one of the last to sign up that day. Edmundson spoke to the men, said the way they voted was up to them, and that he would stick behind them if they got in trouble. I joined the U. M. W., not because I wanted to, but because I had to, to keep my job. I still prefer the P. M. A., but conditions at the mine under the U. M. W. are entirely satisfactory, and as good as under P. M. A.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

/s/  
/s/

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent - FBI  
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was interviewed at his residence on September 15, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] can understand English and speak it sufficiently well to testify. If necessary, he will testify. He said he has no criminal record.

The following is the signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943.

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

"I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine A. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized in [REDACTED]. I joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] and was a member until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers, while working at Peabody No. 53. In 1938, I began to work at Mine A, and was a member of the P.M.A. until 1941, when I rejoined the U.M.W. In 1932, when I joined the P.M.A., I switched because I thought we would have better conditions. I was satisfied with the P.M.A., never found anything bad in it, and never regretted joining the P.M.A.

"I saw in the paper that Elshoff bought Mine A from Ryan. I never thought that it would affect my job. I felt that I would have a job there regardless of who owned Mine A. I was not approached by anyone to join the U.M.W. After Ryan sold the mine, I knew, in general talk with some of the men, that Elshoff might operate Mine A through Mine B. I thought that if this would mean that the union would have to change in Mine A before the men could go back to work there, it would make no difference to me. I wanted to work, and had to work, and I was willing to work under either union, just so I could work. I never did hear anything about Elshoff operating Mine A with U.M.W. men only, and figured that that was what the question was.

"The only P.M.A. meeting I went to in September of 1941, was the one on Sunday at the Elks Club. I heard of this meeting from the men, and heard that it was to decide whether the men would stay P.M.A., or join the U.M.W. I don't remember the person who conducted the meeting. Whoever it was, asked the men to raise their hands if they wanted to join the U.M.W. Everybody raised their hands, but I signed up at that time with the rest

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

of the men there. Edmundson came in later, I don't remember whether before or after I signed, and said he was glad to welcome the men back into the U.M.W. I signed up with U.M.W. because I wanted to have a job. No one forced me, or threatened me, and I joined of my own free will. Since the U.M.W. has been at Mine A, conditions have been just as good as they were under P.M.A.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of two pages, read to me and state it is true to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED] signed)

"Witnesses:

[REDACTED] (signed)

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence on September 19, 1943, by Agent [REDACTED]. He gave information willingly and freely. He stated he had never been arrested.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 19, 1943.

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

"I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am working at [REDACTED]. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized in [REDACTED]. I joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] at Auburn, Ill., and was in that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, at Mine A. I never held any office in any union. I was in favor of the switch from U.M.W. to P.M.A. in 1932, and was entirely satisfied with PMA all the time I was a member of that union.

"I received a letter from Mr. Ryan in September of 1941, saying that he had sold Mine A. The men that I saw and talked to, from Mine A, were all saying that the thing to do was to join U.M.W., that there wouldn't be any jobs for us at Mine A if we didn't. They were all saying that Elshoff would only operate with U.M.W. men. I also heard, in conversation with the men, that Elshoff might pull coal from Mine A through Mine B. This talk made me feel that I had to join U.M.W. if I wanted to keep my job at the mine. It didn't make a lot of difference to me which union I belonged to. I was satisfied to go along with the majority of the men.

"I signed up with the U.M.W. at the U.M.W. Hall. I was told, at Mine A, that all the men who wanted to sign up with U.M.W. should go down to their hall, and do it, that we had to do it to keep our jobs. I didn't go to any union meetings during that time, so don't know anything that went on. I signed up to keep my job, and no one threatened me in any way.

After the U.M.W. got control at Mine A, the conditions weren't as good as they were under Ryan. The rooms were bad, and generally, conditions were unsatisfactory. I quit working at Mine A in May, 1943, after I had asked for better conditions and had been refused.

This statement, consisting of this and one other page, has been

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

read to me, and I state it is true to the best of my  
knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agents, FBI  
Springfield, Ill.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 14, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] would not make a good witness due to his inability to express himself in the English language. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 14, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am an American Citizen. I am presently employed at Mine A. I make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement.

"I have worked at Mine A since [REDACTED]. I was employed at Mine A at the time that Ryan sold the mine to Elshoff. Before that time no one wanted to change the union at Mine A from the Progressives to the United Mine Workers. We wanted to stay Progressive. That is the way that I felt. When Elshoff bought the mine, there was a lot of talk. I went to some meetings at the Progressive Hall, and at the Elks's hall when the men voted to go to the UMW. I do not remember who it was who told me, but I remember that they told me that Elshoff was not going to open up Mine A and hire Progressives, and that he would keep it closed and take the coal out through Mine B. The Engineer told us one day at a Progressive Meeting that if we joined the UMW we could get our jobs back. I do not remember his name. I had heard about things at Mine B, and they said that Elshoff would keep Mine A closed like he had at Mine B if he had to work with the Progressives. I voted to join the UMW, and did join the UMW. I voted to join the UMW, because I wanted to keep my job, and wanted to work. They said that we would have to join the UMW in order to keep our jobs. I did not want to be a UMW member. I would rather belong to the P.M.A. now. Things are not as good at the mine now as they were before. We get fined, and have to buy our coal from Mine A, (the U.M.W.A made this rule) and other things that we did not have to do when Mr. Ryan ran Mine A.

"I remember getting a letter about the mine, but I do not remember who it was from or what it said.

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

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed) FBI

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed on September 18, 1943, at  
[REDACTED] his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield,  
Illinois, by Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

He advised that he was [REDACTED]  
in April 1943 to fill the unexpired term [REDACTED]. He declined  
to answer any questions, saying he knew nothing, and an interview would  
just be a waste of time.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks English so poorly that it appeared that he did not understand questions asked him, and his answers could not be understood. Due to this, no statement was taken. He tried to explain to interviewing Agents why it was that he had joined the UMW when he was a strong Progressive. He assured that he would rather be a member of the Progressive Mine Workers. He was born in [REDACTED]. He is not a citizen of the United States. [REDACTED] is employed at Mine A.

\*\*\*\*\*

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a person having an apparent intelligence above that of the average miner. He was extremely uncooperative during the entire interview. His answer to all questions was that he had no comment.

He stated that he had no interest in unions, never went to any of the meetings, and did not care which union he belonged to. He claimed to have been out of the city at the time of the meeting when the vote was taken to go to the UMW and he did not attend any of the other meetings. When asked if he was satisfied with the union as it was before Ryan sold Mine "A", he would only say that he had no comment. He said there had been no discussion of changing unions when the mine had closed in March.

He was questioned regarding whether he had been contacted in reference to the investigation, and stated that he had not. However, upon the Agents reaching for a typewriter preparatory to preparing a statement, [REDACTED] stated that he would sign nothing. When Agents advised him that he would not have to sign anything but that they wanted to write the statement so that he could look at it, he said that it would be useless as he would not read it. Because of this no statement was prepared. Original notes made by interviewing Agents following the above interview are being retained in the files of the Springfield Field Division. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is employed at Mine A.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the afternoon of September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] Jr. [REDACTED] is not considered a good witness due to his poor understanding of the English language and his accent which is difficult to understand. Although he refused to sign the following statement, he assured agents that it was true and correct.

"Springfield, Ill  
September 14, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED] I am an American citizen. 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 get me to make this statement.

"I worked at Mine A for about [REDACTED] years until December 1941, when I was injured. I am now working [REDACTED] I was employed at Mine A at the time that the mine was sold by Ryan to Elshoff. Before that time the men at the mine were members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. They liked that union, and there was not much talk about changing. There might have been some. I liked the Progressive Mine Workers, and would have liked to stay in that union. I do not know what happened that made the men change. I do not go to the meetings very often because I cannot hear very well. I only went to the meeting at the Elk's Club when they signed up for the UMW. I signed up that night, but I do not remember what else happened. I wanted to work, and so I signed up because the whole rest of the local signed up.

"I do not recall getting any letters about changing Unions. I did not care much which union I belonged to, just as long as I could work, but I was satisfied with the way things were going before.

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

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a person having an intelligence about that of the average miner. He would make a good witness. He claimed to have never been contacted in reference to this case and knew nothing about it. However, he refused to answer some questions as being too personal, such as where he had signed the application for the UMW. While waiting for [REDACTED] to come home, Agents were sitting in front of his home when [REDACTED]. He stated, "Ah, F.B.I." [REDACTED] claimed to have known nothing of the present investigation. It appeared to interviewing Agents that [REDACTED] was not giving all information in his possession. He refused to sign the following statement, although he assured that it was true:

"

Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am an American citizen. 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 have been made to me to make this statement.

"I have worked at Mine A for almost 20 years. I was employed there in 1941 when RYAN sold the mine. I remember that the men at the local changed from the Progressive Mine Workers to the United Mine Workers at that time. I do not know why the men made a change. Before that time there had been no talk among the men about changing unions as far as I can recall. I was not interested in union activities very much. I live too far out, and did not go the meetings often. I did not care much which union I belonged to, as I had to work, and either union was alright. I did not get to any of the meetings where the men discussed changing over to the UMW. I signed up after the meeting when the men voted to go to the UMW. I have no further comment to make.

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

[REDACTED], FBI

[REDACTED] FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the morning of September 14, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would make a good witness. He has an intelligence above that of the average miner. He speaks good English and can express himself well. He gave the information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 14, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [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 promise, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement.

"I worked at Mine A from June 1934 until the mine was sold to Carl Elshoff in the summer of 1941. In 1941 when the mine was sold, it was closed because of seasonal closure, as was the usual custom. I was on the pit committee of the local Progressive Mine Workers of America union at Mine A, local #51. Until the time that the mine was sold, there had been no talk that I heard of about anyone wanting to change unions. The men were all satisfied with the operation of the Progressives, and the local.

"When Elshoff bought the mine we had a meeting of the local to see what was going to be done with the mine. I went to the meetings at the Progressive Hall. There had been many rumors going around as to what Elshoff was going to do with the mine. Most of the men thought, at least I know that I thought, that Elshoff would favor the UMW, because of things that we had heard had happened at Mine B. As I recall we elected a committee to talk to Elshoff, and if I recall the committee could not find him. A new committee talked to him, and they reported back to us that he had told them that he would not open up under the UMW, but would keep the mine closed, and take the coal out through mine B. The men wanted to work, so they went and joined the UMW on the promise or hope that they would be able to have their jobs and working conditions exactly the same as before. I did not want to join the UMW, and was able to get another job. I never went to any of the meetings at any other place than the Progressive Hall.

"I received a letter and a card about the meetings to be held at the other halls. [REDACTED] signed the card, inviting me to one meeting. The other was a letter signed by Edmunson, telling us that we would be able to come back into the UMW without any prejudice etc. and would be able to run our local as we had before. This letter also said something about Mine A having been sold, and that it might not open. I do not recall the details of what it said about whether he could promise that it would be opened, or not.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"At the meetings at the PMW hall, [REDACTED] was the one who told us about what would happen. There were other men on the committee but I do not recall right now exactly who they were.

"I did not intend to join the UMW, and would not go back. I did go back to the mine a few days after it opened up to get my tools which I had left below when I had last worked. I talked to Jack Kiers, who was mine superintendant at the time, asking him if I could go down and get my tools. He told me that I would have to ask the men who were standing out in front of the office. I think that Jack Glasgow [REDACTED] Baumgarner, and [REDACTED] and some others were around there. I talked to one of the board members, and one of the other fellows. They told me that I would have to sign up with the UMW or I would not be able to go down. [REDACTED] told me that it was his orders to keep anyone from going down who did not sign up with the UMW. I wanted to get my father's tools too, but they did not let me go after them. [REDACTED] told me that he would have them brought up for me, but I never got the them. A set of tools was worth at that time about \$35 to \$40.

"I never went back into the mines. I would have gone back to the mine if I could have gone back as a Progressive.

"I got a job at [REDACTED] in Springfield.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I think that the men all felt the same as I did. I talked to many men who did go back to the mine and ask them why they went back as UMW. They told me that they did not want to go back as UMW, but that they had to work, and they thought that they would have to join the UMW in order to keep their jobs.

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

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed) FBI

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

RE: JAMES L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of September 14, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was ill and could not return to work after the mine was opened by ELSNOFF. He was unable to attend any of the meetings where the discussions were held concerning the change of unions, and he advised that he had always been satisfied with the operation of the PMW while working at Mine A.

[REDACTED] has not returned to work as yet.

A signed statement was not obtained from [REDACTED] inasmuch as he has not information pertinent to this investigation.

He was born [REDACTED]. He is an American citizen.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 15, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] although having a very heavy accent, is considered by interviewing Agents to be a person of high intelligence and education. He has manners which would normally be found only on a very polished gentleman. He does not appear to be nearly as old as he is. He does not have a great deal of information, but would be a good witness except for his accent. He is not difficult to understand. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED] I am an American citizen. I am now employed at Mine A. I make the following statement: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement.

"I have worked at Mine A for [REDACTED] years. I was working there in 1941 when Mine A was bought by Mine B. Before that time I did not hear anyone talking about changing unions at the mine. I do not care much about unions. I would be satisfied with either union. I did not want to change unions because it did not make any difference to me which union I belonged to.

"I do not understand English very well. I went to meetings occasionally but I do not remember very well what happened at them, because I did not always understand what was said. I was at a meeting at the Progressive Hall, and the meeting at the Elk's club when the men voted to go back to the United Mine Workers. As I recall they told us that the Mine would not be opened unless we joined the U.M.W. I do not remember who it was who told us that. We thought that because Mine B had the U.M.W. and they would want to continue at Mine A with United Mine Workers. Since it did not make any difference to me which union I belonged to, I joined the U.M.W.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is hard of hearing. He can express himself well, and has an intelligence above that of the average miner. He gave information set out in the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 1943.

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

"I have worked at Mine A since about [REDACTED]. I was employed there in 1941 when Ryan sold the mine to Elshoff. The mine was closed down that summer, but I was working there when the mine closed seasonally in March or April. I intended on going back when the mine reopened.

"I do not know much about why the men changed unions about that time. There had been no talk about changing unions prior to the time that the announcement of the sale was made. I think that the men were satisfied with that union, although I was not too interested in union affairs, and did not go to the meetings regularly.

"After the mine was sold, I heard that the mine was going to be closed and the coal taken out through Mine B. I do not remember where I heard this, but I think that it was in the newspaper. I went to the meeting at the Elks's club when the men signed up for the United Mine Workers. I had gone to no other meetings. I went to that meeting for the purpose of signing up with the UMW.

"I believed that if we joined the United Mine Workers, that we would get back to work sooner. That is the main thing that influenced me in changing unions, and I think that is what influenced the other men.

"I do not recall what happened at the meeting at the Elks's. There was so much noise that I could not hear very well, and I did not pay too much attention. Ray Edmu son talked that day, but I do not know what he said. I went to the Elk's Hall for the purpose of signing up with the UMW, because I thought that if we were UMW men that the mine would be re-opened sooner. I believed this because I had heard that if we did not the coal would be taken out through Mine B.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I recall that [REDACTED] who I think is an organizer for the UMW, was out around the mine a few mornings after it opened, but I do not know what he was doing there.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI.

[REDACTED] FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 14, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has been ill for [REDACTED] years and unable to work. [REDACTED] at Mine A at the time that the change from PMA to UMW was made. He thought that he would have to join the UMW in order to obtain the benefits of the union inasmuch as he could no longer work. He did not want to join the UMW and would have preferred to stay in the PMA. He was born in [REDACTED]. He is an American citizen.

In view of the above circumstances, [REDACTED] was not requested to execute a signed statement.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agent's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] seemed to be a very cooperative individual and also seemed to have a fairly good recollection of events that he had personal knowledge of at the time of their occurrence. [REDACTED] does not speak English fluently and is slow in comprehending the meaning of questions put to him although it is felt he would be a favorable witness for the Government

After he had executed his signed statement [REDACTED] stated that about on September 3 or 4, a man whom he knew to be the District Board member for the U.M.W. had addressed a group of men at Mine A. [REDACTED] stated this man was about 50 years of age, but other than that could give no further information as to his identity. As best as he could recall, this unknown man advised the miners that if any Federal men wanted to talk to them about conditions at the mines they should say they didn't know anything and had not seen anything wrong at the mines; that the best way to stay out of trouble was to say that they didn't know anything.

[REDACTED] stated that he was not impressed by the man and that any time the government wanted to know anything he would talk if he had any information.

[REDACTED] executed the following signed statement:

[REDACTED] III  
Sept. 14, 1943

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

"I was born on [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen in about [REDACTED] I presently reside at [REDACTED] and work at Mine A.

"I started working at Mine A in about 1936 and had been a member of the U.M.W. since about [REDACTED] I have never held any office in progressive or united. I was working in Panther Creek #1 in 1932 when the state went progressive and I signed up with them at that time. At that time I was 100% for progressive, but didn't have anything to do with the start of the union. When I first started at Mine A everything went along fine and the men were all satisfied.

"The mine shut down in the spring of 1941 and I got a letter from Ryan telling me that he had sold Mine A to Elshoff. Since I lived in

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] didn't go to many of the progressive meetings. I do remember going to one of the progressive meetings and I think it was at Redman's hall. I guess nothing was settled at this meeting except that all of the men who were at that meeting seemed to be in favor of progressive. I remember that some of the men were appointed to a committee to go see Fuchoff. Most of the men seemed to think that they had to join United in order to keep their job, but I can't explain why they all felt that way. Somebody said both Mine A and Mine B would be run by one union and they all seemed to think that unless united men ran the mine it wouldn't open in the fall.

"I didn't go to any other meetings & was not at the meeting in the Elks Club when the men decided to go United. I was never beaten or threatened in any way, but had the feeling that it might happen some day. I joined the United Mine Workers union, because I was afraid I would lose my job at Mine A if I didn't sign up. I went to a meeting at the U.M.W. hall after the meeting at the Elks and at that time I joined the U.M.W. I had been working about two weeks when I joined in the fall of 1941.

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

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 15, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a person who has good command of the English language, can express himself well, and has an intelligence above that of the average miner. He was uncooperative, and it appeared to interviewing Agents that he was concealing facts, and relating circumstances which did not correspond with his knowledge of the situation at Mine A. He studied the statement set forth below, and then started folding it, preparatory to putting it into his pocket, and stated that he would have to see his attorney about it. He was advised that the statement was for the use of Agents in preparing a report, and that he need not sign it if he did not care to sign it. He then studied the statement at some length. During this study he stated that the statement would not hold any weight unless he signed it. Upon the completion of the study he returned it to Agents saying that there was nothing in it anyway, and he guessed it could do no harm. He was asked if it was true, and he stated that it was, and related what he had told the Agents.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am an American citizen. 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 have worked at Mine A for [REDACTED] years. [REDACTED] In 1941 I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers until about the time that the Mine was sold. Prior to the sale of the mine, there had not been any discussion or agitation that I know of among the men to change unions. I do not know what they were thinking. I personally, did not care much which union I belonged to. I was satisfied then and I am satisfied now under the UMW.

"I did not attend many of the meetings. I was at one meeting at the Progressive Hall, but did not stay long enough to know what happened. I was out of town on the day that the meeting was held when the men voted about changing the unions. When I came back, I went and signed up with the UMW. There was no compulsion exercised by the Progressive Mine Workers to keep me or any of the men in the PLW that I know of, and there was no compulsion by the United Mine Workers. I do not know why the men changed. I had heard some rumors about working the mine from Mine B, but I did not pay any attention to it. I had not taken part in the discussions or heard much about changing until after the meeting when they did change. I did not

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

and accurate.

care, as either union was alright as far as I am concerned.

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

[REDACTED] F.B.I.

[REDACTED] F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the afternoon of September 14, 1943 by Social Agents [redacted] and [redacted] would not make a good witness due to an inability to express himself and a very poor memory. He furnished information as set forth in the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill  
September 14, 1943.

"My name is [redacted]. I was born in [redacted]. I am an American citizen. I am now employed at Mine A. I make the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me. It is all true and accurate.

"I have worked at Mine A since [redacted]. I was employed there in 1941 when Ryan sold his interest to Elshoff. Before Ryan sold the mine, there was no talk about changing unions. I guess everybody was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers. I did not care much which union I belonged to, but I would have been satisfied to have stayed under the Progressive Mine Workers. I do not know why the men changed unions. Elshoff bought the mine, and so they changed unions. I guess they wanted to have the same union at both mines run by Elshoff. I do not know why they changed. I went to only one meeting where the matter was discussed at all. That was the meeting at the UMW's club hall. All I can remember is that they signed up for the UMW at that time. I signed up because the majority was going to. I did not care much which union I belonged to. I do not know why the other men signed up, or changed.

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

/s/ [redacted]

/s/ [redacted]

FBI

F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the afternoon of September 14, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would make an average witness, due to an ability he possesses to express himself and an intelligence which exceeds that of the average miner. He refused to execute the following statement but assured that it was true:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 14, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED] I am now employed on [REDACTED] at Mine A. I make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me, to make this statement.

"I have worked at Mine A for about [REDACTED] years. I was employed at Mine A in 1941 when Ryan sold out his interest to Elshoff. Before the announcement of that I had heard no discussion about changing unions. There was a lot of confusion and some diastisfaction with the Progressives. There was no talk before that, however, about changing unions.

"I went to one meeting at the Progressive Hall, when they were discussing what they should do about unions, and the change of ownership of Mine A. That night, no one knew what they wanted to do. It was all confused. I thought that they did not know what they were going to do, so I did not bother to go to any other meetings. I decided I would do whatever the majority did. I did not go to the meeting at the Elks's when they voted to go to the UMW. I signed up later.

"I did not care particularly which union I belonged to then. I was satisfied with the way things were then, and I am satisfied now.

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

[REDACTED] (signed) FBI

[REDACTED] (signed) FBI"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the afternoon of September 14, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is not considered a good witness due to a heavy accent and a very inaudible voice. He gave information set forth in the following statement. It is to be noted [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill,  
September 14, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am an American citizen. 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 have worked at Mine A since 1935. I was employed at Mine A at the time that Ryan sold his interest to Elshoff. Before that time I had heard no talk about changing the union from Progressive to United Mine Workers. I was satisfied with the way that the Progressive Mine Workers were operating, and I think that most of the miners were too. When Elshoff bought the mine, there was some talk about what was going to be done. I went to some of the meetings at the Progressive Hall. I did not go to any other meetings. I do not remember who it was that told me, but I remember that they said that Elshoff would not open Mine A unless we joined the United Mine Workers. I also heard that if we did not join the UMW that he would take the coal out of Mine A through Mine B. I had heard that Elshoff favored the United Mine Workers, and had favored the UMW at Mine B. So we thought that he would favor the UMW at Mine A.

"I did not attend the meeting when they voted to go to the UMW. I joined later. I joined the UMW because I had to to keep my job and work at Mine B. I would have preferred to have stayed in the PMW.

"I plan on quitting Mine A in the next few days, and finding some kind of work on the outside. I do not think that the conditions at Mine A are as good now as they were under the Progressives. The local passed rule that we could not talk in our own languages at the mine, and if we did they fined us. I believe in freedom, and I was not getting it at Mine A under the UMW.

"I got some sort of letter, from the United Mine Workers I believe. As near as I can remember, this letter asked us to join the UMW, and told us that if we did that Mine A would open, and that we would get our jobs back.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I saw [redacted] and [redacted] standing around the mine office after the mine reopened. They were there every morning for a couple of weeks or so. I do not know what they were doing there.

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

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] FBI (signed)

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the evening of September 14, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who would make an average witness. He has an intelligence above that of the average miner and can express himself well. He is not too difficult to understand, despite the fact he has no teeth. He furnished the following information as set forth in his signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 14, 1943.

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

"I have worked at Mine A since about [REDACTED] I was employed at Mine A in 1941 when Ryan sold out to the Mine B coal company. Before that time there was no talk about changing unions, or going over to the UMW. I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I would just as soon have stayed in the PMW but I joined the UMW when the rest of the men did, in order to stay and work out there.

"As I understand and recall, there were some meetings at the Progressive Hall. At the first meeting, the men did not know what was going to be done about the mine under the new ownership. There had been a lot of rumors, and so a committee was appointed to go and see Elshoff and find out what he was going to do with the mine. As I recall this committee could not find Elshoff. At the next meeting a new committee was formed, and they went to see Elshoff. They could not find him, and someone in the meeting suggested that they get in touch with Ray Edmunson and that he would find Elshoff. They evidently found Elshoff right away. The committee came back to that same meeting I think and reported that Elshoff told them that he did not plan to open Mine A with Progressives, and would take coal out through Mine B. I was not on the committee, but that is what I recall that the committee announced. [REDACTED] were on that committee I think.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

"I went to the meeting at the Elks Hall when the men decided to go back to the UMW. I joined the UMW that night, because I could see that the rest of the men were going to do that, and I did not want to be left out. I wanted to work, and I could see that I would have to join the UMW in order to work.

"After that meeting, Edmunson came to the meeting, and talked. I do not recall what he said. I do not think that he promised to get Mine A opened up again for us.

"I would just as soon have stayed in the Progressive Mine workers, but I wanted to work, and I had to join the UMW in order to work. That is the reason that I joined. I thought that the rest of the men were going United, and I would go too.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

/s/ [REDACTED] FBI  
[REDACTED] F.B.I.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English sufficiently well to testify. He said he is willing to testify. [REDACTED] claimed to have no criminal record.

"  
Springfield, Illinois  
September 18, 1943

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

"I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine A. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized in [REDACTED]. I joined an international mine union in [REDACTED] and transferred to the U.M.W. in [REDACTED]. In 1932, the switch from the United Mine Workers to the Progressive Mine Workers made no difference to me, I just wanted to work. I found no difference in the unions. I rejoined the U.M.W. in the fall of 1941.

"I saw in the newspapers that RYAN had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF, I didn't know just what to make of it, and didn't know whether I would have a job there or not. I heard some conversation, about that time, that ELSHOFF was planning to operate Mine A through Mine B, that it would be a mile shorter haulage. I also heard that ELSHOFF was planning to operate Mine A with U.M.W. men only. In spite of all this talk, and rumors going around, I didn't think the P.M.A. at Mine A would give in, because I know they were a tough union to swing.

"About this time I went to a meeting at Progressive Hall. I was late in getting there, and don't know what happened before I got there, but there was a lot of loud talking when I got there. [REDACTED] was talking about the benefits of swinging over to U.M.W. He said that there wouldn't be jobs for the men at Mine A if they didn't switch over. There was a lot of conversation, both pro and con, in small groups around the hall. It didn't make any difference to me. I just wanted to go along with the majority, and it made no difference whether it was P.M.A. or U.M.W.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH

(CONTINUED)

"I attended the meeting hold at the Elks Club, but came in late at this meeting, too. The men had already voted to join U.M.W., and [REDACTED] had been elected president of the new U.M.W. local. I know the rest of the officers by sight, but not by name. EDMUNDSON spoke at that meeting, and said he was glad to see the men back. He promised a square deal to all the men. I don't remember any committees being appointed to see ELSHOFF at either of the meetings I attended. I joined the U.M.W. at this meeting at the Elks Club. There was no pressure put on me to sign, and I was content to go along with the majority. If the majority had decided to stay with the P.M.A., I would have stayed P.M.A. Since the U.M.W. has been back in at the mine, I have seen no difference in working conditions from what it was under the P.M.A.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 15, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]. This man understands English very well and can express himself clearly. He is an easy-going type of person and he expressed his desire to stay out of trouble. He said he has no criminal record.

[REDACTED] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943.

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am employed in Mine A. I was born on [REDACTED] I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized in [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill.

"I began to work in Mine A in [REDACTED] I was a member of the United Mine Workers at this time, having been a member since [REDACTED] In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I have seen little difference in the two unions. It makes no difference to me to which union I belong. The P.M.A. treated me o.k., and now the U.M.W. is treating me o.k.

"I know that I heard that Mr. Elshoff bought Mine A from Mr. Ryan but I don't know who told me this. When I heard that Elshoff had bought Mine A, I asked Jack Karess, a superintendent, if I still had a job at Mine A. He said that I still had a job. This was just a day or two before Mine A opened in the fall of 1941. I'm not sure, but I think that Karess said that I would have to join U.M.W. when I started back to work in Mine A. As I recall some men had already said that Mine A had a contract with U.M.W. Just before I went back to work at Mine A, I was working in the [REDACTED] mine, but I didn't like my timbering job there, and wanted to go back to Mine A.

"I did not go to any P.M.A. meetings, and I never did hear about what went on in them.

"Conditions at Mine A are o.k. for me now, and are just as good as they were under P.M.A.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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

(Signed) [REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed in his residence on September 16, 1943, by  
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well. He said  
he is willing to testify in court. He claimed to have no criminal record.

Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill.,  
and am employed by [REDACTED]. I was  
born on [REDACTED]. I started to work  
in Mine A in 1932, at which time I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of  
America.

"I was satisfied with P.M.A., and cannot compare it to  
U.M.W. prior to 1932 because I was not in any union before I joined P.M.A.

"I don't remember how I heard that Mr. RYAN had sold Mine  
B to Mr. ELSHOFF. Because of the trouble at Mine B just a few years ago,  
I thought that ELSHOFF would not permit P.M.A. to work in Mine A, and that  
I might have to join the U.M.W. if I wanted to continue working at Mine  
A. I don't recall any trouble at Mine A when Mr. RYAN ran the mine.

"No one ever asked me to join U.M.W. before ELSHOFF bought  
Mine A. There was talk among the miners that there was going to be a  
switch from P.M.A. to U.M.W. at Mine A, and that such a switch was in-  
evitable. I also heard in general conversation with the miners that ELSHOFF  
was going to try to pull coal from Mine A through Mine B.

"I did not go to any union or group meetings prior to the  
time I joined up with U.M.W. I signed up with U.M.W. in their hall just  
before Mine A opened in the fall of 1941. A great many men had signed up  
with U.M.W. at the Elks Club, but I did not go to that meeting.

"It did not make much difference to me to which union I  
belonged. It merely meant that I paid dues to a different organization.  
I quit working at Mine A on [REDACTED] 1942, when I was able to get a better  
job with better working conditions.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I think that conditions at Mine A under U.M.W. were as good as they had been under P.M.A. but I did not like one rule that the U.M.W. passed which required all men to speak in English at union meetings, or be liable to a \$10.00 fine. (CONTINUED)  
There were many old men in the union who could not express themselves in English, and I thought this rule was unfair to them.

"At a P.M.A. meeting which I attended in P.M.A. hall I heard that four or five men, one of them I think was [REDACTED] had gone to see ELSHOFF, but they did so without the authority of the P.M.A. local. I think that there was a fight outside of the hall after this meeting, but I did not see it. I don't know why the fight started. I don't know if any other committees were appointed, and I don't know if this committee reported the results of the proposed meeting with ELSHOFF. I don't recall the date of this meeting.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill.,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed in his residence on September 16, 1943, by  
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This  
man does not understand English well, and cannot express himself clearly in  
English. [REDACTED] was present during the interview and acted  
as interpreter. [REDACTED] has never been arrested  
for a crime.

" Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield,  
Ill., and am employed in Mine A. I was born in [REDACTED]  
and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I have not become a citizen of the  
United States. I joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] when I was work-  
ing in [REDACTED]. I began to work in Mine A in [REDACTED].

"The switch from U.M.W. to the Progressive Mine Workers of  
America did not make much difference to me. I was treated alright in both  
unions. I was satisfied with P.M.A. when I was in that union.

"I knew about the sale of Mine A by Mr. RYAN to Mr. ELSHOFF,  
but I did not think how it might affect my job. I did hear some men say  
that we would have to join the U.M.W. to work in Mine A after Mr. ELSHOFF  
bought it.

"I signed up with U.M.W. in the meeting that was held in  
the Elks Club. [REDACTED] took me to the meeting that day [REDACTED]  
told the men that if they signed up with U.M.W. they would be able to  
work in Mine A, but if they did not sign up, they would not work. I did  
not go to any other meetings, and I don't know what happened in them.

"I have had this statement read to me by [REDACTED]  
and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Witnesses:

X [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Special Agents, FBI  
Springfield, Ill.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed on the morning of September 15, 1943, at his residence, [REDACTED] by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] would make a good witness. He can express himself well. He has an intelligence above that of the average miner. There is not much to which he could testify. He gave information set forth in the following statement, which he stated was true but which he declined to sign:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 15, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am an American citizen. I am now employed at Mine A. I make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promise, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to make this statement.

"I have been working at Mine A since [REDACTED]. I was employed at Mine A in 1941 when Ryan sold his interest in Mine A. Before that time there had been no talk that I heard of about changing unions. The men seemed to be pretty well satisfied with the way the local and the Progressive Mine Workers of America were being operated. I was not interested too much, but I was satisfied.

"When the mine was sold, the men talked about what they were going to do. There was talk among the men about changing, because they felt that Elshoff was favorable to the UMW. I thought so myself, because of the things that I had heard had happened at Mine B. There was talk that the mine would not be opened as a Progressive Mine, and that Elshoff would take the coal out of Mine A through Mine B. If he did that the men would have to be UMW. We thought that if we could join the UMW that we could get our jobs back.

"I went to only one meeting whether this matter was being discussed. That was the meeting at the Elks Hall. There were some talks made that day, but everything seemed to be pretty cut and dried. After we voted to go to UMW Edmanson came over and talked. He told us that if we joined the UMW that he thought that we could get the mine open in a little while. Most of the men wanted to go back to work. I wanted to go back to work, and I did not particularly care which union I belonged to, as long as I could work. That is the reason that I left the PMW and joined the UMW, even though I had been satisfied with the PMW. I was not interested in unions much and did not go to the union meetings much.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I know who [REDACTED] is. He was around the mine  
[REDACTED] for a while after the mine reopened. I do not know  
(continued) what he was doing there.

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

[REDACTED] FBI

[REDACTED] F.P.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He is extremely difficult to understand due to a very heavy accent. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am now employed at Mine A. I make the following statement to [REDACTED], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats or consideration of any kind has been made to me to have me make this statement.

"I have worked at Mine A for about [REDACTED] years. I was employed there at the time that Ryan sold the mine to Elshoff. Before that time there had been no talk about changing unions for Mine A. I had not heard any talk. It did not make any difference to me which union the men belonged to. I did not care myself, just so I could work. I do not know why the men changed except that while Ryan had run the mine it had been closed down a large part of every year. Elshoff was going to run the mine longer, and he wanted us to join the UMW. That is my understanding. I did not care. I did not go to the meetings where they talked about changing unions. I did not go to the meeting when they voted to join the UMW. I joined the UMW when I went back to work, because they would not let me work unless I did. I did not care which union I belonged to. Conditions were as good then as they are now. It does not make much difference which union I belong to.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI

[REDACTED] F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of September 15, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would make an average witness for the information that he does have. He is young, has an intelligence above that of the average miner, and can express himself quite well. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943

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

"I worked at Mine A for three winters. I quit there in the fall of 1941, two or three months after Mine A was sold. At the time that Mine A was sold, and prior to that time, I had never heard anyone talk about changing the unions for Mine A. Everyone seemed to be satisfied when the mine closed in March. I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers, and would have been satisfied to continue working under them. I do not know exactly what happened when the mine was sold.

"Before there was any meeting [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came around to my house and talked to me about joining the UMW. I think that they went around and talked to all of the men. I do not recall exactly what it was that they told us, but it was something about having to get a majority of the men to sign up with the UMW before the mine would reopen. I do not recall exactly, but I think that they said that Elshoff would not open the mine and work it with Progressive members.

"I know that there were several meetings, but I only went to one meeting, that being the one at the Elks' Hall. That was on a Sunday afternoon. I had heard some talk about things out there, and went to this meeting to see what was going to be done. I do not recall exactly what was said at that meeting. [REDACTED] talked and some others, but I do not recall now who they were. Someone talked and said that Elshoff would not open up the mine unless we went back to work as United Mine Workers. They said that he would take the coal out through Mine B. They said that he was digging out some entry's on the Mine B side to run into A, so that the coal could be taken out that way. Several men talked. They all stressed going back to work. They seemed to be of the opinion that they could not work as Progressive Miners. One man got up and said how much he needed

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

work, and that he was willing to go over to the UMW and not have all the trouble and bother that the men had had at Mine B with Elshoff there. Finally we took a vote to go to the UMW. Edmunson came over to the meeting and talked then. He said some things about forgetting all the trouble that had been had between the Progressives and the United Mine Workers, and coming back together. He said that if we signed up a majority of the men that he would see to it that Mine A was reopened. I signed up that night. I signed up because I wanted to go back to work. I did not care much about which union I belonged to, as long as I could work, but I was satisfied with the Progressives before. I quit the mine because the places were running out and I did not think that I would be able to make so much money there. After the UMW took over the mine there was not as much freedom as before. They would not let you talk. I went to some of the UMW meetings. They did not let you talk as much about things in the local as in the Progressives. Under the PMW we almost ran the local ourselves, but in the UMW they had everything fixed and would not let us make our own nominations, etc.

"I know who [redacted] is. He is a board member, or was, of the UMW. He was around the mine for a while after it opened. The told us that if we had any problems or complaints to take it up with the Board member.

"I got two letters about the change in ownership of Mine A. One was from Ryan, and the other was a mimeographed letter signed by the name of 'The Committee'. It did not say that it was from the UMW and did not say that we would have to change unions at all. It had some complaints in it about the Progressive officials, and how men had lost their jobs when other mines had been sold. It did not mention the UMW. It just invited us to come to a meeting. I do not remember getting any other letters.

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

/s/ [redacted]

/s/  
/s/

[redacted] F. B. I.

[redacted] F. B. I."

RE: JOEN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is difficult to understand due to a heavy accent. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943.

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

"I have been working at Mine A for about [REDACTED] years. Before Ryan sold Mine A, there was no talk about changing unions. I guess the men were satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers, because I heard nothing said against it. I did not care which union I belonged to, just so I could work. It did not make much difference to me. I attended one meeting where the matter of changing unions was discussed. I do not remember what was said that night. I did not attend the meeting when the men voted to go into the United Mine Workers. I decided that I would wait and see what they would do, and that I would do the same thing. I heard that there was talk about closing mine A and taking the coal out through Mine B. I wanted to work, and I think that is the reason the men joined, so they could work. It did not make much difference to me which union I belonged to.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI

[REDACTED] FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was contacted on the morning of September 16, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appeared to be a person whose mental condition was not normal. He is a decided Progressive and hates JOHN L. LEWIS. He was incarcerated in the Jacksonville State Hospital at the time events concerning Mine A occurred.

Agents did not attempt to obtain a signed statement from [REDACTED] due to his mental condition.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is difficult to understand due to a pronounced accent. He refused to sign the following statement because he was unable to read what was on it but assured that that which was read to him was true.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943.

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

"I have worked at Mine A since Ryan bought that mine. I was working there when Ryan sold the mine to Elshoff. Before tht time there was no talk about changing unions. I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers, and would have continued to work as a Progressive if I could. I attended only one meeting when the matter of changing unions was discussed. I attended the meeting where they voted to change. The reason that I voted to go into the UMW and the reason that I signed up that day was because I wanted to work, and I did not want to have all the troulbe and beatings and things that I had heard about happening at Mine B. I knew it was the same owner, and they told us that he wanted the UMW, so I joined to keep from having any trouble.

[REDACTED] has read the above statement on this page. It is all true."

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 15, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] would make an average agent. His intelligence does not exceed that of an average miner. He states a great deal of information as fact, which is only hearsay to him. He studied the statement set forth below, and said that it was all true. He declined to sign it, however, stating that he was married and had four children, and did not "want his head blown off." He has a distinct hate and fear of the United Mine Workers.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943.

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

"I worked at Mine A about [REDACTED] years until 1941. In 1941 when the mine closed down for the summer, I was employed at the mine. In the Fall of 1941, the mine was sold to Elshoff. I never went back to work at Mine A after that because I did not want to join the United Mine Workers, and they did not hire anyone who was not. About the time Mine A was sold there was a meeting at the Progressive Hall, where the men decided that they would stand pat, and would not change over to the United Mine Workers. At that meeting, [REDACTED] and some other men started a fight. Some of the PMW officers were talking, and these men kept interfering. The officer told them that if they wanted to have a different meeting, that they should go over to the UMW hall. [REDACTED] was a PMW official, and they heckled him so much that he got mad. Then the fight started.

"I did not go to any other meetings. I would not go to any meetings not held in the Progressive Hall, because the men knew that I was a strong Progressive and I would be beaten up.

"When the mine closed down, the men were very satisfied with the conditions at Mine A, and the Progressive Union there. I have worked in mines [REDACTED] years, and in almost every mine in Springfield, and many over Illinois. Mine A had the best working conditions of any of these mines. I had planned on going back to work at Mine A when it reopened. I did not have another job, but I would not work under the United Mine Workers. I did not even go back to get my tools, which were worth about \$65. I knew that if I tried to go get them that I would get beaten.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I do not think that the men employed at Mine A wanted to change unions. I think that they were all forced to change. I have heard that the UMW brought in some gun men, and beat a lot of them up. I also heard that the UMW gave money to some of the men to get them to change. I do not know that this is true, because none of these men talked to me, or offered me anything. I do not know of any men who were paid. I only know of one man who was beaten. I know of no other reason for the men changing unions.

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

/s/  
/s/

[REDACTED] F. B. I.

[REDACTED] F. B. I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was reluctant to talk and refused to sign the statement, because he did not want to get mixed up in anything. He is a person of average intelligence and would make an average witness. He gave information set forth in the following statement, which he refused to sign:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED] I am now employed at Mine A [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 have worked at Mine A for about [REDACTED] years. I was working for Bill Ryan at the time that he sold the mine to Elshoff. I have never been interested in union affairs, and have paid many fines for not attending union meetings. Before Ryan sold the mine, there was not talk, as far as I know, about changing unions. I do not know how the other men felt, because I never discussed the matter with them. I personally did not care which union I belonged to, at that time, as I was not interested in any of them.

"I went to the meeting at the Elk's Hall when the men voted to go into the UMW. I do not remember what was said that day, or why it was that I joined the UMW then. I think I had decided to join the UMW, but I do not remember why. I had talked to a few men about it, but not many, and I do not remember what they had told me about it.

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

[REDACTED] FBI

[REDACTED] FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

1943.

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]  
[redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 17,

At his residence, [redacted], Springfield, Illinois,  
Agents interviewed [redacted] who advised that he never has been  
arrested in his life. He did not appear to Agents to be very cooperative at  
all and indicated he did not know what it was all about. He also advised he had  
not been contacted by anyone in regard to instant case.

Agents obtained from him the following unsigned statement:

[redacted]  
Spring., Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943

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

"I was born in [redacted] I am [redacted] at Mine A.  
I have been working there about [redacted] yrs. In 1932 I did not care which union  
we went with I went to P M A as the rest did. I never favored either union.  
From 1932 to 1941 I saw no difference in the way the P.M.A. handled things.

"I heard that Elshoff had taken over Mine "A" in 1941, it made no  
difference to me I paid no attention to it. I heard this through gossip.  
No one contacted me to go to U.M.W. or to ask my opinion about the situ-  
ation. I didn't hear anything about Elshoff possibly bringing the coal from  
Mine A through Mine "B" during this time I was working [redacted] & paid  
no attention to the rumors going around. I did not go to any meetings at  
P.M.A., Redman's Hall or the Elks Club. I joined the U.M.W. right at the  
mine the morning it opened up. Nobody said anything to me, I just went out  
to go to work when I got there they told us the union had swung over to  
U.M.W. and we would have to join if we wanted to work. It still doesn't  
make any difference to me which union we have. Since 1941 conditions at  
Mine A are better than they were from 1932 to 1941.

"I have read this two page statement and to the best of my knowledge  
and belief it is the truth and it is as I have told it to the Agents.  
This statement is true and there is no reason why I should not sign it but  
I would rather not sign."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943"

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] related his story in a clear manner and appeared cooperative. He seems sincere, however, it is noted that in his statement he fails to give a plausible explanation for the miners at Mine A swinging to U.M.W. It is possible that he was not aware of everything that transpired. He would make a satisfactory witness. His statement is as follows:

\*Springfield, Illinois  
September 10, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED]. I started coal mining in [REDACTED] and at that time I joined the United Mine Workers. In the fall of [REDACTED] I started working at Mine A. From then until [REDACTED] I worked at Mine A off and on and from [REDACTED] I worked there steady until [REDACTED] of 1942.

"In the spring of 1941 Mine A shut down, a seasonal shut down. At that time I belonged to Progressive, having joined in 1932. I served on the pit committee for U.M.W. in 1941 until I quit and also, in 1936, served on the pit committee for P.M.A.

"Sometime in August of 1941 I saw in the paper that Elshoff had bought Mine A from Ryan. Some of my friends and I felt that something must be done, that we should see Elshoff about our jobs. [REDACTED] (Phonetic) called a meeting of the entire membership of Progressive. This meeting was held at the Progressive Hall. The pit committee refused to meet with Elshoff so a special committee was elected. I was elected on this committee. Others were [REDACTED] and one other. I am not sure how their names are spelled. We were supposed to see Elshoff and find out if he was going to open the mine and if we would get our jobs back. We were to try and arrange an appointment with Elshoff but we could not locate him on the phone. This same evening, after trying to locate Elshoff, we met Johnny Snyder, [REDACTED] and some other, all P.M.A. members. When we were going by these men Snyder said he wanted to see me. I asked him what he wanted and he cursed me and gave me a shove. I got out of there but I know they beat up [REDACTED]. I don't know why they started the fight except that they didn't want us to meet

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

Elshoff. I went back up to the meeting and we advised the members that we couldn't find Elshoff. While this was going on Snyder and his gang came into the meeting and called us a bunch of scabs. He said if we wanted to go back to United we could.

"The next day our committee went to Mine B to see Elshoff. We couldn't find Elshoff but we talked to Oscar Falcetti. He told us that there were two plans, one was to open Mine A and the other was to haul coal through Mine B. We had another meeting that afternoon. We held this meeting at Iron Hall, on Monroe between 4th and 5th Sts. We were afraid that if we held the meeting in the Progressive Hall we might have trouble.

"The night before we had planned on not holding any more meetings in the Progressive Hall. I was scared to go back there. There were about one hundred members present at this meeting and we told them what Falcetti had said. Because all of the men were not present we decided to call a meeting the next day at the Elk's Club. As I remember, we put an ad in the paper and there was a lot of the men present, nearly all of the membership. [REDACTED] was chairman of the meeting. This, as I recall, was in September of 1941.

"Our committee told the membership what had happened in our talk of affairs with Falcetti. Two other things happened at this meeting. A motion was made to join United Mine Workers and this motion carried 100% by a standing vote, no one voting against it. Also, Ray Edmundson was asked to come over to our meeting and he came over. I do not know who asked him to come over. He told us he was glad of the action we had taken. He said he was glad to see Illinois together again, all the miners in one union. He talked about ten minutes, tears were in his eyes while he was talking.

"After he was through talking there was a bunch of membership cards and we all signed up for U.M.W. Before the meeting adjourned and before we signed the cards, we had elected officers for our new U.M.W. local. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I am not sure if the names are spelled right.

"I know that this was a sudden move, the men swinging to United as they did. However, I wish to state that there had been no plans made before this meeting to join U.M.W., Falcetti had not mentioned anything about any union and I guess the reason the fellows

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

joined was because they were mad at Snyder and his gang for calling us scabs.

"We left this meeting and the officers including myself went to the U.M.W. building and we were sworn in as officers of U.M.W. Edmundson swore us in, and then he called Elshoff on the phone. Edmundson wanted to find out what Elshoff was going to do with Mine A. I did not hear the telephone conversation but after while Elshoff and Falcetti came to the office. I do not remember which one came first. Edmundson told Elshoff that the "boys had come back into the union" and wanted to know what he was going to do with Mine A.

"There was some other conversation, but I don't remember what it was, and then we made an appointment to meet at Elshoff's office later that night. We met there later that night and after midnight Elshoff signed a contract. In about a week or two Mine A opened up. I went back to work digging coal.

"After the mine opened up I helped some friends of mine get a job at Mine A. [REDACTED] whose last name I do not remember was another, [REDACTED] I think was another, and another fellow whose name I don't remember. I helped all of these fellows get jobs at Mine A. These fellows were all miners. The first man I helped by going right to Falcetti but the others I helped by going to the President of our local [REDACTED] I don't remember ever going to [REDACTED] to get jobs for anybody.

"I had to quit mining because my back was bad and I couldn't hardly lift a shovel full of coal. So I started up a business of my own.

"There was no pressure of any kind brought on the members to join U.M.W. No pressure of any kind was brought on Elshoff to sign the contract with us, I was there when the contract was signed.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the afternoon of September 8, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as born in [REDACTED] and was naturalized through his father. He served in [REDACTED] the World War. He received his own citizenship papers about [REDACTED] years ago. [REDACTED] was arrested in 1935 or 1936 in connection with a bombing at Taylorville, Illinois in a labor dispute, but was not held or convicted. At the time of the interview [REDACTED] was bedridden due to a broken leg, but is expected to be back on his feet in a short time. He is employed at [REDACTED] and is considered to be a very good potential witness. He has a very keen memory, makes a distinct effort to be exact and accurate, and would be very difficult to confuse on cross-examination. He is able to express himself very well, and it is believed that his voice, although soft, would be readily understood. He furnished information set forth in the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 8, 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 any part of this statement.

"I have been a miner since [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
At that election they tried to throw out votes, and there was a lot of trouble by the men representing John L. Lewis, and I was supposedly beaten. At that time I was working at the Peabody Mine. When the P.M.A. of A. was formed, I voted against going into the P.M.A. because I thought that we ought to fight John L. Lewis in the U.M.W., but I was willing to go with the majority. I never went back to Peabody Mine. I could not get a job until 1937, when I got a job at Mine A, which was owned at that time by Bill Ryan. [REDACTED]

"Mine A closed about April 1, 1941. That was the usual procedure. I did not see the mine at Mine A much during the period that the mine was closed. I attended most of the meetings of the local which was held then, but did not get to all of them. In September of 1941, I read in the paper that Elshoff had purchased the lease rights to mine A.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

I think that there was a regular meeting of the local held the night that that announcement was made in the papers, but I am not sure. I was not at that meeting. The next meeting I did attend. I was working with a brick layer at that time, and did not see the men often. I had heard that [REDACTED] had been talking to some of the old men about switching to the U.M.W., but I do not know who it was. At that meeting that I did attend, they discussed the possibility of switching unions, and what would happen now that Elshoff was running Mine A. All of the men knew that Mine B, which Elshoff was running had been signed up with the U.M.W. There was some talk that night about switching unions, and also about what we could do to get our jobs. I know I thought, and some of the other men thought that Elshoff would never open Mine A, because Mine A is a long mine, and it would be easier to take the coal out of Mine A, through the Mine B shaft. That night [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED] was present. I know I asked [REDACTED] if we could force Elshoff to give us our old jobs. He told us that night that he understood that the National Labor Relations Act was such that it would not be necessary for Elshoff to hire us back, because it was a new owner operating the mine. I think that this statement of [REDACTED] had as much to do as any with the men switching over to the U.M.W.

"There had been some discussion among the men that night about running Mine B and Mine A as one mine. I do not recall exactly, but I think that there was some talk that night that some of the men did not think that Mine A would be opened unless it went U.M.W. That remark was made from the floor at the meeting, but I do not recall who said that. The men seemed to think, and I did so, that there had been so much trouble at Mine B, that we would have to go U.M.W. before Elshoff would open the mine again. There did not seem to be any talk then about Elshoff favoring the U.M.W. over the P.M.A.

"That night, they talked about sending a committee to Elshoff to talk about what he was going to do with the men at Mine A. I do not know whether a committee was actually sent that night or whether it was just talked about. I think that [REDACTED] was on the committee, but I do not remember who else was on it. I think that this committee decided to act on its own after the meeting.

"That same night, after I left, I was told later, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came back to the hall, and there was a fight, and some of the men got hurt. I do not know about that for sure, but I do know that at the next meeting, on Sunday, I heard some of the men say that they had been against the U.M.W. because they had some thugs running the union, and then we had some of our own in the P.M.A., who were trying to keep us from going over to the U.M.W.

"I do not know personally what happened after that. I got to wondering and called Ray Edmunson and asked him what the set up was.

Re: JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

He told me that there was going to be a meeting of the local at the Elks's club the next Sunday. I had heard that the committee had gone and tried to find Elshoff, and could not find him, and had gone to Ray Edmunson, Edmunson was supposed to have told them that what they ought to do was to go to a neutral hall, and have a have a meeting and decide what we ought to do.

"I went to that meeting. [redacted] reported for the committee. [redacted] who lives on College Street presided that night. There was supposed to be some other meeting after the meeting I had been at, and the meeting on this Sunday, but I was not there, or did not know about it before. That afternoon I think almost everyone who had been working at Mine A was there, except about two dozen. There were none in the meeting hall who had not worked at the mine, although there were many standing around outside of the building. I was told that these men on the outside were supposed to be UM men who were there to see that the P.M. men did not come to cause any trouble.

"After the meeting was opened, [redacted]

[redacted] He announced that the committee had not been able to find Elshoff, and had gone to Edmunson. Edmunson, was supposed to have told them that he would promise that the Mine (A) would open if it went UM because they had a contract with Elshoff which was such that when one company operated two mines, that the union could force a division of labor. Then [redacted] said that he did not believe that the mine would be reopened as a P.M. The men seemed to feel that way too, and they voted. There was only one man who did not get up to vote to go to the UM. They then elected officers of the local to negotiate and ask for a UM charter. [redacted]

[redacted] I got up then after the election, and said that before we asked for a charter we ought to get ahold of Edmunson and have him tell us what the situation was. I said that I thought I could find him, [redacted] I think said that they could get ahold of him. Ten to twenty minutes later Edmunson, [redacted] Edmunson's secretary, [redacted] and a couple of other men that I did not know came over. Edmunson then made a speech. He did not say much except that he was glad to have them back in the UM, and that there was no sense in fighting etc. He said that he would like to have the committee that had been elected go over and see if they could not meet with Elshoff right then. Edmunson then asked the men to come up and sign up with the UM so that when he went to Elshoff he could show him that he had a majority, and could demand a division of the work and open Mine A. The men then went up front and signed up. All but about three of us signed up right then. I began to wonder, and thought that things were a little too well planned, and so I just went along with the committee when it went over to Edmunson's office with him.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"When we got to Edmunson's office, Edmunson picked up the telephone, and called Elshoff. When the other party answered, Edmunson told him to say that it was Edmunson calling, and that Elshoff would come to the phone. I wondered then why it was that Edmunson could get ahold of Elshoff so easily, when the committee had not been able to reach him.

"When Elshoff got there, Edmunson told him that the men had asked for a U.M. charter, and that he was demanding that he open up Mine A. Falcetti said that they had not been planning on opening up Mine A, but were planning on putting in a 'skip' and run the coal out of mine A through Mine B, but that if they could show that there was a majority in the union they would consider opening Mine A. Elshoff did not say much of anything except that it was Sunday, and that he did not want to sign any contract on Sunday, and he wanted to talk to his attorney. Elshoff told us to meet at his office on 6th street in Springfield, but that no contract would be signed until after midnight. I did not go to the meeting.

"After the mine reopened, [REDACTED] was around the office every day. It looked to me as if he was doing all the hiring, although I was not sure. I had a friend of mine who was looking for a job, and so I went to [REDACTED] and told him about this friend of mine. This friend, [REDACTED] was then in [REDACTED] and I did not know his address. [REDACTED] asked me to tell him when I got his address, and I did. One day [REDACTED] came to me and told me that he had sent a telegram to [REDACTED] and signed my name, telling him that he had a job. [REDACTED] came back, and was hired right away. I think [REDACTED] was also hired by [REDACTED]. I think [REDACTED] got several of his friends hired at the mine through [REDACTED].

"A couple of weeks later, after the mine reopened, I was put on nights working on the track. I had been pretty insistent about maintaining the rights we had had with Ryan, and Falcetti did not like it very well, so they kept me on nights. Thus I do not know much of what happened out there after that.

"On the day of the NLRB election for Mine B in February 1941, I met Falcetti at the post office. I was attending a Progressive Convention that day and was not working. He told me that he wanted it decided, and no more trouble with the unions. I told him that he wanted the U.M. to win, and he said that it did not make any difference to him.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

ber 18, 1943.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 18, 1943.

At his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] who advised he never has been arrested in his life. It was noted that [REDACTED] is rather intelligent and made a good impression, and it is felt he would make a good witness if his testimony were necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Spec. Agents of the F. B. I. No threats or promises have been made me to get me to give this information. I am now employed by [REDACTED] I worked at Mine A [REDACTED] years up to Mar. 1942, I was a Company man while there. I was born [REDACTED] In 1932 when the union at Mine A changed to P. M. A. I voted with the rest to go to P. M. A., I didn't make any difference to me which union I belonged to they both treated me alike.

"In 1941 when Elshoff took over Mine 'A' I heard of it through talking with other men and also thru the papers. We heard that the men who had been there were to get their job back, I didn't think when I first heard of this that there would be any trouble at all. From 1932 to 1941 I never had any complaint with the local, I was satisfied the way things were going. After Elshoff bought the mine nobody ever contacted me as to my opinion on things or as to joining over to U. M. W. There was some talk that Elshoff would shut down one of these mine but it was said that the men from the mine that was shut down would be entitled to work in the one left open, this was just talk. I never heard that Elshoff would open Mine A only on the condition that the men went over to U. M. W. These rumors I heard didn't make a great deal of difference to me, I just figured I'd go along with the rest of the boys although some of the boys didn't.

"I believe I attended a meeting at Rodmans Hall, I don't recall attending any involving this question at P. M. A. and I didn't go to the one at the Elks Club. I don't recall how I was told to come to this meeting or what the purpose of it was. There was quite a crowd there. I joined the U. M. W. at the Hall in the U. M. W. Bldg. I believe [REDACTED] was in charge of this, there was a few men who hold back but finally they changed over some never did sign over. I signed because everyone else did and they

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

called you a slacker and everything else if you didn't.

"After U. M. W. became the union at Mine 'A', things remained about the same for me. They now have 2 men on the job I did.

"I have read this 2 page statement and it is all true and correct. I am signing it of my own free will.

"Signed: [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]  
Spec. Agt., FBI

/s/ [REDACTED]  
Spec. Agt., FBI  
St. Paul, Minn.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was entirely cooperative and seemed fairly well acquainted with the happenings at Mine A during the pertinent period. [REDACTED] impressed Agents as being an honest and reliable person and he advised that he had no criminal record whatever. It is felt that [REDACTED] would make a fairly good witness if his testimony is needed. He furnished the following signed statement.

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill  
Sept. 16, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] Special Agents of the F.B.I. who have made themselves known to me as such. No threats or promises have been made me to get me to give this information.

"I have been working at Mine A as a digger for the past [REDACTED] yrs. I was born [REDACTED] I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and got my citizen papers [REDACTED] ago.

"When the Mine 'A' union went over to the Progressives, I wanted to go over. I have always been for the Progressives.

"When Elshoff took over Mine A I heard about it through talk. We felt bad at that time and thought we would have to go back to U.M.W. else it would be just like Mine 'B'. We were always satisfied with P.M.A. while it was there, there were a few troublemakers who were in the P.M.A. [REDACTED] was one of these, when Elshoff took over Mine 'A' he [REDACTED] went around to miners houses and told them they better go back to U.M.W. or the mine would stay closed. I heard that Elshoff might close Mine 'A' and operate it through Mine 'B'.

"I also heard that unless the men went over to U.M.W. Mine A would be closed.

"I attended the meeting at the Elks Club. I heard of the meetings at P.M.A. Hall but didn't go, I also heard of some trouble at one of these meetings. I also attended a meeting at Redman's Hall, I heard about this through the other miners. I don't know who spoke at Redman's Hall but I do know I heard there if we didn't go over to U.M.W. the mine would stay closed.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I went to the Elks Club meeting. I dont remember how I knew about it but I went. I dont know who was in charge. As I remember we just went to this meeting to go back to U.M.W. I think we voted to go back to U.M.W. at one of the other meetings, I believe the one at Redmans.

"Edmundson talked at the Elks meeting telling us he was glad we were back in U.M.W. and that we were going to be treated well. I signed up for U.M.W. that afternoon at the Elks, we were all signing up together.

"I voted to go over to U.M.W. because I needed my job and there was no other way at the time. Jobs were hard to get in those days and we knew that if we wanted our jobs we had to go back to U.M.W. I did not go to Elshoffs or Edmundsons office or to the Leland Hotel after the Elks Club meeting.

"Now under the U.M.W. the conditions in the mine are just the same as they were under the P.M.A. but in the local it is different. They pay no attention to just a digger, just a few run the whole thing, this is different from P.M.A.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this statement written on this and two other pages to me. It is all true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am signing this of my own free will as it is true.

Signed [REDACTED]

"witness:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent, F.B.I.,  
St. Paul, Minn.

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent FBI (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 15, 1943.

At [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, the residence of [REDACTED] agents interviewed him and it was noted that he had difficulty in understanding some of the questions and in answering them. It should be noted that he is an alien too, and he advised he never has been arrested in his life. It is felt he would make a poor witness unless his testimony is necessary, as he is not very intelligent.

He was unable to write his name so marked "X" on the statement which he gave Agents and that statement is as follows:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] who have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this information. I was born in [REDACTED] & I came to U.S. when [REDACTED] was President & I am not a citizen at all. I have been at Mine A about [REDACTED] years I am still there as a digger. In 1932 I wanted to join P.M.A. as it was the best local and all others went over too. I would rather be with P.M.A. now than under U.M.W. I read in papers that ELSHOFF bot Mine A & that RYAN quit. About a week later I first heard from others that we would have to join U.M.W. but at first I didn't pay any attention when ELSHOFF bot Mine A. P.M.A. had no trouble at all with RYAN in old days. After ELSHOFF bot Mine A no one asked me to join up to U.M.W. I also heard that ELSHOFF said he would take coal out of Mine A thru Mine B unless the men joined U.M.W. I never heard a thing about Mine A to be opened separately if it went U.M.W. I joined U.M.W. as whole local did. I only went to meeting on Sunday at Elks Club and we voted and I did too altho I didn't want to go over to U.M.W. as I was pleased with P.M.A. No one told us anything at the meeting except that they wanted to go back to work. I don't think that all wanted to join up to U.M.W. I didn't want to fight anyone so I joined up as we didn't want the same thing to happen at Mine A like it did at Mine B when men got beat up. I signed up a meeting to become U.M.W. RAY EDMUNDSON talked to us about being glad to have us back. Since U.M.W. has been at Mine A things are same now as under P.M.A. as far as I am concerned. I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this two (2) page statement to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

WITNESSES:

"X"

Above is X which was made by [REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED] Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw)"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. At the time of this interview [REDACTED] advised that he could not understand the questions that were being asked him by Agents. He also advised that he had never become a citizen of the United States. As much information as could be procured from [REDACTED] was taken down in statement form, but he was not asked to sign it as he advised that he could not understand the same. He tried to be cooperative, but could not be of much assistance due to his lack of understanding. It is not believed he would make a good witness in any event, as he did not attend many meetings as he could not understand what was going on and would not be competent to testify as to what went on, even at those meetings he did attend. He advised that he had never been in any trouble with the police.

The following information was procured from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agent of the FBI. No threats or promises have been made me to get me to give this information. [REDACTED] I had up until about Jul. 1942 been working at Mine A for about [REDACTED] years. I was born in [REDACTED] yrs. ago. I have been in the U. S. about [REDACTED] years. I am not a citizen.

"I do not understand the questions asked by you Agents. I never attended many union meetings as I did not understand what was done and was ill. I am willing to talk with you but do not understand. For the past several years my legs have been bothering me and I don't get around. This was why I quite at Mine 'A'.

Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent FBI (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 18, 1943.

At his residence Agents interviewed [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, who advised he has no criminal record. It was noted he could not readily understand the English language and he had to be assisted by [REDACTED]. It is felt he would make a very poor witness unless he had an interpreter.

Agents obtained the following statement which he signed with an "X":

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as being Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made to give this information. I was born [REDACTED] came here about [REDACTED] years ago & I became a citizen in [REDACTED]. I am at Mine A as a digger & have been there about [REDACTED] years but when I started at Mine A it was Progressive. I got a letter from Ryan telling me he sold Mine A & I felt bad I thought there would be trouble like at Mine B. I was satisfied & liked P.M.A. when they were at Mine A. I heard from the miners that Elshoff would take coal from Mine A thru Mine B. Later on I got some letter to go back. I also heard that Elshoff might keep Mine A closed unless it was U.M.W. I went to meetings at P.M.A. but did not go to Redman's Hall or at Elks Club. This letter I got said I would have to join over to U.M.W. if I wanted to come back. I signed up at the Elks Club & just signed a slip but did not stay for meeting. I also got sworn in later at U.M.W. Bldg. I never was in office of Elshoff or Edmundson then & was not on any committees. Things are just the same as under P.M.A. since it changed over to U.M.W. In old days Pit Committee of P.M.A. did something but now Pit Committee doesn't do anything. I like the Progressives better than the U.M.W. I have had Agent [REDACTED] read to me this (2) page statement & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge. I have signed this of my own free will."

/s/ "X" The mark of [REDACTED]  
made in the presence of [REDACTED]

Witnesses

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 18, 1943.

[REDACTED] resided at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, with his wife and upon arrival of Agents at his residence he was out in the barn. His wife was sitting out in the back yard with a neighbor woman and she advised that her husband could not understand English and was not in any trouble. The wife took a very hostile attitude and at first would not tell where her husband was. Upon noticing the husband by the barn the wife hurried down to him and talked to him in a foreign language and part of the conversation to him was that he should not sign anything. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were asked by Agents whether they were told by that woman in the yard or anyone else not to talk to Agents and she called Agents a liar and was insistent that her husband could not understand English. However, Agents conversed with him after he told his wife to shut up and he could understand English but not as bad as his wife claimed and he furnished the following information to Agents which was taken down by Agent [REDACTED] and his stenographic notes are being retained in instant file.

He advised he was born in [REDACTED] years ago and that he works at Mine A and has been there about [REDACTED] years. He said he has been a citizen [REDACTED] years or so and that he worked at Mine A as PMA and UMW. He said it don't make any difference to me what union he belongs to just so that he works. He also said that Mine A shut down every year for 5 months and that it was in the paper that Ryan sold Mine A. He also said he heard the new owner would not open up unless it was under UMW. He also said that the mine was shut down and he needed a job and that everybody joined up with UMW and that it did not make any difference to him and that he did what the rest did. He also said he would not say anything against PMA or UMW just so he works and all he wanted was a job and that he went over to UMW with others as the whole local went over to UMW. He also said that somebody said everybody had to sign over and he advised things are the same now as before and that there was no change for him at all. He also advised he did not go to any meetings at Roman's or Elks Club. He also advised he never has been in any trouble and that he did not understand what went on at meetings when he went and he mentioned he had some difficulty in understanding some questions. He also advised he would not sign anything.

It is felt he would not make a good witness.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 16, 1943, with the help of [REDACTED]. He had difficulty in understanding questions and could not express himself very well, and it is felt he would make a very poor witness. He advised he has never been arrested in his life. [REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement.

"1152 Sangamon Ave  
Springfield, Ill  
Sept. 16, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. I give this with the help of [REDACTED] as I do not understand English well. No threats or promises have been made me to get me to give this information. I am working at Mine 'A' as a digger & have been there about [REDACTED] years. I was born [REDACTED] I have been in the U. S. since [REDACTED] I became a citizen in [REDACTED] at Spring, Ill. I was a progressive when I went to Mine 'A'. I don't care what union they have in a mine, the union never helps me.

"I read in the paper that Elshoff was going to take over Mine 'A'. It didn't make any difference to me. When P.M.A. was there from the time I went to work until 1941 things were just the same as far as I was concerned.

"No one came to try and get me to join the U.M.W. I heard some talk about Elshoff closing Mine 'A' and taking the coal through Mine 'B' but I didn't pay any attention to it. I hear talk but it doesn't make much impression as I can't understand much English. I didn't hear about or attend any meetings when they decided to return to U.M.W. or discussed returning to U.M.W. I don't know if I ever signed for U.M.W. or not but one day some fellow at the blacksmith shop told me I had to sign up and I couldn't sign or read it as I didn't have my glasses. I had some other fellow sign for me.

"I don't care what union I belong to as long as I have a job.

"I have had [REDACTED] read this two page statement and it is my understanding that it is all true and correct and as I have given it to the Agents. I am therefore signing this of my own free will.

"Witnesses: [REDACTED] Signed [REDACTED]  
/S/ [REDACTED] Special Agent,  
F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.  
[REDACTED] Special Agents  
FBI (Milw) Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 15, 1943 Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] at his home, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois; at the time of the interview [REDACTED] advised that he did not understand English well and the interview was conducted through [REDACTED] [REDACTED] advised that he had no criminal record; he was entirely cooperative but knew very little of what went on during the pertinent period. It is felt that [REDACTED] is an honest and reliable person but that he could be used as a witness only if he had an interpreter. Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the F.B.I. I can't understand English very well so [REDACTED] is acting as interpreter and this information is true to the best of my knowledge. I was born in [REDACTED] & I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] & became a citizen [REDACTED] years ago. I joined P.M.A. in 1932 as I felt it was best union. I worked a Mine A [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] years & quit around [REDACTED] 1943 and am now at Panther Creek #5 as P.M.A. is there & I like them. I read in paper that ELSHOFF bot Mine A & I also got a letter later from Mr. RYAN about 2 years ago. I thot that we would not be able to go to work there as the men talked this way and they also talked that it would close unless it went over to U.M.W. I believed that & then we had not worked for some time. We also knew of Mine B trouble & didn't want that to happen to Mine A so local joined over to U.M.W. Jobs were scarce then too. When RYAN was there P.M.A. got along fine with him & I was satisfied as I liked P.M.A. better. I also read in the papers that Mine B would take coal out from Mine A unless it went over to U.M.W. I also heard it from other miners & we were told it too at a meeting but I don't recall which one it was. I felt like the others did and we all needed a job and we signed over so we could go to work. I went to a meeting on a Sunday at Elks Club when we signed up & also went to another one but I can't recall where it was held at. At the first meeting I went to there was no fights or trouble & we all wanted a job then & didn't want any trouble. I heard of the meetings from others. They passed the hat too to pay for the halls. At meeting on Sunday we voted over to U.M.W. RAY EDMUNDSON also spoke to us after the officers were elected. [REDACTED] of new local. [REDACTED] had charge of meeting. Everybody signed up right away to U.M.W. at the meeting. There was nothing else we could do as I had to go to work & didn't want the same trouble at Mine A like they had at Mine B. We had no choice - we had to join or quit our jobs then as jobs were scarce then. I was not on any committee & I never went to office of ELSHOFF or EDMUNDSON. Since 1941 under U.M.W. at Mine A things were same as under P.M.A. before. I have had Agent [REDACTED] read to me and [REDACTED] this three (3) page

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

statement and it is true & correct as I have given it to the Agents.

"I am signing this of my own free will.

(signed) [REDACTED]

WITNESSES:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 16, 1943. He advised that he has never been arrested. It was noted that [REDACTED] is rather an intelligent person and he seemed to have a good knowledge as to what went on in mine matters, so would be a very good witness if his testimony were necessary. He appeared to be cooperative, and furnished the following signed statement.

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943

"I [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to get this information and I give it voluntarily of my own free will.

"I am now employed at [REDACTED] I worked at Mine A from [REDACTED] to July of 1942 as a company man. I was born in [REDACTED] I came to the U. S. that same year and became a citizen in [REDACTED] through my father's naturalization.

"At the time of the switch to P.M.A. I was in favor over going to F.M.A. I was always satisfied with the P.M.A. union, while it was there.

"I first heard that Elshoff had taken over mine 'A' by reading of it in the 'Register'. I thought when I read this that I would have to go find another job. This was because I knew of the trouble they had had at Mine 'B'. I was well satisfied with P.M.A. after it came in and up until this time. Some of the boys from Mine 'A' came to see me about coming to a meeting to be held at the Elks, I couldn't go at the time as I was working at State Fair Grounds, one who came to see me was [REDACTED] the other was [REDACTED] We had no discussion, they just asked me to come to the meeting.

"I heard rumors that Elshoff would take the coal out through Mine 'B', we thought if this happened about half the company men at least would be out of luck. I also heard that Elshoff would only open the mine under a U.M.W. contract, this was brought up at a regular P.M.A. meeting. If I remember right the majority of the men at this meeting voted to stay P.M.A. whether he opened the mine or not, I think this was a regular PMA meeting. I think at this meeting the local selected a committee to see Mr. Elshoff. These men were to talk to Elshoff and we were to come back at a special meeting to get their report. The regular PMA

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

officers were presiding at this meeting. Just a short time later the special meeting was held at the P.M.A. Hall. At this meeting the committee reported that if the mine was to open it would have to be under U.M.W. at this meeting also another committee was appointed to see Elshoff as the first committee had been unable to get in touch with Elshoff himself. At this meeting any of the men could get up and have his say. There were some there who favored going over to U.M.W., the main thing with all of them was I think to keep their jobs, they were afraid if they hung back the mine would be opened and new men put in their places. There was some commotion at one of these meetings but I did not see any of it. I think at the second meeting it was stated the mine was to open up under U.M.W. and Mr. Thrush, a dist. P.M.A. official told us to go to work and hold our jobs. I did not attend any meeting at either Redman's Hall or the Elks Club. I never voted to switch over to U.M.W. I signed up with U.M.W. the first morning I went to work. I had to sign up before I could go to work, this was told me by [REDACTED] and I signed with him. He told me that for the first 3 days it would cost nothing to re-join U.M.W. but after that regular fees would be asked.

"I signed up with U.M.W. in order to keep my job. I had the choice of either doing this or going back home. It is my personal opinion that conditions at the mine were much better under the P.M.A. than under U.M.W.

"I have read this 3 page handwritten statement and it is all true and correct to the best of my knowledge and it is as I have given it to the agent. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

Signed: [REDACTED]

/s/ [REDACTED]  
Special Agent, F.B.I.,  
St. Paul, Minn.  
[REDACTED]  
Spec. Agt. FBI (Milw.)"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 17, 1943.

At [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, agents interviewed [REDACTED] who works there, and he advised he never has been arrested in his life. It was noted that he was very cooperative but he appears to be rather illiterate and it is felt he would make a poor witness unless his testimony were necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this information, & I am giving it of my own free will. I am still at Mine A as a digger & I been there about [REDACTED] years. I was born in [REDACTED] ago & I became a citizen at Springfield in [REDACTED]. In 1932 I joined P.M.A. but I don't remember why or how I felt then. I heard that Elshoff bot Mine A in 1941 at a P.M.A. meeting and nobody liked it as we all thot there would be some trouble. I also heard that if the men signed over to U.M.W. Mine A would be re-opened & otherwise it would close & I also heard that Edmundson said that Mine B would take coal out from Mine A thru Mine B. I was satisfied with P.M.A. at Mine A & it was a pretty good local, & I didn't want to change back. When I heard of above I did not feel so good as I was over 60 & jobs were hard to get. I also heard if we signed up we would not have to pay \$10.00 then. I joined the U.M.W. as I needed a job & I felt if I wasn't with U.M.W. I would not get a job as I am too old. I don't know if I went to any meeting at Redman's Hall or at Elks Club but I do recall of going to a meeting of the U.M.W. local on the 7th floor of the U.M.W. Bldg. I heard it said in paper if we wanted to go back to work we would have to go to this meeting. At this U.M.W. meeting Edmundson said if we joined up Mine A would reopen & in a few days it did reopen & he said something about taking coal out thru Mine B. I signed up with U.M.W. as if I did not I could not go to work. I never was at Edmundsons or Elshoff's office & I needed a job. Since U.M.W. has been at Mine A things are same as they were under P.M.A. & there is no trouble. I like P.M.A. best as there is too much hum-bug in U.M.W. I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this (2) two page statement to me

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

& it is true & correct to the best of my recollection &  
I have signed it of my own free will."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent FBI  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agents [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 18,  
1943.

At his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED], who advised he has no criminal record. He appeared to be very cooperative and it is felt he would make a good witness.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943

"I [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me.

"I am a digger at Mine "A" where I have been for about [REDACTED] years. I was born [REDACTED] and came to U.S. in [REDACTED]. I became a citizen about [REDACTED]. In 1932 when the local went to P.M.A. I was glad to go over to the P.M.A.

"In 1941 when Elshoff bought Mine A I heard this through the other miners I felt bad, I felt I wouldn't have any job at all. From 1932 to 1941 I was always satisfied with the P.M.A. and conditions were fine at the mine. When Elshoff bought mine A [REDACTED] and I believe [REDACTED] came to me and told me that I would have to sign up with U.M.W. or loose my job, [REDACTED] was also with them at the time. They told me that Elshoff would close Mine A and take coal out through Mine B if we didn't join with U.M.W. I heard through talk around that Elshoff would only open mine A if we all signed up with U.M.W.

"I did not attend any meetings at either P.M.A., Redman's or Elks Club I was sick at this time and couldn't get to those meetings. They brought the papers to my home for me to sign over to U.M.W. When I went back the Superintendent thought that I was staying home because of the change and I had to see the President before I went back to work, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] brought the papers for me to sign. I signed because I had to or I would have no job. Since 1941 when U.M.W. came back things have not been as good as they were under the P.M.A. for the miners. They dock you now and don't even show you why. When you made a complaint to P.M.A. they did something for you now it does you no good to complain.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this 2 page statement to me and it is all true and correct & as I have told it to the Agents, I am signing this of my own free will.

"Signed: [REDACTED]"

" [REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.  
[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, F.B.I.  
St. Paul, Minn.  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 17, 1943 at Springfield, Illinois. He stated that he was getting older and did not pay much attention to union activities. He told his story in a clear and sincere manner and seems to be better than average in intelligence. It is believed he would be a favorable witness, although his information is limited. There is set forth below his signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and presently reside at [REDACTED]. I started out as a miner when I was [REDACTED] years old and was a charter member of the U.M.W. I now work for the [REDACTED].

"I started working at Mine A in about [REDACTED] and quit there in [REDACTED] 1943. I joined the PMA in 1932, but did not have any active part in the start of it. All the men were a little put out at the U.M.W. because we couldn't elect our own men and I went along with the rest and joined PMA. As far as I'm concerned there isn't much difference between the two unions and I went which ever way the majority went.

"I recall that in the early fall I got a letter from Ryan saying he had sold Mine A to Elshoff and when I heard that I was pretty sure that Elshoff would probably operate Mine A with United men. I felt that because of what happened at Mine B, that Elshoff would favor U.M.W. There was also a rumor that Elshoff might haul coal out of Mine A through Mine B.

"I went to a meeting at PMA hall sometime around the first part of Sept. and I think it was the second meeting they held. Most of the men seemed to think that the only way Elshoff would operate Mine A was to pull the coal through Mine B. Some of the men wanted to join united so they wouldn't lose their job. The meeting was adjourned that night and nothing was accomplished. Most of the men were just arguing about what to do. I believe it was [REDACTED] that had charge of this meeting.

"The only other meeting that I went to was at the Elks Club. At this meeting the men voted by standing vote to join united. I know that Edmondson gave a talk, but I don't recall exactly whether he talked before or after we voted. I don't think anyone voted against joining U.M.W. I joined U.M.W. that same day at the Elks.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"It is my opinion that I joined United because I figured that was the only thing for me to do in order to hold my job. I was never beaten up or threatened in any way to join a union.

"I have read this statement of 3 pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/

"Witnessed:

/s/

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] has a poor memory, and his knowledge of English is poor. He appeared to have no information of value and is not recommended for a witness. His Statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 17, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of whom I know to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement. I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] I became a U.S. citizen in [REDACTED] now reside at [REDACTED] and am employed at Mine A. I joined U.M.W. in [REDACTED] and have been a miner most all of my life.

"I started working at Mine A about [REDACTED] and in 1932 I joined Progressive. P.M.A. was all right, the same as U.M.W. Any union is all right with me as long as I have work.

"I remember getting a letter from Ryan telling that he had sold the mine, Mine A, to Elshoff. I heard that Elshoff might close the mine, or maybe open it for United Mine Workers. I didn't pay much attention, I just wanted a job.

"I went to a meeting, I am not sure where, but I remember all of the men stood up, and went U.M.W. We all signed up for United that day. Two or three fellows talked but I don't know who they were or what they said. I have never been bunted or threatened to make me join any union. I joined U.M.W. so I could keep my job, the rest of the fellows had joined U.M.W.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appeared to be an honest and sincere man, but stated he had no information of value to instant case. It is believed he would make a poor witness for this reason. There is set forth below the signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

"Sept. 17, 1943  
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and am presently employed by [REDACTED] I first started mining in about [REDACTED] at Mine A. That was the only mine I worked at and I worked there until about the latter part of the fall of 1941. I had been thinking of stopping mining for about 8 years before I finally quit.

"I was a member of U.M.W. until about 1932 when I joined P.M.A. I never paid any attention to the unions and only joined because it was necessary to belong in order to work.

"I remember getting a letter from Ryan saying he had sold Mine A to Elshoff. The fact that he sold the mine didn't mean a thing to me. I heard the PMA had some meetings after the sale of the mine but I didn't go to any of the meetings because it didn't mean anything to me and I wasn't interested.

"I joined the UMW at the mine when I started work in the fall & only worked for about a month. Since I wasn't interested, I didn't form any opinions as to why the men switched to UMW.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

was interviewed by Special

Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has a great deal of difficulty in speaking and understanding the English language. It is believed he would be a poor witness. There is set forth below the signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] I became a U.S. citizen in [REDACTED] I have been a miner all my life and now work at Mine A. My present address is [REDACTED]

"I started working at Mine A in [REDACTED] and had been a member of the UMW for a long time. I joined PMA in 1932, but never took an active part in it. It doesn't make much difference to me what union I belong to, I just do what ever the rest do.

"I remember that Mine A was sold to Elshoff by Ryan in the fall of 1941. I got a letter from Ryan saying he had sold the mine and I thought that maybe I would be out of a job. I thought that maybe Elshoff wouldn't open the mine up in the fall. Everybody said that maybe Elshoff would only hire UMW men if he opened the Mine A.

"During the summer of 1941 I was working for [REDACTED] so I didn't have any time to go to any of the meetings that the PMA held after the sale of the mine. I went to a meeting at the Elks Club on a Sunday and I got at that meeting a little late. All of the PMA men had signed up with UMW so I signed up too so I wouldn't lose my job. The meeting was about over when I got there. I don't remember what they talked about at the meeting. I was never beaten up or forced to join any union.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is rather advanced in years, and although [REDACTED] is apparently a sincere and honest man, he stated he had no information of value to instant case. He is not being recommended for a witness in this case. His statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and presently live at [REDACTED]. I am still employed at Mine A. I have been a miner all my life and was a charter member of the U. M. W. I have been employed at Mine A for the past [REDACTED] years.

"I joined PMA in 1932, but I didn't have anything to do with the forming of this union. I've never paid much attention to the unions and just did what the rest of them did. Since I'm getting older I do not pay much attention to union affairs as long as I keep my job. As far as I'm concerned, the unions are all the same.

"I remember getting a letter from Ryan in the fall of 1941, and at that time I felt that since Elshoff had taken the mine over we would all be sure to work. I wasn't afraid of now working and didn't think much of what union would be at the mine.

"I heard that the PMA had some meetings at their hall after the sale of the mine, but the only meeting I went to was at the Elks Club. I got to the Elks Club meeting when it was about over and the men said they had all joined UMW, so I also signed up at that time. I just signed up because the rest did. I don't hold anything against either union, as far as I'm concerned they are all alike. One union is as good as the other. I don't have any opinions as to why the men switched over from PMA to UMW. I was never beaten or threatened.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

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

Special Agents, FBI  
U. S. Dept. of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is not particularly well informed concerning the details of the switch to U.M.W. It is not felt that he would make a good witness. He furnished the following statement which he refused to sign:

" Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943

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

"I was born on [REDACTED] and am still employed at Mine A. I am on the trial committee of the UMW for the local at Mine A. I have been a miner all my life and a member of the UMW up until I joined the PMA in 1932. I didn't have anything to do with the start of progressive and as far as I'm concerned both of the unions are about the same. I've been at Mine A since about [REDACTED]

"In the fall of 1941 I got a letter from RYAN saying he had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF. I figured that the mine probably would stay closed and I would be out of a job. As soon as the men heard about the sale of the mine the PMA called some meetings.

"I went to a meeting at the PMA hall soon after this and [REDACTED] had charge of this meeting. There was a lot of arguments and talking as to whether we should all join united. Some said Mine A wouldn't open in the fall, others said coal from Mine A would be hauled through Mine B, and I understood ELSHOFF was supposed to have made the remark that he was either going to operate with united or not at all. Not much happened at this meeting except a lot of talk.

"The second meeting I went to was also in the PMA hall a little while after the first one. The hall was almost filled & everybody again talked about what they thought ELSHOFF was going to do with Mine A. When I left the building I saw [REDACTED] out in front of the building and I noticed his shirt was torn & he told me he had been in a fight with some of the progressive officials. I think [REDACTED] was one of a committee of four or five who had been appointed by the president to call ELSHOFF on the phone & find out what he was going to do with Mine A. I do not know who beat [REDACTED] up. I got away from the meeting as I figured there was going to be trouble.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH ██████████ "I didn't go to any other meetings of the PMA because I  
(CONTINUED) ██████████ didn't like the idea of our own men fighting amongst  
themselves and I figured if the officers would do those  
things I'd stay away. I didn't go to the Elks Club &  
didn't join UMW until the first meeting held at the UMW building.

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

██████████ admitted the truth of the above statement, but  
stated it was his policy never to sign anything. ██████████ also said this  
was his own policy and that he had not been advised by anyone not to sign.

Witnessed

██████████ )  
██████████ ) Special Agents, FBI  
U. S. Dept. of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at Chatham, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at the place where he was working. [REDACTED] is strongly anti-UMW and advised that he quit Mine A because he could not work under UMW. He characterizes UMW as being un-American. He is favorable to the government's case and could be used as a witness. His statement is as follows:

[REDACTED] Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943.

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

"I am presently employed by [REDACTED]. I was born on [REDACTED]. I was a miner for over [REDACTED] years and had been a member of U.M.W. for a long time until I joined the P.M.A. in about 1932. I didn't have anything to do with the starting of the P.M.A., and as far as I'm concerned the P.M.A. was always a good union.

"I started at Mine A in about [REDACTED] & worked there until the spring of 1942. I was at Mine A when Ryan sold Mine A to Elshoff. I remember that I got a letter from Ryan about the sale and as soon as I heard that I felt that Mine A was sure to go United in view of the fact I felt Elshoff favored United.

"I went to a few meetings at the PMA Hall after the sale was announced, but did no go to the PMA meetings at the Elks and Redman halls.

"As I recall it the first PMA meeting was presided over by [REDACTED]. There was a lot of talk about PMA being shut out at the mine and most of the men were opposed to joining the U.M.W. We did not want to join United and felt that Elshoff wanted to operate the mine only with United men. We all voted not to go to work at the mine under the U.M.W. There were about 125 men at this meeting.

"There was another meeting at PMA about 4 or 5 days after this at the PMA hall and at that meeting there were 4 or 5 men appointed to a committee to go and see Elshoff as to what he was going to do. I heard that these men later reported to our local that Elshoff had said that the mine was going to be operated by United men.

"I remember that at this meeting some of the PMA men got in a fight and that [REDACTED] got beaten up at that time. I did not attend any of the other meetings. I did hear that our men had swung over to United and

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

so about five days after the mine opened I went to the office at Mine \* and signed up. I have read over this 2 page statement and it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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