



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**JOHN L. LEWIS**

**PART 3 OF 13**

**FILE NUMBER: 44-845**

**FILE DESCRIPTION**  
**BUREAU FILE**

**SUBJECT** JOHN L. LEWIS

**FILE NO.** 44-845

**SECTION NO.** 3

**SERIALS** 90 p. 1

thru

90 p. 259

Case Originated At **SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS** File No. **44-18**  
 Report Made At **SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS** Date Made **9-2-45** Period **8-18, 1945**  
**23 thru 9-2-45** inclusive

Title **JOHN L. LEWIS; RAY EDMUNDSON; WALTER J. JAMES; CARL H. ELSHOFF; OSCAR FALCETTI**  
**CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 93709**

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS** Signed statements of approximately 150 men who were members of Local 54 Progressive Mine Workers of America, during pertinent period set forth. WILLIAM M. RYAN interviewed concerning Mine "A" transaction. ROBERT C. SOLOMON interviewed concerning attempts by ELSHOFF to purchase the Panther Creek Mines. Interviews with P.M.W. of A. officials and other miscellaneous persons set forth.

- P -  
 Bureau File No. 44-845.

*Walter J. James*  
*See file 44-845*  
*Walter J. James*

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 RECD: *Walter J. James*  
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ILS: This is the report in this case, investigation being prepared upon a considerable volume of correspondence from the Bureau, which it is not deemed essential to reference in detail.

This report is being submitted in order to make available for immediate perusal the statements of persons interviewed during the course of this investigation. However, for the sake of coherence, certain investigative steps which have resulted in the obtaining of incomplete information will not be reported until the information can be set forth in complete form. No attempt is being made in this report to summarize the results of the investigation which has thus far been conducted.

It is noted that a memorandum for the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943 contains a statement that it will be essential to have interviews with a great number of the individual miners who worked at Mine "B" during the course of the alleged conspiracy. In order to inaugurate this phase of the investigation, contact was had with JOHN H. SCHNEIDER, Springfield, Illinois, who is presently an official of the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

SCHNEIDER made available the dues collection books of Local #54, PMA and he also made available an original copy of the PMA petition dated May 26, 1937. From these documents a list of approximately 462 PMA miners was obtained - which list, it appears - includes all of the PMA miners working at Mine "B" who would be connected with this investigation.

Investigation as to date has revealed that the following men named in this list are dead:

- BOOKER, TONY
- CASPER, LOUIS
- DARMON, GALE
- DRAUGELIS, GEORGE
- GALOB, FRANK
- GATHARD, JOHN
- GRIDER, CHAS.
- MARI, DONALD
- MARTINKUS, TONY
- MCDONALD, HARRY
- NUTAUT, PETER
- ORANT, JAMES
- OZELIS, JOHN
- OZELIS, PETER, Jr.
- POTTER, THOMAS
- REEVES, EDWARD
- SEABECK, FRANK
- SMITH, AUGUST
- SMITH, THOMAS
- TROOP, CHAS.
- WELCAUKIS, PAUL
- WILLIAMS, HARVEY
- ZABLOSKY, JOE

Investigation to date has revealed that the following PMA miners on this list are no longer in or near Springfield,

63  
T26,  
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43  
72  
14

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Illinois, and accordingly, no attempt will be made to interview them unless subsequent developments indicate that this may be imperative in individual cases:

ALBERT, MIKE	FAFOZLIA, OTTO	GREZORICH, FRANK
BUMGARDNER, A.	FIFER, JOE	KANGER, ANDREW
BRYANT, WM.	GALMAN, ADOLPH	KELLER, JOE
CRIFASI, STEPHEN	GENT, ANTOINE VICK	LAWLER, MIKE
DAVIDSON, ERNEST	GATHARD, JESSE	MCKELLOCK, ANDREW, JR.
DI BARTHOLOMES, DOMINIC	GRAHAM, PETER, JR.	POWELL, ELMER
DRAGOULIS, VINCENT	GUZZARDO, JOE	TUCKER, JOHN
		ZIONS, MIKE

There are set forth below the statements obtained from 154 PMA miners.

In order that the Bureau may be advised of the scope of the matters discussed with these miners, there is set forth below an outline of interrogation which was used in conducting these interviews:

Name.

Address (residence and business).

Date and place of birth.

Citizenship.

Date, place and circumstances miner first joined any mine union.

Offices held in any union.

Relations between UMW and ELSHOFF at Mine "B" prior to September, 1932.

Attitude of this miner toward formation of PMA local at Mine "B", including the part he played, etc.

Relations between ELSHOFF and Local 54, PMA, between September 1932, and April, 1937.

- a. Strikes,
- b. Close-downs by management.
- c. Attempts by ELSHOFF or FALCETTI to discredit PMA leadership by remarks, by a hostile attitude in settling grievances, etc.
- d. Expressions of partiality or liking for UMW by management.

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- e. Attempts by management to persuade men to return to UMW.

Relations between PMW officials and PMW membership.

- a. Any sentiment among rank and file that local was racket run.
- b. Extent of democracy in local - any measures of compulsion to keep rank and file in line.
- c. Interest in union affairs - attendance at meetings, etc.
- d. Attitude of rank and file toward convictions of PMW members in bombing cases.
- e. Financial angles - special assessments, kick-back to local PMW officials, etc.

Relations between local 54 and UMW from September 1932 to April 1937.

- a. Did UMW ever set up a picket line at the mine?
- b. Did UMW distribute literature or have organizers at the mine?
- c. Efforts to convert individual miners to return to UMW, with particular reference to details of the activities of the following alleged UMW spies:

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

JOHN (COTTON) ANANIAS  
JOHN SIRTOUT  
GEORGE JACANAY  
EMORY JACANAY  
CHARLES BOHANNON  
JAMES HALE

Relations between management and UMW officials, including social contacts, etc., between September 1932 and April, 1937.

The wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

- a. What report did PMW officials give rank and file on temporary agreement with ELSHOFF?
- b. Was there any feeling that PMW would be unable to get as good a scale as UMW?
- c. Was there any commotion at mine on pay days in April? Any temporary slow-downs or stoppages?
- d. What were the actions of the alleged spies during this period?

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- e. What was the attitude of the management on the wage question?
- f. What actions did PMW officials take to calm down the wage issue?

PMW meeting on night of May 11, 1937.

- a. Was this a regular meeting? If not, how were members notified?  
Any indication that only a select few were notified?
- b. What was the evidence presented against the five alleged spies who were expelled?
- c. What did these men say in their own defense?

The morning of May 12, 1937.

- a. What arguments and discussions were there at the mine about wages? How and when did the men find out they were not going to get an increase that day?
- b. Did rank and file know about the expulsion of the five spies?  
How were they told? What was the general reaction?
- c. Why were coal cars being loaded short? Was there a growing sentiment to strike during the day?  
If so, why did they intend to strike? That is, was it because of wages or because of the five expelled spies?

PMW petition of May 26, 1937.

- a. Did this miner sign it?
- b. What explanation of this petition did PMW officials give?
- c. Were any threats, expressed or implied, made in connection with obtaining signatures to this petition?
- d. How were the signatures obtained? That is, house-to-house, union meeting, etc.

UMW petition in Summer of 1937, date not known.

(See a., b., c. and d. above)

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Unknown petition in Summer of 1937, date not known.

- a. Did this miner sign it?
- b. Who circulated it or sponsored it?
- c. Was it really a "wildcat" petition? That is, was there a sentiment among most of the men to go back to work regardless of which union the company dealt with?
- d. Who reported it to company officials?
- e. Date petition was presented.

Formation of new UMW local 7469 July 29, 1937.

- a. Was this miner approached concerning joining this local?
- b. Were there any threats or violence used to obtain members for this local?

General information concerning the Summer of 1937 - union meetings, "wildcat" meetings, statements by officials of both unions, threats, violence, statements by management, etc.

Attempted opening of mine on September 27, 1937.

- a. How did management give notice mine would be open?
- b. Had PMW decided in advance the attitude they would take if the mine opened under the UMW contract?
- c. When did picketing start?
- d. Did this miner participate in picketing?
- e. Did PMW import outsiders for picketing?
- f. Were any threats or violence used by PMW leadership away from the mine premises to keep the rank and file in line?
- g. General information concerning incidents during the sit-down strikes.

Issuance of injunction in Federal District Court on December 9, 1937.

- a. Attitude of rank and file miners to injunction.

Attempted opening of mine on December 13, 1937.

- a. How was notice given?
- b. Why did only twelve men show up for work?

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NLRB election on December 15, 1937.

- a. Complete discussion of circumstances of election, including mechanics of election and events leading up to it. Note UMW contention that the election was a fraud, being dominated by strong-arm tactics of PMW.

Attempted reopening of mine on January 4, 1938

- a. How was notice given?
- b. Why did only a few men show up for work?

General discussion of incidents between January 24, 1938 and November 6, 1939, while mine was closed.

Opening of mine November 6, 1939.

- a. What did rank and file understand about wage scale, etc.?
- b. What was attitude of rank and file toward inability of PMW to get a contract?

Period from November 6, 1939 to February 21, 1941, when election was held.

- a. All threats, violence, etc., by either side to force union membership.
- b. All efforts by both sides to secure new members by persuasion.
- c. All statements by management concerning union preference.
- d. All acts of favoritism shown by mine management.
- e. Did this miner sign membership cards for either or both of the unions in the Summer of 1940? It is noted both unions submitted a number of cards exceeding a majority of workers to NLRB investigator who was investigating the claims for representation.

NLRB election on February 21, 1941.

- a. See election of December 15, 1937, above, for suggestions.

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INTERVIEW WITH

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

dence on August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. He appeared reluctant to answer some of the questions propounded to him which he should have had knowledge concerning. This was possibly due to the fact that he is presently employed at Mine 'B' under the UMW. He also claims to be friendly with OSCAR FALCETTI. He is alert and presents a good knowledge of mine operations. He executed the following signed statement:

\*Springfield, Illinois  
August 28, 1943

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

"I presently reside on [redacted] Illinois. I was born on [redacted] at [redacted]. I joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, in [redacted] at [redacted] and I started working at that time in a mine named [redacted]. I moved to [redacted] Illinois in [redacted] and worked as a member of UMW in the mine near [redacted] until [redacted] when I started working at Mine B near Springfield, Illinois. I am presently working at Mine B.

"I never held an office in the UMW union, but I was President of a local [redacted] Mine near [redacted] which was under a PMA contract. I held this office for about six months in [redacted]. This union will be referred to hereinafter as PMA.

"I worked in Mine B from about [redacted] to about May 12, 1937 when it shut down due to the strike. I did not go back to work at Mine B, but got a job at Mine A about October 18, 1937 as a PMA miner and worked there until about September of 1940. About September, 1940, I went to work in Mine B as a member of the UMW. I have worked there continuously until the present, and am still working there as a member of the UMW.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued) [REDACTED] "Elshoff, prior to 1932 got along very well with the UMW.

"In 1932 I was not in favor of the wage scale being lowered and I voluntarily joined the PMA and I feel that the rest of the miners at Mine B felt the same way. I did not take any active part in this formation.

"Everything was alright between Elshoff and PMA between September, 1932 and April, 1937 to my knowledge and I was well satisfied with the management of the PMA and the rest of the miners were satisfied with the PMA leadership to my knowledge.

"I heard that Dominic Pasquale, Charles Bohannon and about ten other miners who were holding PMA as well as UMW cards and were organizing at Mine B on behalf of the UMW and that was why they were expelled from PMA, but none of them ever approached me. I do not know which union the operator of Mine B was in favor of as I never heard any of them make any statements about it. I left the mine when the shut down started as previously mentioned, and did not have any first hand information on the matter.

"Between May, 1937 and October 1937 I helped for about one month with the PMA picket line at Mine B. This picketing was to keep UMW from taking our jobs. The vote, as a result of the NLRB electing on December 15, 1937 showed UMW had only twenty-five members at that time.

"I heard that Charles Bohannon and the other eleven men that were later expelled from the PMA for organizing for the UMW received money for organizing, but I never have been contacted by them and have no knowledge of the payment by UMW to them.

"I don't know why Elshoff did not sign a contract with PMA when that union had a majority of the employees at Mine B.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent, F.B.I.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent, F.B.I.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] registered at Selective Service board #6, Springfield, Illinois. This witness can speak English well and could testify that he was satisfied with PMA on May 12, 1937, and did not wish to become a member of UMW. [REDACTED] advised he did not have a criminal record.

[REDACTED] furnished the following voluntary signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
August 25, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and I am a citizen of the U.S. which citizenship I obtained through my father, who was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. in about 1913.

"I am now employed at [REDACTED] Ill., as a laborer.

"I became a member of the UMW in [REDACTED] when I was first employed in a mine as a miner. I dropped my membership in [REDACTED] when I stopped mining.

"I started mining again in [REDACTED] and became a member of P.M.A. in [REDACTED] of which union I was a member for 3 or 4 weeks. I dropped my membership in PMA when I stopped mining.

"In the first part of [REDACTED] I was employed by the [REDACTED] Ill., for which mine I worked for 3 or 4 months, during which time I was a member of PMA.

"In the summer of [REDACTED] I was employed by Mine B, Springfield, Ill. and became a member of PMA where I was employed as a miner until May 1937 when the mine was closed.

"In the fall of 1937 I was employed at the Panther Creek Mine #6, Springfield, Ill., until Spring 1943. During my employment at the Panther Creek Mine #6 I was a member of PMA.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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"I was a sect. in a "Wildcat" Union at [REDACTED] Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill. for about one month in [REDACTED] at which time the mine was closed for financial reasons. .

"So far as I know the relationship between Mr. Elshoff at Mine "B" with PMA was good between the summer of 1936 and May 1937. I do not know anything about the relationship between Mr. Elshoff at Mine "B" and U.M.W. prior to 1932.

"Up until May 12, 1937 there was no trouble at Mine "B" and there were no strikes.

"So far as I know there were good relations between ELSHOFF and FALCETTI of Mine "B" and PMA during the time I was employed there, neither of whom ever mentioned union matters to me.

"So far as I know the members of PMA liked the union and were members of PMA because they liked the union and thought PMA could do more for them than any other union.

"I was never interested in union affairs, and attended only a few meetings of the union each year.

"The members of PMA thought the members of PMA convicted for bombing should not have been convicted as they did not get a fair trial, I cannot furnish any details concerning the attitude of the members of PMA concerning the conviction of PMA members in bombing cases as I was not interested.

"I cannot furnish any information concerning the financial operations of PMA, there were very few special assessments during the time I was a member of PMA.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" U.M.W. never attempted to organize the employees of Mine "B" in any way, No one ever attempted to get me to become a member of U.M.W. when I was employed at Mine "B". I never saw any employees at Mine "B" attempting to get any other employees of Mine "B" to become a member of U.M.W.

"I never saw any officials of U.M.W. with the management of Mine "B".

"I know there was an attempt by union officials of PMA to obtain higher wages for the employees of PMA but there was never any trouble at the mine in April or May 1937 concerning an increase in the wage scale. None of the men alleged by PMA to be spies for U.M.W., the names of whom I do not know, ever said anything to me about an increase in the wage scale. So far as I

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

know employees of PMA were on the same wage scale as the employees of UMW in mines other than Mine "B". Neither the management of Mine "B" or union officials ever said anything to me about the wage issue in April or May 1937.

"I did not know of a meeting of PMA on May 11, 1937.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I did not hear any discussion on the wage issue nor did I know of anyone who knew five alleged spies of UMW had been expelled from PMA. I did not see or hear of any coal cars being loaded short on the morning of May 12, 1937. I did not know there was any trouble at Mine "B" on May 12, 1937 until I was told by my boss to stop working. I did not know why the work was stopped on that day nor did the men I talked to.

"I cannot remember a petition of PMA of May 26, 1937 but I may have signed a PMA petition of May 26, 1937 and cannot remember signing it.

"I am not able to furnish any information concerning Mine "B" subsequent to May 12, 1937 as I was not interested in the mine and never returned to Mine "B" to try to get work.

"I do not know of a U.M.W. petition in the Summer of 1937 nor do I know of the formation of new UMW local 7469 July 29, 1937.

"I received one or two notices that Mine "B" was to have been opened subsequent to May 12, 1937, but did not attempt to get employment at Mine "B" as I was employed at Panther Creek Mine #5 and I was not interested.

"On May 12, 1937 I was a member of PMA and satisfied with the union. I was not interested in becoming a member of any other union.

"I have read the preceding four pages which are correct and true to the best of my knowledge.

Witnessed: -

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed on August 25, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. He apparently will make a favorable witness. He presents a good appearance, is intelligent and willing to testify. The signed statement furnished by him is set forth as follows:

[redacted], Illinois  
August 25, 1943

*Copy  
of  
Statement*

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

"I presently reside at [redacted] Illinois. I was born on [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois. I am a citizen of the United States.

"I first joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the U. M. W., in [redacted] while I was employed at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois. I worked under the U. M. W. at Mine B. until 1932, at which time I was desirous of changing to the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as P. M. W. I continued to work under the P. M. W. until and including September 27, 1937.

"I left the U. M. W. in 1932, because I felt that the majority of the miners in Mine B. wanted to join the P. M. W., and because I felt that I would receive no benefit for working under a union which was controlled by John L. Lewis.

"The miners were assessed 15 per cent of our salaries the first year we worked under the P. M. W., and though I felt that this was a large sum of money to be taken out of my salary by a union, still I felt that the P. M. W. made such an assessment to build up their organization. This was all right with me. I held no office either with the U. M. W. or the P. M. W. I have not been interested in union affairs. After the first year under the P. M. W., union dues were cheaper thereafter than under the U. M. W.

"Conditions and relations were very good between local 54 of the P. M. W. and the U. M. W. from September, 1932 to April 1937.

"My last day at Mine B. was on September 27, 1937. I received notice that the mine was going to re-open on September 27, 1937, because I saw a notice to this effect in the newspapers, and because the whistles at the mine blew. Therefore, I went to the mine on this morning to report to work at seven o'clock, oiled my machinery and just before eight o'clock on this date I approached the top boss at the mine in charge of all employees

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

[REDACTED] above ground and whose name I do not recall. I asked him how I would work, and he replied that I would work under the U. M. W. At that time, I oiled machinery above the mine, outside of the retail unit. This was my job. Directly after this conversation I left the premises of the Mine B.

I felt that the vast majority of the miners at this mine were members of the P. M. W. and I did not want to work under these conditions.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence on [REDACTED] Illinois, on the morning of August 28, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was born at [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]. He has been in the coal mines since he was 14 years of age. He is presently employed at [REDACTED] mine near [REDACTED] Illinois. [REDACTED] is not considered by interviewing Agents as a good witness due to his appearance and apparent lack of mental capacity.

*Handwritten:* [unclear]

Upon interview [REDACTED] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
August 28, 1943

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

"I worked at Mine B for several years before 1932 until several months after the strike at Mine B in 1939. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America when they were organized in 1932. I was always satisfied with the way that union was being run. I never wanted to change to the United Mine Workers. I am still a member of the Progressives and am satisfied with them. The Progressives never asked me to do anything that I did not want to do. I was satisfied with them in every way.

"I was working at Mine B at the time of the strike. I do not remember whether I was working on the day of the strike or not. I do not know what the strike was about. I do not remember. I was not at the mine on the day in September when the men went back to the mine. I did go out there and stay a part of the time after the men started staying on the company property. I voted in the election held a few days after the election. No one bothered me or told me how to vote. It was a fair election as far as I know, and I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"I do not recall but one time that they tried to open the mine. I was working on WPA part of the time. When the mine opened there had been some cave ins and falls. I did not see any evidence of any fire. Part of the mine where I had been working did cave in, and I never got my tools out of there at all. I remember [REDACTED]. He was supposed to be an air man. I do not think that they ever had an air check man before the strike. One day JIM HALE asked me to join the United Mine Workers. He told me that all the men would be doing it and I might just as well. I signed the papers then.

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

but I quit the mine a few days later. I quit because I did not like to be involved in any trouble. Some of the men that I rode to work with had been bothered, their clothes cut and torn in the wash house. Some had been beaten, and so I quit rather than stay there and get in trouble. I didn't want to belong to the United Mine workers. No one ever made me do anything that I did not want to do.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

WITNESSED:

[REDACTED] & [REDACTED]  
FBI

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] related his story in a clear manner, and appears to recall well events around the time of the strike. It is felt that he would be a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement which he executed:

Springfield, Illinois  
September 1, 1943

"I, [redacted] residing at [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves as Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make this statement.

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I became a U. S. citizen in 1913. I first joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] and have never held any office in any unions.

"I joined P.M.A. in 1932 when all the rest of the miners joined. As I remember P.M.A. started after U.M.W. had tried to get us to work for less money. We had a vote and the ballots were stolen and the election was no good. Also working conditions were not too good and the men wanted a new union. After P.M.A. started things seemed better at the mines. I do not remember what the men's feelings were when some members of P.M.A. were convicted in the bombing cases.

"TONY PLOTCH, FRANK AUSTIN, JACKIE W. JINDY, BOHANNON, JOHN SIKTOUT and some others who belonged to P.M.A. were supposed to be workers for U.M.W. I heard that these men were working for U.M.W. officials but they never approached me. I know that these men were kicked out of P.M.A. because they were working for U.M.W.

"I remember that our contract with Mine B, where I had worked since 1926, expired in the spring of 1937 and we were working under an extension. We were supposed to get paid back wages in case the new contract called for higher wages, this is what P.M.A. officers told us that we would get the new rate from April 1. after we had worked for a while ELSHOFF refused to sign a contract.

"I attended some of the P.M.A. meetings and I was at a meeting when a trial was held and some of the men I mentioned before as working for U.M.W. were kicked out. As I remember, we had a regular meeting and after this, three or four men were appointed to a kind of trial board.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] These men were charged with spying on our organization and the trial board found them guilty. I was at this meeting and remember that these men were kicked out of the P.M.A. Some were expelled for a couple of years and some for ninety years. Most of the members of P.M.A. know about this action, which was just before the strike.

"At the time of the strike I was a digger [REDACTED] at mine B. On the day of the strike some of the fellows didn't want to go to work with the spies. However, finally we all went to work but some of the men said lets load the cars short and lots of the cars went up without a full load.

"Someone told us to come up out of the mines that day, about two hours earlier than usual. When I came up I learned that there was a strike. I guess it was because the mine let these spies work although we didn't have a contract.

"After the strike I signed a petition for P.M.A. I signed this at the Union Hall. I also think I signed another petition at my house, I think [REDACTED] brought it out. It was to show how many members P.M.A. had and I think it was for the Labor Relation Board. No one ever made me sign, or threatened me.

"A couple of times fellows came to get me to join U.M.W. JOHN and BILL SIRTOUT came once, and another fellow called JOE or SAM came. They asked me why I should stay idle, if I sign we go back to work. They had some kind of a card for me to sign, told me it was a membership card. They said if they got enough members the mine would open up. They said if I didn't sign the mine might never open up. They did not threaten me.

"During the summer of the strike the P.M.A. had lots of meetings. The officers told us that they hoped to open the mine that summer.

"I remember that they tried to open the mine in the fall of 1937. As I remember, there was a notice in the paper telling of this. On that day 14 or 15 U.M.W. went down in the mine, but no one else went down. If you wanted to go to work that day you had to go in the office and sign up for U.M.W. That is what a man by the mine told me. Our P.M.A. officers told us not to sign anything. We came back to town and had a meeting and the next day about 325 of us went out and started a picket line. We stayed there until we were served with an injunction. We left, feeling that we had to, the law said so.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I remember that after this they tried to open the mine again. The same U.M.W. men showed up and a few new U.M.W. men, I guess they came from another part of the State. I was out there that day, not on company property but on the highway. He wanted to see what would happen.

"Our President, ~~X~~ OZANIC, went and talked to ELSHOFF who told OZANIC that only U.M.W. men could work. That is what OZANIC told us. The Sheriff made us leave that day, told us that 15 or 16 men could stay on the picket line but not any more.

"I voted in the NLRB election in December. A. P.M.A. official told us not to go down and vote too many at a time, just 15 or 20. He told us not to talk to anyone on the street. The election was nice and quiet and no trouble.

"I remember that later on they tried to open the mine but no one would go to work, they wanted to open the mine under an open shop. The P.M.A. men didn't want to go to work that way.

"In November, 1939 the mine opened up under an open shop. Some mine official said that we would have another election, whichever one won the election would win the contract. I got a letter telling me to come to work and that I should be there in ten days or I wouldn't have a job. I went to work where I had been before, this section was all right. I guess that other parts of the mine had been caved in, Box 2 and part of Box 3.

"After I had been back to work I was approached to join U.M.W. These same fellows, some of the spies, came to my house to get me to join. They were nice, but told me that U.M.W. was going to win and that I had better join. In about July, 1940 I finally joined U.M.W. They asked me to come to a meeting and I did. I found the hall full of fellows, and thought that perhaps I had better join if all the other fellows were joining.

"After the mine opened up in November, 1939, it seemed that the only new men who were hired belonged to U.M.W. or else had to join before they could get a job. U.M.W. had organizers at the mine. They were supposed to be working but they weren't. I didn't know who they were. They were very friendly and used to go around and talk to all the men.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]

(continued)

"New men come to work, some coming from Missouri and some from the southern part of the state.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct.

X [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED]

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

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. Although this man relates his story in a clear manner, it appears that he has no information of value to offer.

[redacted] executed the following signed statement:

"August 30, 1943  
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted]. I became a U. S. citizen in [redacted] and presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. I first started mining coal in about [redacted] and joined the U.M.W. at about that time. I have never held an office in any union.

"I worked at Mine A and Mine B on several different occasions and when the Mine went over to the Progressives in 1932 I think I was working for the state. I went back to work with Mine B in [redacted] and as far as I was concerned everything was going along fine at that time. The union officers left me alone & I just went about my work and bothered nobody. I have never attended any union meetings--neither U.M.W. nor the P.M.A.

"In the spring of 1937 I heard some talk to the effect that our wage contract was to be renewed, but I do not know anything about any wage dispute. I am not a close friend of anyone in the mine and have never mixed with any of them as I live on a farm and come right home from work every day.

"I remember that on the day of the strike, which was in May of 1937, I went to work as usual & took up my regular job as a digger in [redacted]. I heard that this section caved in and I understand it has never been cleaned up to this day. I never went back to pick up my tools. I know Tony Fletch, Percy Canten, Frank Austin, but I do not know anything about their actions at the mine. I never heard any of the men talking about spies for the U.M.W. and do not know what caused the strike in 1937. I heard men say that they got a raw deal, but I do not know why the men went on strike.

"On the day of the strike Frank Austin was supposed to be my driver and I kept asking him to bring my powder, but he never did bring my

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

powder that day. I didn't know until we were on our way home that night that the mine was on strike. I do not remember ever signing a petition of any kind after the strike. Due to the fact Frank Austin didn't bring me my powder, I worked all that day but didn't make any money, because I didn't load any coal that day.

"Between 1937 and 1939 when the mine was shut down I went to work for the state. I went back to Mine B in the fall of 1939 after I got a letter from Elshoff. I only worked there about nine days when I was offered another job with the state so I quit the mine job. I wanted to work for the state as it was a better job and my back was hurting me a lot. I am now working at the Panther Creek Mine and am a member of the PMA union.

"During the entire time I was working at Mine B I never had a bit of trouble. I was never threatened by anyone. As far as I'm concerned it doesn't make any difference which union I am a member of as long as I have a job.

"I do not have any information about the strike at the mine. I have read over this entire statement of four pages, have initialed the first three pages and hereby sign this pages. This statement is true to the best of my memory..

/s/

Witnesses

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

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This man is average in intelligence, and appearance and is favorable toward the Government. He indicated a desire to avoid testifying, if possible. It is believed, however, that he would make a good witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement, which he executed:

"August 28, 1943  
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and presently live at [REDACTED]. I started as a miner during the last war and joined the U. M. W. when I first started mining. I am still working at Mine B. In 1932 when the rest of the men joined the Progressive union I also went over to the PMA and continued working at the mine. When the PMA first started in Mine B all the men were satisfied with the Union and everything went along fine until the Spring of 1937.

"I never attended many of the union meetings so cannot state as to all that happened just before the strike. I am a driver in the west section of the mine. I know that a group of men including JOE ALBANESE, PASQUALE CARTER, AUSTIN and others mentioned [REDACTED] were trying to organize for the U. M. W. [REDACTED]

"Prior to the time of the strike and after March 31, our union told us that we were to continue working and the new contract would be retroactive. Between April and the time of the strike I heard the men talking about CARTER, AUSTIN and the others trying to stir up trouble and telling the men they didn't have a contract and asking them why they were working. The PMA leaders kept telling the men to keep on working and that they would see to it that they got what was coming to them. I do not know of anyone who was threatened during this period and I don't believe most of the men know that CARTER and the others were working for the U. M. W.

"I do not know anything about what happened at our uni [REDACTED]

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

on the night of May 11, 1937. I heard the next day that some of the men had been kicked out of the union because they were really working for the U.M.W. On the morning of the strike I remember that the men were complaining that the company wanted the men who had been expelled to go to work. The only men I remember seeing was FRANK AUSTIN. I noticed that as soon as the men started working that day they all started loading the cars short and it continued the rest of the day. About an hour before quitting time word was sent to us to come to the surface and when we got on top we were told that the mine was on strike. Our union officers told us to go home because they didn't want us to work with the spies. I can't recall any mention being made of a strike being called due to disagreement over wages.

"I remember that a short time after the strike, JOHN SCHWEIDER came to my house with a petition for me to sign. This was a petition asking the company to recognize PMA as best as I can recall. As I recollect the PMA distributed ballots among the men & asked them to check on the ballot which union they preferred.

"During the summer there was a great many union meetings and these meetings were well attended by the men. I remember that one time it was announced that the mine was to open, but only about 12 men showed up. I remember that in the fall the U.M.W. had picket lines outside the mine and I took part in the picketing several times.

"In December of 1937 there was an NLRB election in the Arsenal and the PMA won out in the election. I remember that in the December election the PMA men met at the union hall and marched to the Arsenal in small groups. There was no violence and no strong arm methods used by either side.

"I went back to work at the mine when it was reopened on an open shop basis in November of 1939. I believe there was an article in the paper that the mine was to reopen and so I went to work. As far as I know there was no fire at the mine between 1937 and November of 1939. There were a lot of cave ins at the mine and it was only natural that there was a lot of cleaning up to do before the men could start loading coal.

"When the men went back to work in 1939 they naturally weren't completely satisfied, but I think they felt that if they didn't go on the job the U.M.W. men would take their job.

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[redacted]  
(continued)

"From 1939 until 1941 the mine was being operated on an open shop basis. I was one of the last to sign up with the U.M.W. I heard that there was a lot of fighting on the surface after I would go below for my job and that many men were beaten up, but I never saw any of it myself. Nobody ever really bothered me to join the U.M.W. but I heard that a lot of the older men were actually beaten up by the U.M.W. men. I didn't sign up until it became quite apparent that our whole local was going to sign up. As far as my personal knowledge is concerned the company was neutral with regard to the unions. I know that it was the general opinion among the men that the company favored the U.M.W. men. It was always generally understood that the U.M.W. men got the best jobs and were allowed more privileges but I do not know the names of any U.M.W. men who were so favored.

"I have read over this entire statement of six pages, have initialed the first five pages to show that I have read each page and hereby sign this last page. I wish to state that this statement is true to the best of my memory and if called upon I would testify to the above.

[redacted]

WITNESSES:

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of August 26, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] is a native born American citizen, having been born near [redacted] would make a good appearance on the witness stand. He is a large and strongly built individual. He is rather intelligent and understands well. He has good command of the English language, being able to express himself quite well. He is very definite about things that he knows, and would not be easily confused on cross examination. He is believed to be a good witness. Upon being interviewed, [redacted] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
August 26, 1943.

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

"I went to work at Mine B in 1922 and worked there until January of 1941. When I first went to Mine "B" I was a member of the United Mine Workers because everyone had to be a member of the United Mine workers in order to get a job at that mine. It was a closed shop. In 1932 the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized and I joined that union. It had a closed shop and I was a member of this union until I left Mine B. In 1936 and 1937 I was Union Steward at this mine, and was Steward again from 1939 to 1940.

"Before 1932 when the PMW of A. was organized there had never been any trouble at Mine B with the management. There was some dissension among the men in the mine with the UMW about the assessments, etc. but there was no real trouble. Some of the men who had been disgusted with the UMW were tried by the Union and Elshoff fired them. Elshoff and the Union got along pretty well in those days.

"Then the PMW of A was organized, we all were anxious to join, and none of us would go back to work until the men Elshoff had discharged were rehired. When the PMW of A was organized every employee at the mine was in favor of this union. At least I never heard anyone dissent about joining the PMW of A. The PMW of A kept pretty close to the men and stood up for them whenever anything happened. The PMW of A did this much better than the UMW had done. Elshoff did not like the PMW very much because it protected the men so much better. I never

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INTERVIEW WITH

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heard him say anything about it, but I could tell from the way he acted and the expressions on his face, etc., that he did not like the PMU very well. However, I never heard hi say anything about the UMW. Twice in 1936, however, I did hear Cesar Falcoetti, the mine superintendent say that sooner or later all the men would be back under the UMW and once he said that they would be better off all together in the same union. He seemed to want that the men belong to the UMW but never said anything about it. I did not know much about what was going on amongst Elshoff and Falcoetti, but these remarks were made in my presence. That was before the strike in 1937.

"In 1936 there were some men who had been causing trouble in the mine and had been tried by the Union, but Elshoff and Falcoetti would not fire them. I was not at the trials, and did not hear Elshoff or Falcoetti say anything about it.

"I went to the Union meetings regularly. They were held twice a month. The miners were very loyal to the Union during all the time that the PMU were working at the mine. Sometimes there would be over 400 men at the union meetings. Sometimes there would be only 200 or so, depending on the weather etc. Whenever there was a special meeting of the Union, almost all of them came. Special meetings were announced by placing a notice on the bulletin board at the mine.

"Tony Pletch, Charles Behannon, and Frank Austin and some of the other men were trying to cause trouble at the mine. I did not hear any of them ask anyone to join the UMW but I did hear these three say to other men that the PMU contract was not a retroactive contract, and some other things that were not true about the PMU contract and officials. I also saw Tony Pletch handling a petition at the mine in 1936. I did not see that petition.

"Except for these men, that I have named and also Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrevious, Dominico Pasquale, Peter Carter, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacobway, who were always complaining about the way the PMU was being run I did not hear any of the men working there complain about the Union. They were all satisfied with the arrangements for wages, etc.

"The day before the strike, or close to the strike, Falcoetti gave me a yellow paper that came out of the company office, and asked hi to read it to the men. There were copies of it for the men, but none of us took it. DeBartholomeo read it, and it said something about the temporary contract with the mine not having a retroactive clause in it. We did not pay any attention because we knew that it id have.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"A couple of days before the strike was called, or the day before there was a special meeting of the Union. It was held in the day time because that was not a work day. at that meeting almost all of the men at the mine were present. There were more than 400 present. I was there. At that meeting, we decided that we would not go back to work until Elshoff and Falcoetti had fired the men who had been tried by the union and expelled. The next day none of us went down in the mine at all. We demanded to Falcoetti that these men be discharged. I heard Falcoetti refuse. He gave us one excuse that the men could belong to any union that they wanted to. I do not know what day it was that light cars were coming to the surface. I believe that it was the day before the strike. I do not know what reason there was for the light cars. I do not recall that there was any discussion about wages at the time of the strike. The refusal was to work with the 12 men who had been tried and expelled by the union in 1936. The day of the strike we stayed around and did not work. About the next week, we went out in the morning and watched to see if anyone came to work. About 300 of us were there at the road on those mornings just watching. There was no picket line. Some of the men came to work, and a few went in, but not very many. We kept this up just a week or so, staying there only about an hour in the morning.

"Several times during the summer of 1937 after the strike, I went with the committee to the mine in order to try to get things fixed up to go back to work. Falcoetti always refused to fire the men because of the Wagner act. He said that that act gave them the right to belong to any union that they any fit.

"In September when they started to open the mine again, we all went out to the mine to see who would show up. The first day the 12 men who had been expelled from the PMU union came. We did not stop them. The next day, about 300 of us showed up and told Falcoetti that if those 12 went down in the mine that we were going. We lined up in front of the pit to go down. None of us expected to go down but we were ready. The 12 men did not go into the pit, and we decided to stay right there on the property to see that the company would not put anything over on us. Elshoff would not deal with the PMU and we were beginning to think that he was favoring the UMW. He did not sign any contract with anybody. We stayed on the property until the injunction. When the Marshall came with the injunction we left the property without any trouble. As far as I know Elshoff did not try to open the mine after the injunction. He would have announced it in the paper, and blown the whistle, but I never heard that he had tried.

"In May of 1937, a few days after the strike started the PMU had a petition. Falcoetti had told us that he had a petition of over 300 signatures of the men at the mine who wanted to go for UMW. I had heard that such a petition had been passed, but most of the fellows claimed that it was a fraud. To show falcoetti how we felt, we all lined up and went

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
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into Falcoetti's office, and signed the petition right there on his desk. Falcoetti stood there and watched us for a while, until he got tired of it, and walked out. I do not know of any other

petitions.

"During the time from December 1937 when the injunction came and we left the Mine B property until the Mine opened in 1939 I was unemployed for over a year, and could not find a job anywhere. I finally got a job at one of the Panther Creek Mines, but I could not get a good place and did not make enough money to live on. My mother was sick at that time, we had a big doctor bill, and a large grocery bill. The only way that we could settle up was to sell our home, which we did.

"During the time of the strike I went out to the mine many times with the committee in order to try and get things straightened out and go back to work. Falcoetti ignored us most of the time that we went there. He would talk with us, but would shake his head whenever we mentioned the 12 men and would then change the subject. I do not recall that there was any agreement with the Union as to opening the mine again in 1939. That was the first time he tried.

"I went back to Mine B a week or so after the mine reopened. There had been a small cave in and I could not get to my room. After it was cleaned up I went back to my same working place in the mine. Most of the men went back to the same rooms. I was mine steward and heard the complaints as they came up. Although I did not have any trouble, I know that the P.M. men were given poorer rooms etc. when there rooms petered out than the U.M. men. Dirt was being dumped on the cars of the P.M. men, their tools were being stolen, and they were beaten. Many times I was with the committee when they complained to Falcoetti and Elshoff about the conditions, and they refused to do anything about it. They easily could have done something. He would say that he did not know what he could do about it, and would say that he would send one of the bosses to check on it, but none ever did. I was in Falcoetti's office almost every morning. The same thing happened every day. I never heard either Falcoetti or Elshoff say anything about changing Unions etc. Many times when we went to the office, the U.M. committee would already be there, and when we came in, they would quit talking. I do not know if the was taking care of their complaints or not.

"I do know, however, that after somebody joined the U.M. that dirt was not found in their coal, that their tools were not being stolen any more, and they were soon taken out of their room, and put into a good room. That was common knowledge about the mine.

"When the mine reopened, there was no evidence of any big cave in or fire that I saw. When I first went into the mine, about

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a week after it reopened, it was fairly clean, and ready to work.

"When the mine reopened [redacted] got a job there as Air Checker. I saw him many times in the mine. All he was doing was going around talking with the men and trying to get them to change over to the UMW. We never had an Air Checker at that time for the 18 years that I worked there until [redacted] got the job. There was practically no work to do in that position.

"In January 1941, [redacted] and some of the other men who had just come to the mine threatened to beat me up. Some of the Deputy Sheriffs stopped the fighting but did not do anything about it. I saw several fights there, and saw old men beaten and cut up. I saw some of them get hit. In January 1941 I was framed in the theft of some coal cars and was discharged. I threatened to take the matter to court and make them pay for all the lost time I had. A couple days later they offered to reinstate me, but I had seen enough at the mine, the beatings on the old men, and all the trouble, and the times that they had started to try to beat me. I decided that I would not be able to go back and work there under those conditions, and so I did not return. I did vote in the NLRB election which was held shortly after that because I had been employed on the day that employees were eligible.

"Many times in the mornings, when I was in the office with the committee, men we knew as good standing PMU men came to the office and asked for work. Every time Falocetti would tell them that they were not hiring that day. A day or so later, some men that none of us knew would come and ask for employment, and Falocetti would hire them. He would ask them what Union they belonged to, and they would almost always say, that they did not belong to any union. A few days later they would have UMW cards.

"In the fall of 1937 when the NLRB held an election among the employees of Mine B, there was no trouble at all. I do not recall exactly where that election was held, but I do recall that there was not trouble about it. There were several UMW organizers around. They did not cause any violence or anything. The PMU organizers had not talked to us in a long time, because they know how we all felt about the Unions. There was no coercion of anything of that sort. The PMU men told all the men that they had a right to vote, and that they ought to vote. If the men did not have a way of getting to vote, the PMU men did find somebody to give them a ride. There were no threats about what would happen if they did not vote etc.

"There were never any complaints by the members about the way the PMU was handling its finances, nor about the officials of the Union taking advantage of anyone.

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[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I have never seen any violence, or compulsion used by any of the PMO organizers or officials at Mine B.

"I have read the above statement on this page and seven other typewritten pages. All the statements made in it are true, and contain the whole story as well as I can recall it at the present time. It is all true, and I am willing to appear in court and repeat any of these statements.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

P.B.I.  
[REDACTED] P.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH

Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on August 26, 1943 by Agents [redacted] and [redacted]

He is presently employed by [redacted]

[redacted] and was born [redacted] Illinois. He admits no criminal record. [redacted] was very cooperative, showed a willingness to furnish all information in his possession, and stated he would be willing to testify if such were necessary.

[redacted] gave the following signed statements:

Springfield, Ill.  
August 26, 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 was born in [redacted] Ill. I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill.

"I joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted] and never held any office in any union. I started to work at Mine B in [redacted] and continued to work there until May 9, 1937.

"From the time Elshoff purchased Mine B until 1932 the relations between Elshoff and the U.M.W. were to the best of my knowledge satisfactory, and things ran along smoothly. In 1932 the miners generally were not pleased with the agreement which Lewis had signed with the operators in which he agreed to a reduced pay rate for the miners. The miners had a vote among themselves and voted not to accept the Lewis agreement. Then the union of the Progressive Mine Workers of America started up. I attended some of the meetings which were held by the miners and which resulted in the establishment of the P.M.A. I did not take any active part in the organization of the P.M.A., but I did vote for the establishment of the new union. The reasons I voted for the new union were that I was opposed to the numerous extra assessments of the U.M.W., and further I believed that the U.M.W. was getting too crooked, as shown by the stealing of ballots and the numerous assessments and the action of Lewis in signing the agreement with the operators against the wishes of the miners.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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"After the organization of the P.M.A. and the establishment of its closed shop agreement with Mine B, things ran pretty smoothly at Mine B. Relations between Elishoff and the union seemed to run smoothly and there were no strikes to the best of my knowledge. There might have been an occasional work stoppage of various short times, but I do not remember any strike as such. The mine was never closed down by the management and I never heard of any attempts by Elishoff or Falcoetti to discredit the P.M.A. leaders in any way. To the best of my knowledge neither Elishoff nor Falcoetti ever made any expression of partiality to the U.M.W., nor did they ever try to get any of the men to return to the U.M.W.

"Just prior to May 1937 I remember hearing several groups of men in the wash house at Mine B being talked to by Dominio Pasquale and Tony Plotch who were trying to get the men to join the U.M.W.

"The majority of the members of P.M.A. were satisfied with the way things were going and had no fault to find with the way the union was being run. In the few union (P.M.A.) meetings that I attended, any member had the right to the floor at any time to say anything that he wished. However, I don't know too much about this because I was not too interested in union affairs and did not attend all the P.M.A. meetings.

"I don't know anything about the hearings from 1933 to 1937, and I don't know the attitude of the union or the members toward them because I was not too interested in union affairs. I do remember that there were no special assessments requested of the members by P.M.A., and I know that there were no kick-backs to the P.M.A. officials. From 1932 until 1937 the U.M.W. did not set up a picket line or distribute any kind of literature, to the best of my knowledge. I do not know if U.M.W. had active organizers in Mine B, but I do know that I heard the following men talking to groups of miners at different times, trying to get the miners to join the U.M.W.: Dominio Pasquale, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton America, and Jimmie Hale. These men were P.M.A. members, but I think they were being paid by the U.M.W. I don't know if there was any social contact between these men and the management or owners of Mine B.

"I do not know anything about the wage scale dispute in the spring of 1937 as I was ill and unable to attend any of the union meetings. However, I was working daily. As far as I know there was no feeling that the P.M.A. would not get as good a break on the wage scale as the U.M.W. would, but on the contrary I, as well as the majority of the men, was very satisfied with the P.M.W. and did not want to have anything to do with the U.M.W. I do not remember any objection at Mine B or any temporary slow-down or stoppages.

I do not know anything about the P.M.A. meeting on the

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

evening of May 11, 1957, and received no notice of it. I know nothing about the details of the strike which started on May 12, 1957.

In December of 1937 I read a notice in a Springfield newspaper that an election was to be held at the State Arsenal in Springfield for the purpose of determining which union would have the right to represent the miners at Mine B. No one talked to me about voting, and I went to the election of my own accord. I voted for the P.M.A., because I thought that was the best union, and I wanted to see that union at Mine B.

"In the fall of 1937 [redacted] one of the P.M.A., told me that the mine was going to be reopened, and that the P.M.A. had decided that if the U.M.W. men were allowed to work, the P.M.A. would picket the mine. I do not know what arrangements the P.M.A. had made concerning the picketing nor when it started. When [redacted] told me that he was going to the picket line, I decided to go with him and participate in the picketing. To the best of my knowledge the picket line consisted only of members of local #54 of P.M.A. The P.M.A. did not threaten us in any way to keep us from working. The purpose of the picket line was to keep the U.M.W. men from working, and not to keep the P.M.A. men from working.

"A couple of days before I left Mine B on May 2, 1937, I recall that I signed a petition given to me by a P.M.A. man. I don't recall what the petition was for. I think it might have been a petition to the operators to discharge some miners, but I cannot swear to this. I did not sign any other petition after that time. I was never approached by any U.M.W. organizer for the purpose of joining the U.M.W.

"I was on the picket line for about two weeks in the fall of 1937, and did not go out to Mine B again until late in 1939. At this latter time I saw a notice in a daily paper that Mine B would reopen, and I thought that I was well enough to start mining again. I went out to the mine and talked with Falcoetti who told me that my name was not on the list of men to be employed. He did not give me any reasons for my name not being on the list. After a short conversation, Falcoetti told me that he would 'split 50/50' with me and put my name in the middle of the list. He gave me no reasons for this proposition. Falcoetti did not ask me if I was a member of P.M.A., and did not say anything about joining the U.M.W. Some time later, I don't remember how long, [redacted] came to my house to get me to go to

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] works. As I had a job [redacted]  
[redacted] I did not go back to Mine B.  
(continued)

"I did not participate in the mine election of February 1941, and have had nothing to do with P.M.A. or Mine B since my conversation with Falocetti about being placed on the list of employees who would be reemployed by Mine B.

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

Witnesses

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

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of

August 29, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] was born in [redacted]. He is presently employed at Panther Creek Mine. [redacted] would make a good witness for what information he does have. He can express himself well and would not be easy to confuse on cross examination. He makes a good appearance. He furnished the information set forth in the following signed statement:

Springfield, Ill  
August 29, 1943.

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

"I was employed at Mine B from three or four years before 1932 until 12, 1937. I was employed there at the time that the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized. I am still a member of that Union. After the Progressive Mine Workers were organized, I was satisfied with them in every way and did not want to change Unions. At the time of the strike I was satisfied and did not want to change. I was working at the mine at the time of the strike. I was not at the meeting held the night before the strike. On the day of the strike I was below. I was loading full cars and knew nothing at all about a strike. When I came up I saw that there had been quite a few small cars loaded that day. I was surprised to find that a strike had been called. I do not remember exactly what the strike was called for, but I think it was over the fact that the company would not fire some men that the union did not want.

"I stayed out at the mine in the mornings for the next five or six days after the strike started. I do not recall signing any petition for either union at that time. I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"I heard that Elshoff had signed a contract with the United Mine Workers for the mine. I also heard that a new local for the United Mine Workers had been organized for Mine B. No one asked me to join the United Mine Workers at any time. I was not at the mine the day that the picket line started in September, but I came

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] out the next day and stayed at the mine most of the time that the picket line was in progress. No one (Continued)

but the men who had worked at Mine B were on the picket line while I was there.

\*After the injunction I left, and I got another job at the [redacted] mine. I was working at the [redacted] mine at the time the first election for Mine B was held. I voted in the election. No one told me how to vote or tried to influence my vote in any way. I voted exactly as I pleased. It was a fair election as far as I know. I only heard of one attempt to reopen the mine while it was closed. That was in September 1937 when the picket line was formed. I got a notice that I could go back to work at Mine B when it was reopened, but I had a job and did not want to change.

\*I have always been satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

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

/s/ [redacted]

/s/ [redacted]  
/s/ [redacted]

Special Agents FBI\*

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW: [redacted] was interviewed on August 27, 1943 at his home at Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] is able to speak English well although he is not sure about conditions at Mine B as of May 12, 1937. [redacted] would make a good witness as to the information furnished in a statement by him.

The following statement was obtained from [redacted]

Springfield, Ill.,  
August 27, 1943

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

"I was born in [redacted] Ill., [redacted] I am employed at the Panther Creek Coal Mine as a track man and I have been employed at the Panther Creek Mine since December 11, 1941.

"I became a coal miner in [redacted] in Ill. at which time I was a member of U. M. W. I have been employed as a miner in Ill. since [redacted] and was a member of U. M. W. until Sept. 1932 and I have been a member of P. M. A. since Sept. 1932.

"I have never held any offices in any union.

"I am unable to make any statement as to the relations between Elshoff of Mine "B" and U. M. W. prior to Sept. 1932, as I was not employed at Mine "B" during that time.

"I was in favor of P. M. A. being formed in Sept. 1932 as I thought U. M. W. was a dishonest union. The reason I thought U. M. W. was a dishonest union was because I heard U. M. W. officials stole the votes cast in 1932 concerning the change of wage scale. I took no active part in the formation of P. M. A.

"I was employed by Mine "B" as a miner in the Summer of 1935. Between the Summer of 1935 and May 12, 1937 I never saw or heard anything which would indicate the management of Mine "B" were not in favor of P. M. A. Between the Summer of 1935 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B" or close-downs at Mine "B", by the management. There were no attempts by the management prior to May 12, 1937 to persuade me to become a member of U. M. W.

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b7D  
[Handwritten notes and scribbles]

RE: ANNE L. LEIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I like P M A and I have considered it an honest union since I became a member in Sept. 1932. Since I have been a member of P M A I have not had any unusual special assessments made against me.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases and I am unable to make a statement as to the attitude of other members of P M A concerning this case.

"Between the Summer of 1935 and May 12, 1937 U M W did not set up a picket line at Mine "B", or distribute any literature at the mine. Prior to May 12, 1937 no one contacted me at Mine "B" in an effort to convert me from P M A to U. M. W. I did not know of any alleged U M W spies at Mine "B" prior to April 1937.

"I do not know of any controversy concerning the wage scale at Mine "B" in the Spring of 1937. So far as I know employees at Mine "B" were on the same wage scale as employees at U M W mines.

"About two days prior to May 11, 1937 a Board Member of P M A notified me that a special meeting was to have been held on the night of May 11, 1937 to consider expelling some members of P M A. So far as I know all the members of P M A at Mine "B" were notified of the meeting and there were many persons in attendance at the meeting on the night of May 11, 1937. [REDACTED] a Board Member of P M A and two or three other members of P M A the names of whom I do not know, advised those attending the meeting that John Ananias, Andrew Schrelouious, Tony Plotch, Emory Jacaway and Charles Bohannon were friendly with the management of Mine "B" and that they were spies for U M W; that they were attempting to overthrow the P M A at Mine "B" and replace P M A with U M W. A vote was taken to expell the above five named persons and almost all present voted to expell the five persons named above from P M A. The five above named persons were present and did not say anything in their defense.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I reported for work as always and before I entered the mine I was told there was going to be a strike. I did not know why there was a strike and I did not ask why there was a strike. I returned home from the Mine immediately and did not wait to talk to any of the employees about the strike.

"I signed the P M A petition of May 26, 1937. I was told that this petition was for the purpose of getting an increase in the wage scale. I signed the petition voluntarily in the headquarters of P M A. I do not know how other signatures were obtained on the petition.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I did not sign a U M W petition or any other (continued) [REDACTED] petition in the Summer of 1937.

"I do not know of the formation of a new U M W local 7469 July 29, 1937.

"I attended some P M A meetings in the Summer of 1937, but I do not remember what took place. I was not threatened at these meetings. So far as I know there was no violence in the summer of 1937.

"Sometime in September, 1937 I was informed that P M A had a picket line at Mine "B". I went to Mine "B" as a picket about four days after the picketing started, as I thought I would enjoy acting as a picket. I wanted to act as a picket and no one threatened me if I did not act as a picket. There was no force or violence when I was a picket. I became sick after about a month and a half of picketing and return home. While at home I heard an injunction had been obtained to prevent picketing of Mine "B". I am unable to make a statement as to the attitude members of P M A took toward the injunction as I took no interest in it. No pickets were brought in, all pickets were local.

"I did not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" Dec. 13, 1937.

"I voted at the N L R B election Dec. 15, 1937 for P M A. The election was fair and no threats were made to anyone. So far as I know the miners of Mine "B" went to vote voluntarily and no one was carried to vote by P M A.

"I did not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" on Jan. 4, 1938.

"I was employed by the [REDACTED] Coal Mine in the first part of 1938 as a miner and I did not take any interest in Mine "B" after I was employed at the [REDACTED] Mine, therefore, I am unable to furnish any information subsequent to the first part of 1938 concerning Mine "B".

"I received notice to report for work at Mine "B" in Nov. 1939, but I did not report for work as I was employed, nor did I take any interest in the opening of the mine.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

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