FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN L. LEWIS

PART 4 OF 13

FILE NUMBER: 44-845

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT John L. Lewis

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 4

SERIALS 90 p. 260

thru

90 p. 14 index

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

sent around so that the P.M.A. could later present it to the management and show that they had a majority. I don't recall signing any other petitions in this year. No one asked me to join any union in the summer of 1937. At this time I was working in another mine.

"In the election in December 1937 I voted for P.M.A. because I liked that union, and I thought that the majority of the men were in favor of P.M.A.

"About a week after Mine B opened in 1939, when I was working in Panther Creek Mine #2, Mr. Elshoff asked me to come back to work in Mine B. I soon returned to work in Mine B, but did not join the U.M.W. until the [redacted]

"I joined the U.M.W. at this time because I wanted to continue working in Mine B, and I felt that I should join the U.M.W. I can't recall why I felt that I should join the U.M.W., and I can't remember any particular reasons for my joining U.M.W. In the election of February 1941 I voted for U.M.W.

"While I have been working at Mine B, I have never seen any trouble of any kind. I have never seen any violence of any kind.

"I state that 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.

[redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill."

47-545-90
Page 2

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D 96538

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, on August 26, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] appeared to be willing to cooperate and after giving the signed statement set forth below, advised that he would be willing to testify to the facts in this statement. It is believed that this person would make a good witness.

The following is the signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 25, 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 presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and I was born [redacted] Illinois.

"I joined the United Mine Workers, hereinafter referred to as the UMW, and became a charter member about [redacted], and I remained a member of the UMW until September, 1932. On about September 6, 1932 the UMW, local 2403 transferred to the Progressive Mine Workers, hereinafter referred to as the PMW at which time I was working at mine B near Springfield, Illinois. I also transferred over to the PMW at that time, and I remained a member of PMW and never went back to the UMW. I worked off and on at Mine B for about [redacted]

"While employed under the UMW, I served in that union as a pit committeeman in local 2403 for about [redacted] years. This was about [redacted] years ago. [redacted]

"Prior to September, 1932, it appeared that the UMW and Mr. Elshoff, Operator of Mine B, were getting along well together because they had a working agreement. When the PMW, Local 54 was formed at Mine B on September 6, 1932, I thought the viewpoint held forth by the PMW was correct, and feel that the rest of the miners felt the same at that time. I did not take an active part in the formation of PMW in this or any other mine, but I went along with the group, because I felt that the group was right.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

96539

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"Regarding the relationship between Elshoff and Local 54, PMW between September, 1932 and April, 1937, everything went along alright to start with, but about from 1936 on, Elshoff seemed to favor the UMW and wanted to deal with them and not the PMW. At this time I did not take an active part in union affairs and am unaware of the methods which may have been used by Elshoff to influence the men to join the UMW. I do know that in January, 1940, after the mine had re-opened, on three consecutive days I observed about fourteen miners, whom I knew to be members of the PMW, apply for work in the mine offices, but were refused with the statement that there was no work for them. They were at that time members of Local 77, PMW. I also observed that during the same period, a number of other miners were hired by the mine, all of whom were members of the UMW.

"As to the relations between PMW officials and PMW miners, I feel the members were satisfied and felt the union was being run well. There was no split in the PMW until the UMW and Elshoff attempted to persuade the PMW miners to join the UMW. I say this because several miners, whose names I do not remember, told me that they were approached and threatened if they did not join the UMW. This was accomplished by bringing in men by UMW who pretended to be working, but in reality they spent their time contacting the miners to get then to join the UMW. These men told the miners they had better change their minds and join the UMW. Some of these men had not worked in the mine until the trouble started. Their names are ------- [redacted] ------- [redacted] ------- [redacted], but I cannot recall all of their names. These men, whose last names are listed above worked with the following twelve men who were holding PMW union cards, but who formed a UMW local and tried to connect the miners with the UMW: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale.

"With reference to the relationship between Local 54 and UMW from September 1932 to April, 1937, I do not recall that UMW had a picket line or distributed any literature, but the UMW did have organizers in the Mine B who I mentioned previously in this statement. Those organizers worked harder on the miners who could not speak good English and it has been my understanding that some threats were used and some miners were beaten up as a result of this UMW pressure. I recall that [redacted], who reside of [redacted], and is employed by [redacted] now, as well as [redacted] were among those beaten up by UMW miners because they would not join UMW and leave the PMW. [redacted] resides at [redacted] Springfield Illinois. Two others were also beaten up for the same reason, and they are [redacted] and [redacted] Illinois. [redacted] is now working at the Panther Creek Mine, No. 2, [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D 96540

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I felt that the members of PMW who were defendants in the bombing cases were not responsible for their acts, but I do not know who did the bombing. The miners I spoke with thought these men were framed.

"I was satisfied with the financial administration of the PMW. If there were any special assessments they were voted for by the rank and file.

"I don't recall what the PMW officials said about the temporary agreement with Elshoff in April, 1937, but since the PMW, on a National Scale, was smaller than the UMW, I know that the PMW would go along on about the same basis as UMW, after the UMW made known their contract.

"I did not attend the PMW meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937. I recall that the announcement for the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the mine by the check weighman. I know that the five PMW miners who were expelled from PMW during that meeting were charged with recruiting for the UMW. I suppose the miners who did not attend the meeting were notified of the expulsion of the five miner, by word of mouth.

"I do not know why the coal cars were loaded short after the above five men were thrown out of Local 54, PMW. I signed the PMW petition on May 26, 1937 which was presented to Elshoff showing that the PMW had a majority and should be the sole bargioning agent. There was no compulsion used to enduce members to sign this petition, and the petition was presented to the miners at the mine. I do not recall that UMW issued a petition in the summer of 1937. I was not asked to join UMW local 7469 on July 29, 1937, but a miner named Lee O. Bumgarner who had been a member of the PMW, but who later joined with the twelve men whose names I have set forth in the above statement, including Dominic Pasquale, approached me and said, 'I'd like to see all you old fellows joined up with UMW as I'm afraid you will lose your jobs if you don't.' He did not otherwise threaten me. However, as already mentioned in this statement, other members were threatened and some were beaten.

"With reference to the attempt to open the mine on September 27, 1937, I believe I got notice of the opening by work of mouth. As I recall, prior to this opening, the PMW had a meeting and decided that if the mine opened it would only open as a PMW mine, because the PMW had a contract with the Mine B.

"The PMW did not consider that the Federal Injunction of December 13, 1937 was just, but all the PMW miners complied with it. The operatives attempted to open Mine B on December 13, 1937. I did not got to work on the first day, but went there on December 14, 1937. I heard that twelve men had gone below ground the day before. The PMW started picketing and I helped them picket a couple of days. We did not import men from outside

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

96541

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

the PMW to help in the picketing, although a few of the pickets, all members of PMW, were from other mines near Springfield, Illinois.

"In the National Labor Relations Board election held on December 15, 1937, there was a regular ballot cast. I believe this was taken at the Arsenal Building, in Springfield. To my knowledge, there appeared to be no fraud or strong arm tactics on the part of any member of PMW. After this election, I stayed on WPA as the mine was not open. I don't recall an attempt to re-open Mine B on January 4, 1938.

"At the opening of the mine on November 6, 1939, I understood that the regular wage scale would be paid. Elshoff did not want the PMW men on the mine property. He wanted to contract with the UMW at that time but could not do it because the majority of the miners were with the PMW.

"During the period from November 6, 1939 to February 21, 1941, when the election was held, as I was a regular member of PMW, and a miner, and did not have contact with the Operatives of the mine, I cannot say what evidence there might have been indicating that the Operatives were favoring the UMW. The UMW continued to try to convert PMW miners.

"In 1940 I was a member of the PMW, and so did not sign a union membership car. I remain a member of the PMW. I believe Elshoff favored the UMW.

"I have carefully read and fully understant the three pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed: [redacted] F.B.I. (signed)
[redacted] Spl. Agent, F.B.I."(signed)

RE:
JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

96542

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on August 27, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] makes a good appearance, is sincere, and would make a presentable witness to the facts within his knowledge. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 27, 1943

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

"I was born [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers of America who will be referred to hereinafter as UMW about [redacted] in [redacted] when I was about fourteen years old. I worked in the mines in [redacted] and later moved to Springfield, Illinois where I have lived for the last [redacted] years. My present residence is [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and I am employed by [redacted]

"I first started working in Mine "B" near Springfield, Ill. about [redacted] as a member of UMW. I worked in that mine as a member of UMW until September, 1932 until the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed. This last named union will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"On May 12, 1937, the day I recall the miners first struck at Mine "B", I left the mine and never worked there after that date. I never held any office in any union.

"From the time I started working in Mine "B" until September, 1932 relations were generally good between UMW and Carl Elshoff, the mine operator.

"I heard that Elshoff had visited Ray Edmundson's Office in the UMW building in Springfield, Ill, and had been seen a number of times leaving the UMW building. I heard Oscar Falcetti made trips to Auburn, Virden, Dawson, and Springfield, Illinois to try to persuade PMA members to change over to UMW. These trips were made after May, 12, 1937 after Mine "B" had struck. I have no personal information concerning this, but learned it by word of mouth; the origin of which is not known to me.

"During this period I am firmly of the opinion that Elshoff and Falcetti did not want to do business with the officials of the PMA union,

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

96543

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I was satisfied with the leadership of my union, Local 54, PMA at all times. I never knew of a PMA member who wanted to return to UMW while I was employed at Mine "B".

"I attended about one third of the PMA union meetings during the period between September, 1932 and April, 1937, but I was not active in union matters.

"I knew nothing of the activities of the twelve miners who were alledged to be acting as spies while holding Progressive Union cards and employed at Mine "B".

"Relative to the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937 the PMA officials in May, 1937 told the miners that they were supposed to get back pay dating back to April 1, 1937 on a retroactive agreement. This was never paid, and to my knowledge has never been paid to this time.

"To my knowledge, there was never any trouble in April, 1937, because of dissatisfaction over wages. As to the back pay, Elshoff stated he never had a contract to pay the miner retroactive pay and refused to have any more to do with that matter. I understand that there never was a written contract concerning the retroactive pay feature, but that there was an oral agreement on the matter with Elshoff.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937 at which time, I understand evidence was presented against some PMA members who were expelled from PMA. I understood these men held cards with the UMW as well as with the PMA and this was why they were expelled from the PMA. I believe the coal cars were being loaded short because Elshoff would not discharge the miners who had been expelled from the PMA union on the night of May 11, 1937.

There was a lot of talk at this time, that is, at the time the coal cars were being shorted, about the miners who had been ejected from PMA. As far as I know all the miners with whom I talked knew by May 12, 1937 that the miners had been ejected from PMA. As I recall the following men were thrown out of local 54, PMA at the PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937:

JOE ALBANESE
DOMINIC PASQUALE
PETER CARTER
FRANK AUSTIN
TONY PLOTCH
JOHN ADAMS
JOHN SIRTOUT
HENRY JACKSON
CHARLES BOHANNON
JAMES HALE

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b 7C
b 7D

96544

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"The miners learned of the ejection of the above men from Local 54, by word passed from one miner to another. I did not know of any miners who did not feel that these men should have been thrown out of the union, and they felt that these miners should not continue working at Mine "B". I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937.

"It was my understanding that Elshoff always contended that the UMW had a majority in this mine, and I signed this petition to show I was a progressive member. I signed it voluntarily.

"I remember that later on in 1937 I signed another PMA petition but I don't recall the character of it.

"I was personally approached in the business section of Springfield by Bill Sirtout, a member of UMW and he told me that he could get ten dollars ~~from Ray~~ Edmundson, who was President of UMW anytime he wanted it, because of the work he had done for UMW. This was on New Years Eve, December 31, 1937.

"I recall that Emory Jacaway came to my house two or three days before Mine "B" attempted to re-open in September, 1937. He told me that he wanted me to go back to work when the mine was to re-open and named the date it was to re-open. However, he told me that if I did not change over to UMW there would be no need for me to come to the mine at all.

"I have always been satisfied with the manner in which the PMA local 54 has been managed by its officials and at no time have I been desirous of returning to work under UMW.

"I have read and initialed each page of this statement consisting of two and one half pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witness:

[redacted] Special Agent F. B. I.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL 67C 67D 96545

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, [redacted] was jointly interviewed at his residence on August 30, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] appeared sincere, cooperative, and advised that he is [redacted] years of age [redacted] He stated he would not care to work under the UMW as he did not trust the present officials of that union.

[redacted] executed the following written statement:

[redacted] Illinois
August 30, 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 am [redacted] years old having been born [redacted] Illinois.

"[redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers of America at Mine #6, [redacted] This union will be referred to hereinafter as UMW.

"I first worked under the UMW in the State of Illinois in [redacted] To the best of my recollection this mine was operated by the [redacted] Later I worked at [redacted] under the UMW.

"I worked at the C.W.F. coal mine at [redacted] Illinois until [redacted] under the UMW.

"I went to [redacted] Illinois and worked there under the UMW from about [redacted]

"In [redacted] I came to [redacted] Illinois and worked under UMW at the [redacted] Mine.

"About [redacted] I started working under the UMW at Mine "B" near Springfield, Illinois. I last worked at mine "B" on May 12, 1937.

"The only union office I have ever held was on the Pit Committee at a mine at [redacted] Illinois sometime from [redacted]

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I remember that sometime from [redacted] there were four miners who were members of the UMW whose names were [redacted] and [redacted] who were discharged at the insistence of Carl Elshoff. These men were good union members, who had the interest of the miners at heart.

"John H. Walker during that period from 1929 to 1932 was the State President of the UMW. Walker did not seem to fight against the discharge of the UMW members. I think these men might have objected to the way Elshoff acted on the contract had between himself and the UMW at that time. [redacted] and [redacted] were officials of the UMW at this time. I think that Elshoff during this period would have acted beyond the contract in his own interests during this period if he had gotten the chance to do so. It seems to me that John H. Walker might have been afraid of Elshoff for some reason during this period.

"I remember one incident prior to 1932 when Elshoff and Falcetti wanted the men to take a half-hour lunch period instead of 15 minutes which would make the men work until 4:40 PM and not 4:15 PM. Elshoff would have benefited a few minutes on each company man by this arrangement. The company men all belonged to UMW. Elshoff did not get his way and the men did not have to work the extra time.

"In 1932 John H. Walker was strong for a reduction in the wage scale contract with UMW and the operators.

"The State officials of UMW held the first vote on the reduction at every local office. It appeared that the majority voted against it. Then another vote was taken and it went stronger against the reduction than the first vote. John H. Walker knew he could not handle the situation and it must have been important that there should be a reduction in the wage scale for Walker was then backed by John L. Lewis who claimed the second voting ballots were stolen and pushed through the reduction. It looked to me like the ballots were stolen by Lewis's own men.

"When the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed in September, 1932 which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA I went along with the others and joined. I was in favor of the New Progressive movement. I believe that the officials of the UMW might have conferred with the Illinois Coal Operator Assn. on the matter of reduction of the wage scale and that the UMW officials might have been getting financial assistance for putting this lower wage scale into effect. For this reason and the reason that I believed the ballots were stolen by the UMW themselves. I am glad to join the PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

96547

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I got along well with the PMA officials and as far as I know the other PMA members felt the same way. I heard no stories of chisling on the part of PMA officials.

"I attended a few PMA meetings. UMW did not picket the Mine "B" at any time from 1932 to April 1937 to my knowledge, nor was any literature distributed by UMW men.

"On May 11, 1937 there was a Special meeting called by the PMA. I believe I attended this meeting. I do recall the twelve men who held PMA cards, but who agitated for the UMW. I believe the following miners were the five who were thrown out of the PMA at this meeting on May 11, 1943:

JOE ALBANESE	FRANK AUSTIN
DOMONIC PASQUALE	TONY PLOTCH
PETE AUSTIN	

"From my own knowledge, I can not say that any of the twelve miners accused of agitating for UMW actually did do so.

"I heard that UMW money was paid to some of the twelve miners who were alleged to be agitating for the UMW prior to May, 1937.

"I know nothing about the relations between the UMW and the operators prior to 1937.

"I understood from PMA officials that if the contract was signed by Elshoff and PMA officials the miners would get the back pay to April 1, 1937.

"I heard Pete Carter say one morning during this period, in the Spring of 1937, when we were wondering if we were going to get our back pay, that we had no contract with Elshoff and what was the use of working without a contract. He said the miners ought not go down into the min and work because there was no contract.

"I knew some of the coal cars were shorted on May 12, 1937, but I don't know why.

"I believe I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937. I believe Ray Edmundson claimed the UMW had the majority and PMA wanted to show that Edmundson was wrong. I signed this petition near the picket line at the mine.

"I signed the petition of May 26, 1937 voluntarily. I have

C O-

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

96548

b1c b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

never worked since May 12, 1937. My doctor told me not to work in the mines again.

"In some manner I heard that [redacted] a miner at Mine "B" had been beaten up by [redacted] in 1939, after Mine "B" was finally re-opened.

"Under the present set-up I would not want to work under the UMW. I do not trust UMW officials. It is not a democratic organization as long as John L. Lewis or any other man holds such control.

"I have read this statement consisting of three and one half pages and have initialed the pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witness:

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

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

C9. C9

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

96549

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed [redacted] at his home on August 30, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This individual is of [redacted] origin and has been naturalized. He is unable to read the English language and had little understanding concerning the matter under inquiry, but was cooperative. He executed the following written statement which was read to him by [redacted]

[redacted] Illinois
August 30, 1943.

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

"I reside on [redacted] Illinois. I was born on [redacted] I became a Naturalized citizen of the United States in September of [redacted] I arrived in the United States in [redacted]

"The first mining union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, hereinafter referred to as the UMW, at [redacted] Illinois about [redacted] I worked there under the UMW until April, 1932. This was in Peabody Mine #52. I was not working from 1932 to 1935. In April, 1932 this Peabody mine closed due to lack of a contract. Although I was not employed in September, 1932, I joined the Progressive Miners of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, at [redacted] Illinois, and I joined this union voluntarily as the local I had been working under all joined the PMA.

"From April, 1932 until 1935, month not recalled, I was not employed in coal mines. About August 1935 I went to work in Mine B as a member of PMA. I never held any office in either PMA or UMW. I took no active part in the formation of the PMA. I went to very few PMA union meetings as they were held in Springfield and it was not convenient for me to do so. I just went to work and minded my business, and I know nothing about the relations between Elshoff and Local 54 of PMA from August 1935 until May 12, 1937, when the mine closed. I never went back to Mine B after that date.

"I heard that the UMW had organizers in Mine B to get some of the miners to join the UMW, but I do not know who they were and they never contacted me. I heard that some of these men were expelled but I did not go to the meeting and know nothing about it.

"From May, 1937 until October 14, 1939 I was unemployed for WPA, and on October 14, 1939 I got a job at the [redacted] Mine near [redacted] Illinois as a member of the PMA. I have worked there ever since.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

96550

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I did not picket at Mine B and never went back after May 12, 1937. I remember signing the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show that I was a member of PMA. I am not sure where I was when I signed this petition. I did not get in the union trouble. I liked the UMW but did not like to take the reduction in the wage scale in 1932. I am satisfied with the PMA. I think it is a good union and since I am a member of this union I would not care to change the union at all, or to join any other union.

"This statement consisting of one and one-half pages has been read to me by [redacted] since I do not read much English. I fully understand the contents of this statement, and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his home on August 30, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This individual is of [redacted] origin and has been naturalized. He is unable to read the English language and has little understanding concerning the matter under inquiry, but was cooperative.

He executed the following written statement which was read to him by [redacted]

[redacted] Illinois
August 30, 1943

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

"I was born [redacted] and arrived in the United States in [redacted] I was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] I presently live on [redacted] Illinois.

"I first started working in a mine in [redacted] under the United Mine Workers of America, that will be referred to hereinafter as UMW, at the Peabody Mine near Dawson, Illinois. I started working in Mine "B" on [redacted]

"Mine "B" was operating under the PMW and so I joined that union. The full name of this union is Progressive Mine Workers of America, and it will be referred to hereinafter as PMA. I left the Peabody Mine because it closed down in April 1932.

"From 1932 to 1936 I was unemployed. However during two winters between 1932 to 1936 I worked at the Jefferson Mine at Springfield, Illinois.

"I have never held an office in a Mine union. I have never attended any union meetings.

"The last day I ever worked at Mine "B" was on May 12, 1937.

"I started back to work at the Panther Creek mine in October, 1937.

"I was satisfied working under PMA. No one ever told me to stay with the PMA or to join the UMW. I know nothing about the twelve miners who were supposed to be aggitating for UMW. I know nothing about

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

wage scale reduction problems and wanted only to be paid for my work. I saw no trouble of any kind in Mine "B" and paid no attention to troubles between the unions or between the operators and the unions.

"I went out to Mine "B" several times after it had closed with another man who I rode to work with, but the other miners did not go down into the mine, so I didn't.

"I never helped picket at Mine B. I have worked under the UMW and also the PMA. I now work under the PMA. I like the PMA, but I will work under either union. It makes no difference which one.

"I know norhing about unions or how they are run. I only want to work and earn a living.

"This statement consisting of one and ahalf ___ has been read to me by [redacted] and I fully understant it. It is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witness:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 31, 1943, at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, where he is employed as a laborer. This individual was cooperative, but he makes a poor appearance, does not appear to be positive of his statements, and gives the impression of having a faulty memory.

Following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943

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

"I was born [redacted] I am registered with Selective Service Board No. 2, Springfield, Illinois, and I am presently employed at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, as a laborer which job I have held since [redacted] I presently reside on [redacted] Illinois.

"The first mining job I ever had was with the [redacted] Coal Company at [redacted] Illinois. I worked there from [redacted] to March, [redacted]

"I began working at Mine "B" near Springfield, Illinois in March [redacted] and worked there until in closed in May, 1937. When the mine reopened in November, 1939 I started working in Mine "B" and continued working there until [redacted]

"At [redacted] Illinois I worked under the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. From March, [redacted] until September, 1932, I worked at Mine "B" under the UMW. I worked under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA from September, 1932, until one or two weeks before the second NLRB election of February 21, 1941, with the exception of the time when the mine was closed down which was May, 1937 to November, 1939. About February, of 1941, I signed a UMW card because I was forced to, and not because I wanted to do so.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"I wanted the PMA to be formed in September, 1932, because the UMW was always taking out too much money from our wages. I felt this was unnecessary and I felt the UMW officials were getting rich on the rank and

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] file miner under the UMW.

(continued)

"Before September, 1932, we always seemed to get along well with Elshoff and Falcetti. During this period Mine "B" closed down for about four months due to lack of coal orders.

"I was satisfied with the way the PMA was run, and I think the leaders of the PMA treated the miners fairly. I did not like the special assessment taken from my wages the first year. I worked under the PMA, but the PMA was newly organized and needed the money obtained by the special assessments so it was alright with me. I attended some PMA meetings, but I never had much to say about either union and took no active part in forming union policies.

"There were about twelve men in Mine "B" who worked there from 1932 who were UMW organizers although they held PMA cards. These men were as follows:

JOE ALBANESE	JOHN SIRTOUT
ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS	LEE BULGARNER ("Cudge")
DOMINIC PASQUALE	GEORGE JACAWAY
PETE CARTER	EMORY JACAWAY
FRANK AUSTIN	CHARLES BOHANNON
TONY PLOTCH	JAMES HALE

"A number of times I saw Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and Tony Plotch in Elshoff's office before the men went to work in the morning. These men and the other nine mentioned above all appeared to be very friendly with Elshoff. It looked like these twelve men were much more friendly with Elshoff than the other miners. This was before the mine shut down in 1937 and also after the mine opened in November, 1939.

"I do not remember much about the wage scale trouble, but I remember that after the mine had opened in 1939 that there was a lot of talk in the wash room that the UMW men would get the back pay, but the Progressive members would not.

"I was not at the PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937, but I heard about the meeting. I do not remember much about the results of this meeting, but I heard about the five men who were thrown out of the PMA for being UMW organizers. On the next day the coal cars came up shorted. They were being shorted by PMA. I don't know why they were shorted.

"The strike started because Elshoff would not sign a contract with PMA and because Elshoff wouldn't fire the five men who were thrown out of the PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937, because I wanted to show that I was a PMA member. I signed it near Mine "B" while I was on the PMA picket line.

"On September 27, 1937, when the mine tried to re-open only a few men attempted to go to work. The PMA men did not try to stop these few men from working, but no one else would work. I remember that the men who went to work on this morning were the men whose names I mentioned above in this statement who were UMW organizers, but [redacted] was not there.

"I believe I signed one or two other PMA petitions in 1937, but I don't remember what they were about.

"I can't remember if I went to the mine when it tried to open in December, 1937 and January, 1938.

"I went back to work when the mine re-opened on November 6, 1939. I understood we would get our back wages. When I went back to work in November, 1939, I worked in [redacted] of the mine. It looked like part of the mine had been cleared up a little so the men could work. I think one shift could have cleared it up. The air was bad.

"Before I left the Mine in May, 1937, I worked in [redacted] When I went back to work in November, 1939, I could not get in the [redacted] because there was a cave in there. All my tools were buried.

"It looked like Elshoff never tried to fix the cave-in on the [redacted] because the day I went back to work they were pulling the track out of the [redacted] and they would not have done this if they had intended to fix the cave-in and clear the [redacted] It didn't look like much work had been done to put the mine in working condition at the time I went back to work.

"When I returned to work in November, 1939, I worked as a member of the PMA union.

"One or two weeks before the second N.L.R.B. election held in February, 1941 I changed over to United Mine Workers union. Charles Bohannon and [redacted] or [redacted] came to my house tweice just before the second N.L.R.B. election and asked me to sign up with UMW. The first time I didn't sign. The second time they told me I was one of the last to sign with UMW and I signed. They did not threaten me or give me money, but I had seen Bohannon and Sirtout beat up a PMA miner just outside the wash house at the mine about a week before because he would not sign with UMW. // violence

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I know this other miner did not want to sign, but I didn't hear any conversation between him and Bohannon and Sirtout before he was beaten.

"I did not want this to happen to me, so I signed up with UMW.

"I have carefully read this statement consisting of three and one-half pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.
Special Agent, FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on September 1, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was cooperative, had a fair understanding of the union difficulties at Mine "B" and he executed the following written statement, which he signed:

"Springfield, Illinois.
September 1, 1943

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

"I reside at [redacted], and reside part of the time at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed in [redacted], at Springfield. I was born on [redacted] I arrived in the United States in [redacted] I derived citizenship in the U. S. through my father, [redacted] who was naturalized at Springfield Illinois in [redacted]

"I started working in Mine B near Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] and worked there until about [redacted] and then left that Mine for about a year. I returned to work in mine B sometime in [redacted] From that time I worked at Mine B continuously until May 12, 1937 when it shut down. I did not go out there again to try to go to work until after it re-opened in November, 1939. From November, 1939 I worked there continuously until [redacted]

"I first joined a mine union at Mine B in [redacted] This was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as UMW. I remained a member of the UMW until September, 1932 at which time Mine B signed a contract with the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I remained a member of the PMA until after the second NLRB election in February, 1941 at which time the UMW won the right to be the sole bargaining agent at Mine B. I joined the UMW and remained a member until [redacted] At the present time I am not a member of any mining union.

"I never held an office in any mine union. Prior to 1932 Elshoff got along alright with the UMW at mine B. The miners did not like it when it was reported that the ballot boxes had been stolen in the UMW vote taken in 1932, and it was believed that the miners had voted against the reduction in wages, and for that reason, the ballot box was probably taken by a member of UMW. The miners then started organizing the PMA. I voluntarily joined the PMA in September 1932, and felt that it was well operated. I did not have any fault to find with the way PMA was run.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"From September, 1932 until about three months before the mine closed on May 12, 1937, Elshoff seemed to get along alright with the PMA. I never heard Elshoff or Falcetti make any statement as to which union they preferred. However, about three months before the mine closed in 1937 there were about twelve men in the mine aggitating for UMW. These men were the following: John Ananias, James Hale, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Frank Austin, Charles Bohannon, Dominic Pasquale, Peter Carter, Tony Plotch and Andrew Schrelevious.

"These above mentioned men were members of PMA, but aggitating to get the men to join UMW. I heard Elshoff did not favor PMA as that union enforced the regulations stricter than the UMW. It seems the PMA had more committee meetings with Elshoff than the UMW had and Elshoff became dissatisfied with PMA. These UMW organizers talked to the men in the mine prior to May, 1937 to get them to join UMW. Charles Bohannon and [redacted] talked to me in the mine about signing up with the UMW. Bohannon said in a friendly way, 'you better sign up before it's too late'. I never thought this was a threat. I heard the men, whose names are given above as being former UMW organizers, had talked other miners about changing from PMA to UMW, but I never overheard any of these conversations.

"I only attended about ½ of the PMA union meetings. I attended the special PMA meeting at the PMA hall on 6th St., Springfiled. I learned of the meeting from a notice at the mine. At this meeting, about five of the aggitators were accused of organizing for UMW, but I don't recall if they were discharged. There were about 125 men at this meeting. I believe the other miners heard about it the next day. On May, 12, 1937 one of the PMA Pit Committee men told me to make my coal cars short, and I loaded mine a little under average. I don't know why the PMA wanted them loaded short. I helped PMA picket for about three weeks in the fall of 1937. After that, I never did go back until it re-opened in November, 1939.

"I do not remember signing any kind of a petition for either union in 1937. When the mine re-opened on an open shop basis relations at the mine were rather quiet. Later, the men would be contacted personally by UMW members and I would hear that a miner had signed up with UMW. In the latter part of 1940 and early part of 1941, the UMW organizers worked hard organizing and set a dead line of January 16, 1941 to sign up by then or you would not get to work unless the miner paid a fee to join again.

"In January, 1941, the 'Face Boss' at Mine B named [redacted] (phonetic from [redacted] Illinois, who was a UMW member, told me in the mine it would be better to sign up with UMW as it would be a lot of trouble later and maybe I couldn't join up later. A few days before, a big organizer of UMW who came in from southern Illinois said it would be best to sign up as

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

most of the men were doing that. He did not threaten me. I signed up because I was afraid I might not have a job or have to pay $10.00 to join the UMW later if they would take me. I felt Elshoff and Falcetti favored the UMW, but I did not hear or learn indirectly why they favored UMW. The NLRB election in February, in 1941 was fair, because the UMW had already signed the miners with the UMW and they knew by then that they held a majority. The PMA did not try to influence the miners at this election.

"Just before January 16, 1941 a number of men were beaten up at the mine. All these men that were beaten up were PMA members. I did not see these beatings, but I saw a man named [redacted] who had just been beaten in the Wash House. I saw him bleeding about the head. He left Mine B and never came back. I heard that four men were beaten that morning. [redacted] and [redacted] of the UMW did most of this beating. I did not see it, but I heard it from the other men.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the two and a half pages of this statement and it contains 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.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] From his appearance and alertness he would make a presentable witness and he appeared cooperative, however his knowledge concerning the case was limited. 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 reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and I am presently employed by [redacted] Illinois. I was born [redacted] Illinois, on [redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers of America, hereinafter referred to as UMW, about [redacted] at Pleasant Plain, Illinois. I worked in mines near this place. I have never held an office in the UMW. I moved to Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] and have lived in Springfield ever since. I remained a member of UMW until September, 1932. At this time I was working at Mine B. I started working at Mine B about [redacted] and worked until May, 1937 when it was shut down because of the strike which started on May 12, 1937. [redacted]

"When Elshoff first came to the mine I thought he was a fine man, but later on, prior to 1932, he seemed to change. He was not as friendly as he had been and did not seem to get along with the men. The men were dissatisfied. The exact reason for this dissatisfaction was not known to me. [redacted]

"On September 6, 1932 I joined the Progressive Miners of America, hereinafter referred to as PMA. The men in Mine B wanted the new union. It made no difference to me which union I worked for. The men seemed to be disgusted with John L. Lewis.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] I attended very few of the union meetings [redacted]

"From May, 1937 until September 27, 1937 I [redacted] did not follow the difficulties at the mine as I was fed up with the mining situation.

"On September 27, 1937 I heard that Mine B. was going to re-open. I do not recall who told me this. I went out to the mine about 6:00 AM on this date. I wanted to start to work. There were some 15 to 20 men around the mine property. I talked to a miner whose surname was [redacted], who I later heard is an organizer for UMW. He said the mine was not going to re-open. I said 'I'm quitting for good'. I left the mine and never went back to work there [redacted] never did solicit me to join UMW and at that time I did not know he was in favor of UMW, as he was working on a PMA card.

"I did not follow the mine trouble as I never intended to go back to the mine. It appeared the Elshoff was not in favor of the PMA. The reason for this is not known to me.

"I was always satisfied with the management of PMA and I feel the majority of the men were satisfied. [redacted] Falcetti came up to me and said the mine was shutting down [redacted]. Falcetti, Elshoff or none of the management ever talked to me about union troubles as they knew I did not take sides in the union matters.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the one and one-half pages of this statement which 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."

R: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he executed a signed statement. [redacted] was born in [redacted] and is a naturalized United States citizen, but has difficulty in speaking English. He is working at Mine "B" [redacted] It is not believed he will make a good witness. He was cooperative during the interview but professed complete ignorance on many questions. He has no known criminal record. The following is the signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943.

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

"I was born [redacted] I came to U. S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen in [redacted]

"I joined UMW in [redacted] when I went to work at Peabody #6 mine. I have not held any office in any union.

"I was working at Peabody when it closed in 1932 and in the fall of 1932 I began working at Mine "B" at which time I joined PMA because Mine "B" was running under PMA and I wanted to work.

"I had no difficulty with PMA and I did not see or know of any attempts by UMW to convert PMA members to UMW prior to the strike in 1937. [redacted] and did not see or know any 'spies' were working at Mine "B" although I heard from some of the other top men that there were some around but I did not see them nor did they approach me in any manner.

"On May 12, 1937 I saw some cars coming out of the mine with only a few hundred pounds in them and that afternoon the men all came out on strike. This was the first I had known of a strike. I did not attend any meeting the night before the strike.

"I don't recall signing any petitions in the summer of 1937. I saw in the paper in August 1937 that Elshoff had signed a contract with UMW and so when it was announced that the Mine "B" would open in Sept. 1937, I went out to work but instead we began picketing. I picketed at mine "B" off and on for a month or so. I was not present when the injunction was served on the pickets.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

All during the picketing no one was brought in to picket and all were Mine "B" workers. Sometime in the early part of December 1937 I went to work at Panther Creek Old West Mine and stayed there until Mine "B" opened up again in 1939 except that I was transferred to New North Mine.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in 1937 while I was employed at Old West Mine and I think it was a fair election.

"In Nov. 1939, I received a letter stating Mine "B" would reopen and due to a court ruling members of each union (PMA & UMW) began working at Mine "B". I was working at New North Mine at this time and because I liked the men on top at Mine "B" better than New North, I went back to Mine "B".

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941. It was a fair election as far as I know. At this time I was not a member of any union as I had quit paying dues to PMA 5 or 6 months before. As soon as the election returns showed UMW had won I joined UMW to hold my job.

"I am now working at Mine "B" and am a member of U.M.W. I think there is very little difference in PMA or UMW and would join either depending on which one had bargaining rights & contract with the coal company.

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

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted] Sp. Agt. FBI."

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home [redacted] Springfield, Illinois on August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] has a difficult time understanding and speaking English and would make a very unsatisfactory witness. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record.

P.O. 3 now 2

The following is a signed statement executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

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

"I was born [redacted] emmigrated to the U.S. from [redacted] I am a citizen of the U.S. I was naturalized in [redacted] I am at the present employed at Mine "B", Springfield, Ill. as a miner.

"I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] when I first began coal mining in Ill.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"I am unable to make a statement as to the relations between U.M.W. and Elshoff at Mine B prior to Sept. 1932.

"In 1932 I was employed at Panther Creek Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill.. In Sept. 1932 I joined PMA because most of the miners wanted to change from U.M.W to PMA. I do not know the reason for the change from U.M.W to PMA. I took no active part in the promotion of PMA.

"I was employed at Mine "B" as a miner in the middle part of 1935. Between 1935 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes or close-downs at Mine "B". The management of mine be seemed to be in favor of PMA between 1935 and May 12, 1937 and did not have a hostile attitude in settling grievances.

"I was in favor of PMA and thought it was a good union. So far as I know PMA was not operated as a racket. PMA did not make any unusual special assessments. I took no interest in union affairs. I took no interest in the bombing cases and I am unable to make a statement as to the attitude of PMA members toward the conviction of PMA members in the cases.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"Between 1935 and May 12, 1937, UMW did not set up a picket line and UMW did not distribute any literature at Mine "B".

"I know nothing about any alleged UMW spies at Mine B.

"I do not know if there was any relationship between UMW officials and the management of Mine "B" between 1935 and May 12, 1937.

"I do not know if there was a wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I do not know if there was a MMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937. I cannot remember if I received a notice of a meeting on that night or not.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I was told by a member of the MMA pit committee to load the coal cars short. I do not know why. Later that day I was told by someone the Mine "B" was closed. I do not know why the mine closed and I did not ask any questions. Coal cars were loaded short on the morning of May 12, 1937 and I loaded coal cars short that day, but I do not know why and I do not know if there was a growing sentiment to strike that day.

"I signed a MMA petition of May 26, 1937. This petition was brought to my home for my signature by a representative of MMA. I think the petition was to show that I was for MMA, but I do not rember any details. The representative of MMA did not threaten me if I did not sign the petition.

"I did not sign any other petition in the Summer of 1937.

"I did not know of the formation of new UMW local 7469 July 29, 1937.

"I think I attended some MMA meetings in the Summer of 1937, but I do not know of any violence or statements by the management of Mine "B" during that period of time.

"I saw in the newspaper in Sept. 1937 that Mine "B" was to have opened. I went to Mine "B" to work, but no one went into the mine, I do not know why they did not go to work. I acted as a picket from time to time for about two months subsequent to Sept. 1937. No one threatened me if I did not act as a picket. So far as I know only miners at Mine "B" acted as pickets and no outsiders were brought in as pickets.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Sometime in November 1937 someone informed the pickets that they could no longer picket Mine "B". I do not know why the miners could not picket any longer or the attitude of other miners concerning the fact that they could not picket.

"I had no notice to return to work at Mine "B" Dec. 13, 1937 and Jan. 4, 1938.

"I voted at the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. No one threatened me if I did not vote PMA and I went to vote voluntarily.

"In about November, 1939 I received notice , in an unknown manner, that Mine "B" was to open. I returned to Mine "B" as a member of PMA.

"A few years after I returned to Mine "B" to work an election was held and UMW won the election making Mine "B" a UMW mine. A short time after the election I joined U.M.W. as majority voted for U.M.W. I did not care whether I was a member of U.M.W. or PMA.

"No one threatened me after my return to work Nov. 1939 at Mine "B", and I did not see anyone being threatened or any fights.

"I voted in the election to determine if Mine "B" should have been a U.M.W. mine or a P.M.A. mine. No one threatened me during the election.

/S/ [redacted]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on August 27, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is an alien [redacted] he speaks English with a strong [redacted] accent, did not work at Mine "B" after May, 1937 and had little information concerning this inquiry. He submitted the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 27, 1943

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

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and I am presently employed [redacted] I was born on [redacted] I am not a citizen of the United States. I filed a Declaration of Intention at Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] I have not received my second papers. I arrived in the United States in [redacted] and came directly to Springfield, Illinois.

"I joined the United Mine Workers, hereinafter referred to as the UMW, in [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois. My first job as a miner was at the Peabody Mine #6, near Springfield.

"When I worked under the Progressive Miners of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, I was well satisfied. I voluntarily signed the PMA petition on May 12, 1937. During this period, including May 12, 1937, twelve men were working in Mine B, where I then worked, as members of the PMA, but I believe they secretly were members of the UMW and that they were trying to get members of the PMA to join up with the UMW.

"One of these twelve men, one Pete Carter, whom I knew personally, talked to me in Springfield in June or July, 1937, in the business section of Springfield, at which time Carter told me that if I wanted to work in Mine B, I would have to join the UMW. No other threats were made to me. I understand that the other eleven of these men were contacting members of the PMA in an effort to get them to change over to the UMW. I learned of this by word of mouth. I felt that these twelve men were being paid by the UMW for this specific job, that is, getting the men to join UMW.

"About May, 1937, James Hale, one of these men, started driving a new automobile and the miners said he got it from UMW, for the work he did for that union.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"It was the general opinion of the miners that Elshoff was paid by the UMW to keep the mine closed in order to break local 54 of the PMA. I do not have any facts to prove that but he wouldn't sign a contract with PMA and the PMA miners felt that Elshoff favored the UMW.

"I worked at Mine B from [redacted] to May 1937. About this time the trouble started and I left the Mine and later got a jo[redacted] and in December 1937 got a job with the Panther Creek Mine #5. This was the PMA operated mine and I worked there continuously until [redacted] and never did go back to Mine B, and therefore do not have any first hand knowledge concerning the conditions after I left Mine B, in May, 1937.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the one and one-quarter pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge and recollection. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to give the above statement."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] is [redacted] years of age, can scarcely speak or understand English, and is unable to remember anything. He was interviewed on August 26, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., on August 26, 1943, was contacted by [redacted] and [redacted] who identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They asked me questions about my work in Mine "B" during the last seven or eight years and to my knowledge of work in the mine back in the early 1930s, but I was unable to answer their questions because I cannot speak or understand English very well and because of my age I am unable to remember things that happened.

[redacted] (signed)

"WITNESSES

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] came to the United States in [redacted] becoming a citizen in [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. He says he has no criminal record. [redacted] is presently employed at Mine 'B'. He understands English fairly well, speaks English brokenly, but appears to have a good memory and thinks coherently. It is felt he would make a fair witness. The following signed statement was obtained from GANCI.

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943

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

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U.S. [redacted]. I started working in coal mines in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted] and I joined the United Mine Workers of America union in [redacted] I stayed a UMW until 1932 when the UMW went Progressive, that is joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America and I became PMA in 1932.

"In [redacted] I started working for Mine 'B'. When the PMA was organized in 1932 I joined it because the majority of our local wanted to and it didn't make any difference whether I was UMW or PMA. I took no active part in the organizing of PMA.

"During the time between 1932 to 1937 I did not notice that the company, Elshoff, or Oscar Falcetti favored either PMA or UMW. During this time I noticed no attempts of UMW to organize in Mine 'B' and no one ever tried to get me to join UMW during this time. I thought PMA was a good union and I did not think any one in PMA was crooked. I thought PMA was an honest union. [redacted]

"Between 1932 and 1937 I never saw any effort by UMW to picket, organize or distribute literature at Mine 'B'.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

about two or three weeks before May 12, 1937 two members of PMA were expelled from PMA. One was Joe Albanese but I can't remember the other man's name. At the next meeting of PMA some more members were kicked out. John Ananias, Charlie Bohanon, Tony Slotch, Frank Austin, Dominic Pasquale, Andy Schelevious, and a man named Jacaway were all kicked out. But I do not know why these men were kicked out. I never heard of any of these men being spies for UMW-

"I do not remember going to a PMA meeting May 11, 1937. About this time I knew we were having a little trouble with the company on our wage scale, and the PMA officials told us they were trying to sign a contract with the company and try to get a wage increase. I thought the PMA could get us just as much as the UMW and it didn't make any difference to me whether UMW or PMA would try. No one from the company ever talked to us about the wage trouble that I know about.

"On May 12, 1937, I went to work as a digger just as usual. I was dressed but did not go down into the mines. The Pit Committee of PMA was in talking with the company and they came out and told us that there would be no work because the company would not sign the contract. It was our PMA leaders who told us this. On May 11, 1937 we had gone down into the mines, and I had loaded two half cars of coal. The reason I only loaded half cars was that the driver would pull the cars before I could load them. I was called out at 2^00 PM the afternoon of May 11, 1937, but I do not know why or who told us to go home. It was that the drivers told us that was all, and we should go home.

"Some time after we went out on strike, I signed a PMA petition and I think it was about a month after the strike. I signed the petition at PMA headquarters. That was the only petition I signed and I never signed a UMW petition.

"I heard a UMW local was formed in the summer of 1937, but I do not know anything more about that. Those same fellows who were expelled from PMA were the ones I heard organized the UMW. No one ever asked me to join this UMW.

"During the summer of 1937 the PMA just had its regular meetings. I heard of no wildcat meetings going on.

"In the fall of 1937 I read several times in the newspaper that Mine 'B' was going to re-open, but I was never notified to come back to work at Mine 'B' in the fall of 1937. I never reported for work until about

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Sept. 26, 1937 I read in the paper that
(Continued) 'B' was going to open the next day so on

the 27th I reported for work. I waited on top with the rest of the men and the PMA officials had a meeting with the company officials. Our leaders came out and told us we were going to stay on the Mine 'B' Property until the company recognized the PMA. We had our picket line, or sit-down for about 56 days and the day or so before Thanksgiving, the U. S. Gov't came out and told us to leave. I was in the picket line all of the time. The PMA did not have any outsiders come in and picket with us. - The PMA leaders never used any force or threats to keep us in the picket line.

"I do not remember an attempt to have the mines re-opened in Dec. of 1937, but I remember reading in the paper that the mines would re-open in January 1938. I went down to PMA headquarters and they told me they had heard the mine was going to open and if I wanted to report I could. [redacted] and I decided to wait a day to see how many men would report to work the first day. The second day I heard only five or six had reported for work so I did not bother to _ up to Mine 'B'.

"I remember in December of 1937 the National Labor Relations Board held an election which the PMA won. I voted and no one forced or threatened me in any way.

"In November of 1939, I got a letter from the company telling me to come back to work. About the next day the PMA had a meeting at which we decided to go back to work. This was decided by a motion. We went back as PMA but without a contract but we were told a contract would be signed in thirty days. I thought the PMA could get us a good contract, but after thirty and sixty days when we didn't get a contract, I began to lose faith in the PMA lawyer. I never thought about whether the UMW could get us a contract until the next summer.

"From the time we went back to work in Nov. of 1939 until 1941 no one ever tried to influence me in any way to join the UMW. No one ever threatened me or beat me or gave me any UMW literature. I heard some of the fellows were beat up and hurt by UMW men but I never saw anything like that. During this time I never noticed anyone from the company try to influence me. I got my same room back and no one bothered me.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] "After we went back to work in Nov.
(Continued) of 1939, I noticed no unusual cave-ins or

fires and did not notice there had been any. Everything looked all right to me, and I went right to work.

"In July of 1940 I saw that the PMA would not be able to get a contract with the company so I voluntarily joined the UMW by getting a card from the UMW committee. I never had any trouble with the PMA after this and I am certain no one forced me to join UMW. I joined UMW because I wanted to keep my job and not lose my home and I could see the majority of men in July of 1940 were ready to join UMW and I wanted to be with the majority.

"I voted in the NLRB election in Feb., 1941, and no one forced, threatened or promised me in any way in this election. I went to vote by myself and was not afraid.

"I am still working in Mine "B" and have been since Nov. of 1939. I am satisfied with everything.

"This statement of seven pages has been read to me by Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge_

/S/[redacted]

"Witness.

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

/S/[redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] This individual worked at the Mine "B" on May 12, 1937 when it closed and the first day in November, 1939, when it opened. He was cooperative, appeared sincere, and is presently employed at Mine "B". He executed the following statement:

[redacted] Illinois
August 30, 1943

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

"I was born [redacted] Illinois. I presently reside at [redacted] Illinois. I joined the United Mine Workers of America, hereinafter referred to as the UMW, in [redacted] and started working in the Peabody mine #52 at Riverton, Illinois, when I was [redacted] years old. I worked at the Peabody mine for [redacted] and then started working at Mine B, near Springfield, Illinois about [redacted] which was under contract with UMW. I continued working at this mine under the UMW until 1932. At this time I was not in favor of the wage scale reduction which the officers of UMW wanted to sign us under and later the ballots were stolen. Therefore, I was dissatisfied with UMW management and I voluntarily joined the Progressive Miners of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I have never held an office in any mine union.

"As far as I know, Elshoff was on good terms with UMW at Mine B. prior to 1932. I willingly joined PMA when Mine B went Progressive in 1932 and I was well satisfied with the management of the union. Elshoff seemed to get along with PMA local 54 from September, 1932 to April, 1937. I worked [redacted] in the mine from [redacted] to May, 1937. I went to few union meetings either UMW or PMA as I lived too far away to attend. I was not familiar with what was going on except talk I heard at the mine. I still work at Mine B, and now under UMW.

"I never heard Elshoff or Falcetti say they favored UMW but I felt they wanted to sign a contract with UMW because they let a group of men organize in the mine. I noticed this aggitation and organizing for UMW start about April, 1937 and continued until the mine closed on May 12, 1937. The group of men I recalled that did this organizing were as follows: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrolevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Cotton, who was also called John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, who was also known as Charles Bowlingreen, and James Hale. At this time these men were members of PMA but were organizing for UMW. After the mine closed in May,

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

1937, James Hale, Charles Bohannon and Cudge Bumgarner, whose true name is Lee Bumgarner all got new cars. I heard they were paid for organizing for UMW, but I do not know how much they were paid or who paid them. These men, who were UMW spies never contacted me to get me to join the UMW, but they did contact other miners. I heard such remarks being made by some of these twelve men to Progressive miners after the mine opened under open contract after November, 1939, and before the UMW won the NLRB election sometime later as follows: "Why don't you join the UMW. The PMA is no good for you. You won't be able to work much longer if you stay with the PMA".

"I did not attend the meeting of PMA on May 11, 1937 when the five men who were UMW organizers were thrown out of the PMA. However, the next day when Elshoff would not discharge these five men, the miners were dissatisfied and the cars were loaded short. I think the cars were loaded short because Elshoff would not discharge these men, and not because there was any trouble over the wage scale controversy.

"I signed the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member and to show the PMA had the majority of the miners working at that time. I signed this petition voluntarily at the mine.

"In May, 1937, I helped in the PMA picket line for about a week. I was at the mine every time it attempted to open from September, 27, 1937 until it did open in November, 1939. When I went back to work in Mine B in November, 1939, I went in as a member of PMA. I am still working at Mine B, but now under the UMW. I saw notices in the newspapers and heard from the miners about the attempt to open the mine, but I don't remember just what the dates were.

"I remained a member of PMA until after the NLRB election in 1941 when the UMW got the bargaining rights and then joined UMW merely because I wanted a job. I have no fault to find with the PMA. They treated me fine and that union was well managed as far as I know.

"In November 1939 when Mine B opened as an open shop Charles Bohannon and the other eleven men I mentioned in this statement as well as [redacted] or [redacted] and Cudge Bumgarner and others were still organizing for UMW, but they did not try to convert me. The PMA did nothing about this organizing, except expelling the five men from the union. The PMA did nothing about this after the mine opened in November, 1939, but just waited for the law to take care of it, but the law was too late.

"In the NLRB election on December 15, 1937, I think the election was run fairly and I never heard from anyone that there was any fraud. The

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

PMA won the election, but Elshoff would not sign a contract. In the next NLRB election in February, 1941 the UMW won and Elshoff signed a contract right away with the UMW. I felt that Elshoff got paid off for keeping the mine closed. The PMA had the bargaining rights in May, 1937 and still had the bargaining rights after the first NLRB election, and the men always wanted to work, but Elshoff would not sign a contract but instead let the mine stay idle.

"I worked at Mine B on May 11, 1937 when it shut down and I went back in November, 1939, and worked the first day the mine was open. The mine was in bad shape with cave-ins and bad air. When I went back to Mine B in November, 1939, I saw nothing that looked like there had been a fire or a big flood in the mine. I went back to work in the West section of Mine B.

"In my opinion, there was no maintainance work done in the mine during the time it was shut down except pumping done by [redacted] from the top of the mine. Some company men worked in the mine to get it in better shape about two days before it re-opened.

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

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

[redacted], Special Agent, FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Illinois, was [redacted] jointly interviewed at his residence on August 29, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is a man [redacted] years of age [redacted] who resented the tactics used by the UMW. Most of the information he furnished was hearsay. He executed the following written 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, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I reside on [redacted] Illinois. I was born in [redacted] Illinois on [redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at [redacted] and never held any office in the union but have been a member of the pit committee, UMW while I worked at [redacted]

"From [redacted] I worked in the mines near [redacted] Illinois as a member of the UMW. About [redacted] I went to work in Mine B and continued to work there until the strike closed the mine in May, 1937. From May, 1937 to November, 1937 I was unemployed, and in the latter part of 1939, I believe in November, I started back to work in Mine B, and continued to work there until [redacted] I quit mining at that time [redacted]

"From 1927 to 1932 the UMW and Elshoff got along fine, but when John L. Lewis favored a reduction in the wage scale and a vote was taken and some of the thugs working for him made off with the ballot box and Lewis signed up with the operators on an emergency contract. I was glad to get out of the UMW and join the Progressive Miners of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. The rest of the miners felt the same was and the PMA was formed.

"From 1932 to about January 1937 Elshoff got along alright with the PMA. About 1937, in January, a number of men holding PMA cards, but who were organizing for the UMW went through Mine B trying to convert the men to UMW. The men they were trying to convert were members of the PMA. Some of these

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

PMA they tried to convert to the UMW were beaten up, and 'Cudge' Bumgarner, who lives at [redacted] Illinois, and whose true name is Lee Bumgarner, beat up a young Italian miner with a pick handle while he was in the mine so bad that he was in the hospital for months. Before this Italian miner was beat up he told me that Charles Bohannon and 'Cudge' Bumgarner had told him that he had better sign up with the UMW.

"Carl Elshoff and Oscar Falcetti wanted to sign up with the UMW and they got a bunch of thugs in the mine to swing the men over to the UMW membership. As best as I can recall, this happened about three months before the strike in May, 1937. These men were members of the PMA but also working for the UMW. Some of these men were 'Cudge' Bumgarner, Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Cotton, whom I also knew as John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale.

"Falcetti and Elshoff were very friendly with the above mentioned thirteen men and the others who helped them. Falcetti and Elshoff had these men at the Mine B. company office where they had drinking parties at night. I did not personally see this, but Bill Compton, President of PMA and John Schneider who also holds an office in the PMA, saw this association.

"I never heard Falcetti or Elshoff say they wanted to sign up with UMW, but Charles Bohannon, who Elshoff and Falcetti were friendly with, told me I had to sign up with the UMW or else I could not work, as the miners were going over to UMW.

"I thought PMA was a fine union, and that it was well run. I recall that the officials of PMA got along well with the members of that union, at mine B.

"In the spring of 1937 when there was a wage scale controversy, I don't recall what the PMA officials said what the contract with the operators consisted of and there was a slowdown. I believe the slowdown was due to Elshoff's thugs who by their trying to organize caused hard feelings, and I do not believe the slowdown was due to any wage scale trouble. These thugs I mentioned before in this statement were big men, and pretended to be air testers but they walked all over the mine organizing for UMW and trying to sign up the miners with UMW. One of these so-called air testers was named [redacted], or a name that sounds like that. I know him when I see him.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

"I attended the meeting of the PMA on the night of May 11, 1937. This was held at the PMA hall on North 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois, and I learned of this special meeting because I saw it posted on a bulletin board at the mine. I voted to expell the five men who were expelled from the PMA, because it was shown that they were UMW spies and disloyal to the PMA. I believe I remember that one of the five even voted to have himself expelled from PMA. PMA had a closed shop agreement with Elshoff at this time, and Elshoff should have discharged these men after they were expelled from the union. As a matter of fact, I think he should have fired them before that for their activities in the mine. Four of the men who were expelled did not attend this meeting, as near as I can recall, and did not say anything in their own defense.

"The rank and file were advised of the expulsion of the five men the day after it happened, by word of mouth. The rank and file thought these men should have been expelled. Later, when Elshoff would not fire these men the miners were mad and loaded the coal cars short and later in the day, May 12, 1943, very little coal was coming up from the mine, and the mine went on strike. This was not due to wages. It was because Elshoff would not fire these five men, who no longer belonged to PMA.

"I voluntarily signed the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show that I was a member of PMA. The petition was to show that PMA had a majority and should have the bargaining rights in the mine. I signed this petition near the mine where there were about 100 automobiles parked, to see that UMW did not take over the mine.

"From May 1937 to November, 1939 I assisted in picketing this mine from time to time.

"In the summer of 1937 I signed another PMA petition but I forget what it was for. [redacted] (phonetic), brought this one to my house and I voluntarily signed it.

"I did not attempt to go back to Mine B until November 1939 at which time it had been working about a month.

"I was not in favor of the Federal injunction of December 9, 1937 which prevented the PMA from picketing and the miners did not like it, but I thought and believed the miners thought the NLRB election held on December 15, 1937 was fair. I don't see how it could have been otherwise.

"From November 1939 to February, 1941 the UMW and the PMA were at odds, and they both had their own check weighman. PMA had a

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] check weighman named [redacted] who lives
(Continued) at [redacted], Illinois. CHARLES BOHANNON

and TONY PLOTCH, who were both UMW men ran [redacted] off the road and tried to kill him, so [redacted] never came back to work at Mine B. The PMA could not get another check weigher as the men were afraid to take the job, and gradually the UMW signed the miners up with UMW and hired UMW members and when UMW felt they had enough membership built up like this, they called for another NLRB election. This time the UMW won the election, so I felt I had to sign up with the UMW.

"I heard that Elshoff and Falcetti associated with UMW officials and I heard the PMA watchers saw Ray Edmundson at the Mine B office in May, 1937, after the mine had shut down due to the strike. I don't trust John L. Lewis. I dont trust Elshoff and Falcetti because they would appear to cooperate with the PMA, and would secretly deal with the UMW, while the PMA had a closed shop contract with the mine. I would not rejoin the UMW if I could have obtained a job anywhere else at that time.

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

"/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed: /S/ [redacted], Spl. Agent, F.B.I.
/S/ [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]

On August 27, 1943, [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] was born [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] He is employed as [redacted] and may be reached through a neighbor's telephone, [redacted] speaks English brokenly and can understand English fairly, but his coherency, especially in fact recollection is not very good. His value as a witness is good but his ability to be a satisfactory witness is extremely doubtful and it is felt he would not make a good witness. He advises he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 27, 1943

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

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in about [redacted] I became a U. S. citizen in [redacted]

"In about [redacted] I first started working in coal mines and at this time I became a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union. I remained a UMW man until 1932. In about [redacted] I started to work in Mine 'B' in Springfield, and I was a UMW then.

"In 1932 a wage scale question came up and the UMW had a vote at which time I voted. The result was about 5 to 1 against taking a cut, but John L. Lewis, or the District UMW, called for another election in which I also voted, but the ballots were stolen and I heard they had been put in [redacted] car and he took them. There had been an injunction in Illinois against John L. Lewis but at this time in 1932 the injunction was lifted and Lewis signed the contract which called for a wage cut. So the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union was organized and I joined the UMA in 1932 when I went back to work in Mine 'B'.

"Between 1932 and May 1937 I can remember no strikes or shut downs and during this time no one tried to influence me either by talk or force into joining the UMW. I had no trouble with the PMA during this time either-and I never knew of any unfair assessments against us. I trusted the PMA officials and I thought it was a good union.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"In about 1936 Jack Falcetti who was the bottom boss at that time was talking alone with me at the bottom of Mine 'B' and he said if we all belonged to UMW it would be better. But I told him a fellow had no voice in UMW and he said nothing more about it. Between 1932 and 1937 no one tried to get me to join UMW and during this time I thought that the company favored UMW but I can remember nothing to substantiate this except that it was just a feeling I had. Between 1932 and 1937 a man John Mahoney who was a motorman at Mine 'B' - but who is now dead - told me that Oscar Falcetti had told him he, Oscar, didn't think I, [redacted] was on the right side. I thought the were talking about the fact that Falcetti thought I should belong to UMW. But nothing more was ever said or done about that.

"When some of the PMA men were convicted of bombings along about this time, I really felt they had been railroaded and were not guilty, and I still really believe they were not guilty. I think most of the men who belonged to PMA at that time felt the same way.

"A few weeks before May 12, 1937, some of the PMA men were expelled from the PMA union for spying for UMW. There were about six men expelled, but they were not expelled all in the same day but probably over a period of a week. These men were Charles 'Bowling Green' Bohannon, Elmer Jacaway, who was one of the last ones to be expelled because I remember him voting to expel 'Bowling Green', Frank Austin, Pete Carter, and I can't remember the rest. I had never noticed these men acting as spies for UMW.

"I remember there was a wage trouble between PMA and the company in the Spring of 1937 and the conditions at the mine were bad. The company would refuse to talk with the PMA committee. I think the committee, PMA, tried to get the company to fire those men who were expelled from the PMA but the company would not do this. During this time, the Spring of 1937, I noticed no slow downs or work stoppages - and paydays were no different from any other day. We were working pending settlement during this time and I felt the company was trying to force trouble so they could close the mines. But I cannot remember now what caused me to believe that. But I still feel that way about it.

"I do not remember whether I went to a PMA meeting May 11, 1937. I went to work the morning of May 12, 1937, and sometime during the morning the cager told me that work was to stop and that everyone was to come out. When I got on top, or rather in the cage on the way up I was with Elmer Jacaway and [redacted] a track layer and [redacted] said, 'They finally got them'. But I did not know what he meant. On top I heard rumors that the company refused to meet with the committee and I thought that was why we were striking.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I was [redacted] and I noticed what I thought was an unusual number of cars loaded short.

"After we went out on strike for a period of several weeks or more, several petitions were circulated by PMA and I remember at least two of them and I signed both. I also heard UMW sent a petition but I never signed it.

"Sometime in the summer of 1937 I remember hearing that [redacted] I do not know how to spell his name, but he lives at [redacted] in Springfield, and [redacted] were shot by [redacted] whose name I do not know how to spell. [redacted] were chased by the police and caught and [redacted] went to jail for 6 months but [redacted] got off and I heard it was because he threw his gun away. I saw [redacted] and [redacted] after they were shot and [redacted] told me they were shot because he would not sign up with UMW.

"When the Mine 'B' was opened, or they tried to open it, in September 1937, I did not know the mine was being re-opened and I didn't get there until two days after they tried to re-open it. I heard they would only let UMW men down in the mine and would not let PMA men work. We started a picket line and had a sitdown for about 56 days. I was in the sitdown most of the time until the U. S. Marshall told us we would have to get out, just before Thanksgiving of 1937.

"During the summer of 1937 no one tried to get me to join UMW and the company did not try to influence me. The PMA officials did not use any kind of force, threat or promise to make me stay in the picket lines. I wanted to be in the sitdown because I thought the PMA was right. I remember nothing unusual during the sitdown, but we guarded the mine and bldgs very well during this time because we were afraid UMW would try to blow things up and blame PMA.

"The PMA and myself, did not feel good about having to get off the sitdown because we thought it was unfair that we, PMA, could do nothing and UMW could do anything, but it was a Federal order and we knew we had to obey it.

"After that I went to work for several construction companies until the Mine 'B' reopened in 1939.

'I was never notified to come to work at Mine 'B' until about Nov. of 1939, when on Nov. 2, 1939, I received a registered

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

letter from the company to come back. I do not remember any attempts on the part of the company to re-open the Mine 'B' before that time.

"No one tried to contact me in connection either with the UMW or the company or the PMA from Dec. of 1937 until Nov. of 1939.

"When I returned to work at Mine 'B' in Nov. 1939, I believed the wage scale would be the same as the rest of the mines. I thought the PMA would have a contract with the company in the near future and I was still a member of PMA.

"From the time I went back to work in Nov. 1939, until Dec. 31, 1940, I did not vote in any elections for union certifications, and I do not remember of there being any election.

"After I went back to work in Nov. 1939 on or about Aug. 2, 1940 a fellow named [redacted] who was UMW and was a driver but did not do much work and had not worked in Mine 'B' before Nov. 1939, approached me in the wash house and said I would have to join the old one. I told him I didn't know what he was talking about and he said I'd find out. He might have said it was the United Mine Workers, but I cannot definitely remember.

"Right after that, maybe the next day after [redacted] talked to me in the wash house, I'm not quite certain of the date, [redacted] jumped on the motor I was running in Mine 'B'. I asked what he was doing & he said it was none of my damn business and he told me he'd knock my block off. But my boss was there and told [redacted] to keep quiet and told me to take [redacted] out on the motor. My boss was [redacted] whose name I do not know how to spell. [redacted] a PMA worker at that time heard this arguement.

"About this same time a fellow named [redacted] who was a UMW man and had just come to mine 'B' asked me to join UMW and said if I didn't join then I might not be able to get in later. I told him I didn't want to join then but would wait.

"During this time the company also discriminated against me by not letting me work as often as I should have. When I went in to complain to Oscar Falcetti he said I didn't want to work, that I was running around with the progressives.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"About in the summer of 1940 [redacted] told me I had better sign up with UMW but that was all that was said or done.

"Also about that same time Oscar Falcetti told me to show [redacted] the runs in the mine. One time when [redacted] Bill Surtock and I were together, Bill told [redacted] that [redacted] was still a Progressive and to watch out for him. [redacted] I believe rode with other motormen who were PMA but after he rode with them they became UMW, but I cannot remember this very well. The other motormen were a man named [redacted] whose name I cannot spell, and a man named [redacted] and one named [redacted]

"On the day before I was hurt which would be Dec. 30, 1940, I was working in a room as a coal digger, I saw someone go by my room. I asked him what time it was but he wouldn't answer me. A few minutes later I saw him with a sheet next to his head and a pick handle under his arm. I recognized him as 'Cudge' or O. L. Bumgarner, or Baumgartner. I am not certain as to the spelling. But I cannot remember any UMW man trying to talk me into joining UMW that day.

"On Dec. 31, 1940, I went to work as usual and went to my room. Some time just before noon a driver notified [redacted] and [redacted] PMA committeemen that they were wanted at the district and that was the last I saw of them that day. They were the entrymen nearest me. At about noon I heard some one coming and as I looked up I saw someone with a pick handle and sheet just like 'Cudge' had been carrying the day before that. This man who I am positive was 'Cudge' started beating me with the pick handle. He broke my arm and jaw and really messed me up. 'Cudge' was a UMW organizer, and only once before had he tried to talk me into joining UMW.

"As a result of the beating I was in the hospital about two weeks or more. I never returned to Mine 'B' after Dec. 31, 1940.

"When the National Labor Relation Board held an election in about Feb. of 1941 I voted PMA but UMW won. I never had anything to do with Mine 'B' after that. I still belong to the PMA and pay my dues, but I have never worked in a mine since Dec. 31, 1940. I stay in the union because I like the group and because I like the democraticness of the organization.

"When I went back to Mine 'B' in Nov. of 1939, I heard there had been some fires but I never saw anything to show there had been a big fire. There had been some small cave ins but I noticed no unusual cave-ins. I never signed anything for UMW after 1932. I believe I signed a membership card for PMA in the summer of 1940.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"About a week or so after we went out on strike in May, 1937, I remember the UMW had a meeting on Monroe St. at Redman's Hall. They invited all Progressives but I cannot remember how. I was in front of the hall before the meeting and I saw a clerk from Elshoff's office whose name I cannot remember, but he is small & wears glasses and I would recognize him if I saw him, go into the meeting. I think there were more company men there, but I cannot remember who. After the meeting [redacted] whose name I cannot spell, came up to me, [redacted] had been at the meeting, and hit me. He gave me a black eye, but I could not hit him because he had several men with him.

"Agent [redacted] has read this statement of twelve pages to me, and I acknowledge it to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

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

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent - F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. He stated that he was born in [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted]. He was naturalized in [redacted]. He speaks English very poorly and cannot write. He would not make a very good witness [redacted] advised that he has no criminal record. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943

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

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted]. I first started mining in [redacted] in Pennsylvania and first joined a union in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] when I became a member of United Mine Workers of America.

"I started working in Mine 'B' in Springfield in about [redacted] and when the UMW local turned and started with the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, I became PMA.

"Between 1932 and 1937 neither the Mine 'B' company nor the UMW tried to make me change back to UMW. I liked the PMA and I did not think they were crooked. But I was afraid the UMW was crooked.

"I remember the bombing cases and I don't think the men who were convicted got a fair trial. I think John L. Lewis sent in a lot of witnesses.

"During the time between 1936 and 1937 some of the men in PMA were trying to get us to go over to UMW. They were Bumgarner, Bowling Green Bohannon, Pasquale, Tony Plotch and some others I cannot remember. These men were kicked out of PMA because of this.

"I did not go to a PMA meeting the night before we went on strike on May 12, 1937. But when we went on strike our PMA leaders told me we were striking because of the wage scale. They didn't say we were striking, they said the company just didn't want to pay us our back wages.

C - O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c, b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"I don't remember signing our petition of either the PMA or the UMW after we went out on strike. In about Sept. 1937, the PMA set up a picket line, or a sitdown strike, at Mine 'B' for about 56 days because we didn't want the UMW to try to work the mine. I was there the whole time, until just before Thanksgiving, 1937, the U. S. Marshall told us we had to get out. I never received notice in Sept. of 1937 from the company to come back to work. I didn't go back to any mine after that until in Nov. 1939 when I got a letter to come back to Mine 'B'. This letter was from the company. I was on WPA all the time the Mine 'B' was closed.

"Right after we went out on strike in 1937, I voted in an election which the PMA won over the UMW. No one threatened or forced me to vote and no promises were made to me.

"After we went back to work in Nov. of 1939, there would be men come to work for a few weeks and then leave. They weren't from this part of the country and had not worked at 'B' before. While they were there they tried to talk me into joining UMW, but they never hurt or threatened me. During this time I heard Oscar Falcetti tell us that Mine 'B' would be UMW and he didn't want any PMA. During this time I saw these UMW men beat up the PMA men but I can't remember any names except I know [redacted] was one of the UMW men who was fighting. No one ever hit me.

"When we had an election in about February of 1941, Bowling Green and these other UMW men told me I had to vote for UMW or they would beat me up. I told them I would vote the way I wanted to.

"I kept on working at Mine 'B' from Nov. of 1939 until Jan. of 1943, except for about a month and a half and in Jan. 1943 I went to work at Panther Creek mine.

"When UMW won the election in Feb. 1941 I joined UMW and was UMW until Jan. 1943, when I went PMA.

"I have had this statement of four pages read to me by Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I cannot write.

"His X Mark.

"Witness

/S/ [redacted]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, 8-28-43 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was partially deaf and unable to speak or understand English well enough to be interviewed. [redacted] advised he did not have a criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement.

"I am unable to understand English and cannot speak English very well, therefore, I am unable to make any statement. I am also almost deaf and find it almost impossible to understand English.

"I was born in [redacted] I emmigrated to the U. S. from [redacted] I am a citizen of the U. S.

"I have had this statement read to me and understand what has been read, this statement is true and correct.

[redacted]

"Witnessed:-

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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] advised he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] has a fair knowledge of English. It is not thought [redacted] would make a good witness as he is a member of UMW.

The following signed statement was executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

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

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

"I was employed in [redacted] by the Sangamon Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill., at which time I became a member of UMW. I was employed in the Sangamon Mine until the Fall of [redacted] at which time I was employed by Mine "B", as the Sangamon Mine stopped operating. I have no information concerning Mine "B" prior to the Fall of [redacted]

"I have never been an officer in any union.

"In 1932 Sangamon Mine changed from a UMW mine to a PMA mine at which time I became a member of PMA as majority of the employees wished to change to PMA. I do not know the reason I changed from UMW to PMA in 1932 and I do not know the reason majority of the miners wished to change. It did not make any difference to me what union I was a member of. I took no part in the formation of PMA.

"The management of Mine "B" seemed to be on good relations with PMA between the Fall of [redacted] and May 1937. There were no strikes or close-downs during that period of time. The management did not have a hostile attitude in settling grievences nor did the management express any partiality to U.M.W.

"I considered PMA an honest union, one that was not being operated as a racket. No measure of compulsion was used to keep

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

members of PMA in line. I took no interest in union affairs. During the depression PMA had unusually high special assessments for unemployed miners, which I did not like, but there were no unusually high special assessments during the time I was employed at Mine "B". I know nothing about the bombing cases as I took no interest in them.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" UMW did not set up a picket line nor did UMW distribute any literature. No one attempted to change me from PMA to UMW although [redacted] Springfield, Ill., a former employee of Mine "B", with whom I resided advised me I should change from PMA to UMW as working conditions would have been better. I informed him I would do what majority of the miners did as I did not care whether I was PMA or UMW.

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

"I do not know of any controversy of the wage scale at Mine "B" in the Spring of 1937.

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

"Sometime during May 1937 a member of the pit committee told me that there was going to be some trouble as some men at the mine wanted to change from PMA to UMW. A few days later a member of the pit committee advised me that there was to have been no work the next day as there was to have been a strike. I was not told why there was to have been a strike nor did I ask. The following day I returned to Mine "B" as a picket but I did not return as a picket any other day.

"The last day I worked at Mine "B" in May 1937 I did not see any coal cars loaded short nor did I see any other person load coal cars short. I did not know many persons at the mine as I had worked there only a short time, therefore, I did not know what was going on and I knew no one who would tell me.

"I did not sign any petitions in the Summer of 1937 and no one threatened me in the Summer of 1937.

"I obtained employment at the Peabody Mine, Springfield, Ill. in August 1937 and lost all interest in Mine "B".

"In Sept. 1937, [redacted] advised me Mine "B" was to open as a UMW mine so I returned to work as I had to join UMW when I was

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

employed at the Peabody mine. When I went to work at Mine "B" I saw many pickets and only a few miners entered the mine as members of UMW to work. I worked about four hours and left the mine as I had worked the night before at the Peabody Mine and could not complete the day. I did not return to Mine "B" the following day as I could see that there was going to be trouble with the pickets so I returned to the Peabody mine. I never attempted to work at Mine "B" again and took no interest in the activities of Mine "B", therefore, I am unable to furnish any information subsequent to the day I worked at Mine "B", Sept. 1937.

"At the time of the strike at Mine "B" in May 1937 I was satisfied with PMA and had no desire to change to UMW, but I wanted to work so I joined UMW so I could work at the Peabody mine.

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

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:-

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at the Illinois State Fair-grounds, Springfield, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] August 31, 1943. [redacted] is able to speak English and would make a fair witness. [redacted] furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943.

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

"I was born in [redacted] Ill., [redacted] I have been employed by [redacted] Springfield, Ill. since [redacted] I was employed until [redacted] at Mine 'B', Springfield, Ill. I was employed at Mine 'B' in 1930. I became a member of UMW in [redacted] when I was employed at a coal mine in Springfield, Ill. and remained a member of UMW until I became a member of PMA in 1932. In 1932 John L. Lewis reduced the wage scale and the UMW local in Springfield, Ill. changed to PMA. I changed to PMA because majority of the UMW members changed.

"Elshoff at Mine 'B' was on good relations with UMW prior to 1932.

"Between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine 'B' nor did the management close-down Mine 'B'. No one attempted to discredit PMA to me prior to May 12, 1937. So far as I know the management of Mine 'B' was on good relations with PMA prior to May 12, 1937.

"I thought PMA was a good union and an honest union, no unusual special assessments were made against me. I took no interest in union activities.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases and can furnish no information about them.

"In about [redacted] I was a member of UMW Pit Committee for one year.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

"Between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 UMW never set up a picket line at Mine 'B' nor did UMW distribute any literature at Mine 'B'. No one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW prior to May 12, 1937 nor did I see or hear of anyone attempting to convert PMA members to UMW.

"I never saw a UMW official with the management of Mine 'B' between 1932 and May 12, 1937.

"In the spring of 1937 I understood that PMA was attempting to get a contract with Elshoff to increase the wage scale ten cents per ton. Neither the officials or the management of Mine 'B' made any statement to the employees of Mine 'B' prior to May 12, 1937, so far as I know there was not any slow down about the wage scale.

"I do not know of a meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937.

"On May 12, 1937 I worked all day and did not know of a strike. On the morning of May 13, 1937 I returned to work at Mine 'B' and someone told me that the Mine was on strike. On the morning of May 13, 1937 I heard an argument between Oscar Falcetti of Mine 'B' and [redacted] a board member of PMA, about the signing of a contract to increase the wage scale, therefore, I thought the strike was over the wage scale. No one informed what caused the strike.

"I did not sign any petitions in the summer of 1937.

"Sometime in the summer of 1937 I talked to ANDREW SCHRELLEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTOUT, CHARLES BOHANNON and JAMES HALE all of whom informed me that they had been expelled from PMA because they were UMW. I did not know the above men were expelled until they told me, all of whom informed me that I should join UMW, but they did not threaten me if I did not.

"I knew new UMW local 7469 was formed in the summer of 1937 but was never approached concerning joining.

"In Sept. 1937 I was informed by some miners who formerly worked at Mine 'B' that the mine was to open. I went to work on the morning the mine was to have opened, but only some UMW members were present to work, so I did not go into the mine. No one told me I could not work. That day I started to picket at Mine 'B' and acted as a picket for two weeks. Only miners at Mine 'B' acted as pickets and no one threatened me if I did not picket. I was not present at Mine 'B' when an injunction was

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

served to prevent picketing and I do not know the attitude of PMA concerning the injunction.

"I did not know of an attempt to open Mine 'B' in December 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. This election so far as I know was a fair election.

"I received notice to report to work at Mine 'B' in Jan. 1940 and went to work about Jan. 6, 1940. I joined UMW in the summer of 1940 as I could see majority of the miners were joining UMW. I did not want to join UMW as I wanted to be a member of PMA, but I thought it necessary to join UMW in order to work at Mine 'B' as Mine 'B' was to become a UMW mine. Between Jan. 1940 and the summer of 1940 numerous miners at Mine 'B' asked me to join UMW but no one threatened me. I heard that some miners were threatened and beaten if they did not join UMW, but no one threatened or beat me.

"Between Jan. 1940 and Feb. 21, 1941 the management of Mine 'B' did not indicate in any way they were in favor of UMW.

"I voted in the NLRB election of Feb. 21, 1941 for PMA, this election was a fair election and there was no violence or threats at the time of the election.

"I worked at Mine 'B' until Oct. 6, 1942 at which time I stopped work because of bad air in the mine. I was always treated fair at Mine 'B'. I have had the six pages of this statement read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnessed: -

/S/ [redacted] - Sp. Agt. F.B.I.-Springfield, Ill.

/S/ [redacted] Special Agent F.B.I."

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence on August [redacted] 26, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] being naturalized in Springfield, Illinois in [redacted] He resides at [redacted] Springfield, and has telephone number [redacted] He has a small trucking business which he operates from his home. He understands and speaks English without difficulty and indicates he would be a willing witness. He is of average intelligence and informs he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement t[redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Fed'l Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind.

"In [redacted] I joined the United Mine Workers in Springfield, Ill., and remained a UMW man until 1932 when the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed, [redacted] some time in 1934, when I went to work in Mine "B". When the PMA was formed in Sept. of 1932, I automatically became a member of PMA. I was not forced or coerced in any way to join PMA and I wanted to join PMA at that time.

"I started work in Mine "B" in 1934 as a PMA man and worked until 1935 when I went to [redacted] I went back to work in Mine "B" about a month after that mine re-opened in 1939. [redacted] I have not worked at Mine "B" since.

"While working in Mine "B" during 1934 and 1935, I noticed no threats, coercion, force violence or favoritism of any kind shown by the company to either the UMW or the PMA.

"When I returned to Mine "3" on [redacted] I went in as a PMA. During the time that followed until about April of 1940, the UMW tried several times to get me to join the UMW. A fellow named [redacted] who was a driver and a UMW talked to me several times in an

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

b7C b7D

effort to get me to change to UMW. He never used any force or threats on me. During this time several of the PMA boys were beat up, one of them was [redacted] During the entire time I was a member of the PMA I never noticed any crookedness on the part of the PMA officials and I never noticed any of the fellows who thought the PMA was a racket. We all felt the PMA was a good union. I never had any feelings against the UMW until 1939 when they started using thug practices. But I never noticed any labor stools or spies for UMW at the mine while PMA had the majority.

"No one ever tried to get me to come back to the mines from the time I quit in [redacted] until I returned in 1939.

"I have known the Falcettis since [redacted] and the management of Mine "B" never bothered me. But between [redacted] of 1939 and April of 1940 I noticed that the company would not hire any one unless he was a UMW man and had a letter from the UMW headquarters or were a well known UMW man. But I cannot remember the names of any of these men. During this time I noticed the company, thru Falcetti, would give the good rooms to the UMW man and give the PMA men the pooor rooms. I also noticed the PMA men would be given no consideration in regard to grievances & other things, but the UMW men would be given pretty much consideration.

"During the winter of 1940 I saw [redacted] whose name I cannot remember, and a PMA get beat up by a check wayman who was helped by several other UMW men, but I cannot remember any of their names. The fight was over the weighing of a car. There were two check wayman in this tipple - and the PMA men thought it was wrong that the UMW should have a check wayman there because the company had no contract with the UMW.

"In [redacted] I wanted to go back to Mine "B" but I knew I would have to join UMW to get a job so I joined UMW in [redacted]

"I have read this statement of four pages including this page and state it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[redacted]

"Witnesses

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of employment, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted], August 30, 1943. [redacted] stated he does not have a criminal record. [redacted] would not make a good witness as he is old and very vague in his answers.

"Springfield, Ill.,
August 30, 1943.

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

"I was born in [redacted] I am now employed by [redacted] Springfield, Ill.

"I joined the U.M.W. in about [redacted] at which time I was a coal miner. I remainded a member of UMW until 1932. I was employed at Mine "B" Springfield, Ill. in 1930. In 1932 UMW stole votes cast in Springfield, Ill. concerning the wage scale in coal mines for that reason I joined PMA, when it was formed in 1932. I took no active part in the formation of PMA.

"In about [redacted] I was a committeeman in UMW for one year. I have never been an officer in any union since that time.

"Between 1930 and 1932 the management of Mine "B" seemed to have been on good relations with UMW.

"Between Sept. 1932 and April 1937 Mine "B" did not go on any strikes and the management did not close Mine "B" down. Elshoff and Falcetti seemed to have been on good relations with PMA until May 1937, the management was not hostile in their attitude in settling grievances.

"I always believed PMA was operated as an honest union and not as a racket, there were no unusual special assessments. I took no interest in union affairs. I took no interest in the bombing cases and can furnish no information concerning the cases.

"Between Sept. 1932 and May 12, 1937 UMW never set up a picket line at mine "B" and I do not rember UMW distributing any literature at Mine "B". I did not know of any alleged UMW spies working at Mine "B" prior to May 12, 1937 nor did anyone attempt to convert me from PMA to UMW prior to May 12, 1937.

 b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I never saw the management of Mine "B" with an official of UMW prior to May 12, 1937.

"I know nothing of a wage controversy at Mine "B" in the Spring of 1937.

"I received a notice in an unknown manner that there was to have been a special meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937. I was not told the purpose of the meeting and did not attend.

"As well as I can rember I heard someway around May 12, 1937, state that several of the miners at Mine "B" were thought to have been spies for UMW and were expelled from PMA. The names of those I know are as follows: ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, EMORY JACAWAY, CHARLES BOHANNON and JAMES HALE. I do not know whether there was any difficulty having the above men discharged.

"On May 12, 1937 I worked all day, on coming on top of the ground I was told that the mine, Mine "B", was on strike. I was not told why the mine was on strike. I do not know why Mine "B" went on strike May 12, 1937. I did not load any coal cars short on May 12, 1937 nor did I see anyone loading coal cars short that day. So far as I know there was no intent on the part of the miners to strike May 12, 1937.

"I do not rember signing any petitions in the Summer of 1937.

"I know nothing about the formation of a UMW local in the summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937, PMA had a meeting and decided to picket Mine "B" which was suppose to have opened that day. I acted as a picket from time to time, voluntarily, from Sept. 1937 until sometime in November 1937 when an injunction was obtained to prevent the picketing. I was not present when the injunction was served.

"I do not rember an attempt to open Mine "B" in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1 938.

"On Dec. 15, 1937 NLRB held an election to determine if Mine "B" should have been UMW or PMA. I voluntarily went to vote and voted PMA. So far as I know the election was fair. There was no violence at the time of the election.

"I received notice to return to work at Mine "B" about Nov. 6, 1939. I returned to work about a week later. At the time I returned to Mine "B" to work I noticed the results of no large fires although the mine

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

was caved in, in numerous places. I returned to work as a member of PMA. I had no understanding as to the wage scale. After my return to Mine "B" the management did not show any favoritism toward UMW nor did the management make any statements to indicate they prefered UMW over PMA.

"In about 1940 [redacted] saw me in my room at Mine "B" and told me I should join UMW as Mine "B" would soon be UMW. A trackman the name of whom I do not know also told me a little later that I should join UMW. In 1940 TONY PLOTCH and JOE ALBANESE came to my home and told me I should join UMW as Mine "B" would soon be UMW. Sometime in 1940 prior to the time I joined UMW one morning UMW members by the name of [redacted] beat [redacted] A short time later in the Summer of 1940 I joined UMW as I knew it was necessary to join UMW to work at Mine "B" or I would be discharged or beaten by members of UMW.

"I voted PMA on Feb. 21, 1941 at the NLRB elections which election I considered fair. There was no violence at the time of the election and I did not see anyone threatened if he did not vote.

"I still favor PMA over UMW as PMA is more democratic and I consider PMA a very honest union.

"I was employed at Mine "B" until [redacted] I stopped working at Mine "B" voluntarily.

"I have had this six page statement read to me. It is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted], Sp. Agt. FBI Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] his home at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, at which time he executed a signed statement. He was very cordial and was cooperative except that his wife who was also present, appeared to control his remarks which then became cautious and not too pertinent although direct answers were given by him at all times. [redacted] hasn't worked at Mine B since the miners struck there in 1937. Due to his age he was unable to recall clearly events in any manner of sequence, and it is not believed, therefore, that he will make a good witness.

The following signed statement was executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943

"I [redacted] do voluntarily make the following signed statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. No promises or threats were given to cause me to make this statement.

"I reside at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, and I was born [redacted]

"I started working at Mine B long before Mr. Carl H. Elshoff ever took it over. Before I ever started at Mine B I belonged to the United Mine Workers of America, and remained a member until Mine B all joined up with the Progressive Miners of America. I don't know why the new Progressive Union was formed and have no knowledge of what caused the strike at Mine B in 1937. Disagreement of some kind I suppose.

"I personally never had any trouble at the mine either with the Union or with the mine officials. No one ever threatened me or forced me to join one union or the other, and I don't recall ever having signed any petitions showing that I was for either of the unions.

"After the strike in 1937 I never went back to work at Mine B because I was getting old and didn't think I could work in the mines any more. I took no part in the picketing or union activities at Mine B.

"I recall voting in one election held by some government agency I believe I think the Progressives won out in that election but don't remember the tally.

"I have never held an office in either union and very seldom attended union meetings. I am no hand to talk and didn't take part in union arguments.

"Right now if I could work I would rather work under the Progressive Union.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

"The above statement consisting of about 3/4 page typewritten was read to me by Agent [redacted] The statements are true to the best of my knowledge and I do hereby sign my name.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEWS WITH [redacted] and his son, [redacted] and [redacted] were interviewed at the home of [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on August 29, 1943, at which time a separate signed statement was executed by each. Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] conducted the interviews and it is believed that [redacted] will not make a good witness inasmuch as he does not read, write or understand English very well, and although he understands and speaks [redacted] he cannot read or write it. He has been a naturalized citizen since [redacted] having been born [redacted] He appeared to be definitely in favor of the UMWA and displayed a ribbon showing his membership in such union in [redacted] and was very proud of this emblem. He was very cooperative in every way and was at no time hostile to the interview. He had difficulty in remembering dates and events and frankly admitted that he was never too concerned over the controversies inasmuch as he was more interested in making a living for his family. He is presently employed at Mine "B".

[redacted] who aided Agents by acting as an interpreter for his father, was also very cooperative but repeatedly pointed out that he had followed the advice of his father in all of the disputes and stated that his information was hearsay. He is a native born and reads and speaks both English and [redacted] He experienced difficulty in recalling certain events in their proper sequence or exactness except that he worked at Mine "B" for 30 months after it opened under an open shop agreement, but has since left this kind of work to take employment with [redacted] where he is presently employed.

The following is the signed statement of [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 29, 1943.

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

"I was born [redacted] I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois on [redacted] My naturalization certificate number is [redacted]

"I joined the United Mine Workers of America in [redacted] in Coal City, Ill. I have been working at Mine B since [redacted] off and on, and am still employed there as a digger. I continued my membership in UMWA while at Mine B until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I don't

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEWS WITH [redacted] and [redacted] (continued)

read English or speak very well and only went to meeting when I had to and so I don't know why the Progressives started. I don't know why the strike started in 1937 and don't know anything about the relations between Mr. Elshoff and the union officials. I don't know anything about a PMA meeting on the night before the strike but did hear something about a few men wanting to go back to UMWA.

"I remember signing some petitions but don't know how many or who I signed for on all of them. I believe I signed for UMWA once. I didn't take any part in the picketing or activities because my wife was sick at the time and I stayed home to take care of her. I was on WPA most of the time. I remember voting for the Progressives in the first election in 1937. At the second election I voted for UMWA. No one forced me to vote - all I was interested in was working, as I wanted to eat and take care of my family.

"The above statement was read to me by Agent [redacted] in the presence of my son [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted] Special Agt., FBI, Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, Springfield, Ill.

The following is the signed statement of [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943.

"I [redacted] do voluntarily give the following signed statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born at [redacted] and I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed at [redacted]

"I first joined the United Mine Workers of America in [redacted] while working for the Peabody Mine Co. I started working for Mine B just before Christmas in the same year. I retained my UMWA membership until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America along with all the other miners at Mine B. I switched back to UMWA after the second election in 1941.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEWS WITH [redacted] and [redacted]
(continued)

"Both the UMWA and the PMA unions got along with Mr. Elshoff so far as I know. The theft of the ballots on the wage scale was the reason for the new Progressive union so far as I heard the men talking. I had only been in the mine a little over a year and wasn't very interested in unions. My father and I worked together much of the time and naturally we didn't talk about the union situation very much. The Progressive Union seemed alright to me and I was treated the same by both unions. I didn't attend very many meetings and never held an office in either union.

"I didn't attend any meeting the night before the strike, but I do recall hearing some of the men say that a few fellows were "on the carpet" for being spies. I do remember that the day of the strike the men were supposed to be loading small cars - I don't remember whether I loaded small cars or not. I didn't know anything about the strike until I was calle to the surface. I didn't stick around but drove home almost at once. I took part in the picketing about half of the time. I personally never saw any force used or trouble at the mine during the picketing. I have no knowledge of any attempts to open the mine during the picketing. I don't know anything about any attempts to reopen the mine. Heard that they tried to operate it but that there wasn't enough of them or something.

"I remember signing petitions both for Progressives and later after the mine reopened for the United Mine workers. I signed as I did not because of fear or force but because the general talk each time was that most of the men were going to vote Progressive the first time and UMWA the second time.

"I voted in both of the NLRB elections and switched my vote. The first time I voted for the Progressives and the second time I voted for the United Mine Workers. I voted just the way I felt like. No one told me how to vote or used any force against me. However, I heard others say men were going around electioneering- those men were from both sides, just like any ordinary election.

"After I started back at Mine B under the "open shop" I wasn't paying dues to anyone. When I rejoined I joined up with the UMWA because my father favored that group and signed up before I did. I rejoined UMWA before the election. No member of either union threatened me to get me to join their side.

"I have read the above and it is true to the best of my knowledge."

WITNESSED: /s/ [redacted]
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I., Springfield, Ill.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed on August 28, 1943, at his [redacted] home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was cooperative and expressed a willingness to testify if this case comes to trial. [redacted] speaks in a very low voice, and it is not believed that he would make an effective witness. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.
August 28, 1943

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

"At present I live [redacted] Ill. I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in Springfield, Ill., in [redacted]

"I first joined a union when I worked in the mines at [redacted] This was the United Mine Workers union. I stayed in the U.M.W. until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the United Mine Workers some time late in 1940 or early in 1941. While I have been in these unions, I never held an office.

"I started to work at Mine B, Springfield, Ill., in [redacted] I had no part in the formation of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, but I joined the P.M.A. when it was organized because I wanted to be with the majority of the miners at Mine B who favored the P.M.A. I, as well as the other miners, felt that that the U.M.W. was docking its members too much without showing the members what they were getting for their money. After I joined the P.M.A., that union always explained why they docked us, and they did not dock us very much.

"In the period from 1932 until the strike at Mine B in 1937, there was no trouble at the mine to my knowledge. I don't remember any strikes or shut-downs during this time. I don't remember any efforts on the part of the mine management to influence the miners about their union. No members of the U.M.W. asked me to join this union during this time.

"All during the period from 1932 to 1937 I liked the P.M.A. union very much. I always thought that the leaders of the P.M.A. were trying to help the members. I attended a few meetings of the P.M.A., and I could have spoken at any one of them if I had wanted to speak. At the meetings

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

none of the leaders of P.M.A. ever attempted to compel the members to do anything. Another reason I liked the P.M.A. better than the U.M.W. was that the P.M.A. did not fine the members for failing to attend meetings, but the U.M.W. did fine the members 50¢ for each meeting missed. I don't recall that there were any extra assessments by the P.M.A. during this time. I don't remember if any U.M.W. men tried to persuade me to join the U.M.W. during this time, and I don't remember if I received any literature from the U.M.W.

"In the early part of 1937 when it came time for P.M.A. to get a new contract with Mine B, the miners in P.M.A. felt that their union would get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. could get. After the P.M.A. obtained a temporary agreement with Elshoff, the P.M.A. leaders told us that they had obtained a temporary agreement and that Elshoff had agreed to pay the back pay of the P.M.A. miners when the permanent contract was signed.

"I recal that in 1937 before the strike in May, men known to me as Andy Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, and Joe were trying to get members for the U.M.W. They were telling all the miners in Mine B that they should not work for P.M.A. until that union got a contract with Mine B. They also said that if they turned over to U.M.W., U.M.W. could get a contract with Mine B right away. I don't recall that the management made any comment at this time which would indicate that they preferred the U.M.W. I don't recall that the P.M.A. officials gave any explanation for their getting only a temporary contract with Mine B.

"Before the strike on May 12, 1937, I heard from [redacted] weight checker for P.M.A. at Mine B, that there was to be a special meeting of P.M.A. on the night of May 11, 1937. I did not go to the meeting, and I don't know if all the members of P.M.A. were invited to this meeting. I don't know why the meeting was called or what was discussed at the meeting.

"When I went to work on the morning of May 12, 1937, I first learned of the strike. No one told me that I could not go into the mine, but I went to the wash house to get my clothes and tools. I recall that I stayed on the road near the mine that day and did not go into the mine to work. I don't remember if anything was said about wages at this time, but I do remember that everyone was saying that the strike would be settled in a few days. I don't recall hearing anything about why the strike was called.

"Prior to the strike I knew that [redacted], weight checker, had claimed that the scales at Mine B were not weighing accurately, and that he intended to call the State Scale committee to check the scales at Mine B. I don't know if the scales were checked.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"Shortly after the strike started I recall that I signed a petition for P.M.A. I signed this petition because I felt that P.M.A. was a better union than U.M.W. I don't remember if any reason was given for the petition which I signed voluntarily. I don't recall any other petitions being circulated at this time.

"During the summer of 1937 I worked on a farm, and I don't remember receiving any notices of any attempts to open Mine B. In the fall of 1937 I went on the picket line at Mine B. for P.M.A. on several occasions. The purpose of the picket was to keep out U.M.W. men. P.M.A. men could not have worked if they had wanted to because Elshoff would not let them.

"From [redacted] I learned of the National Labor Relations Board election in December 1937. I heard that the election was being held so that the miners could vote for the union they wanted so that the mine could then reopen. I voted for the P.M.A. in this election which was held in the State arsenal in Springfield, Ill., and voted for P.M.A. because I felt that P.M.A. was the better union. I think that the majority of the miners at this time favored the P.M.A. because they always talked in favor of P.M.A. I think that the election was fair and square. I was not compelled to go to the election, and I was able to vote as I wanted.

"During the period from November 1939 to February 1941, I recall that Klotch (Baumgartner) tried to persuade me at Mine B to join U.M.W. This man had been strong for P.M.A. in 1937. I don't know why he turned to U.M.W., but I heard that he was paid by U.M.W. I don't remember exactly when he came to me, but I do recall that he said that P.M.A. had no contract with Mine B, and that if I wanted to work at Mine I ought to sign up with U.M.W.

"I think it was some time in December 1940 that I joined the U.M.W. One afternoon three men came to my room in Mine B. One of them was known as [redacted] and another was known as [redacted] These men were not regular employees at Mine B. I, together with other miners, felt that they had been brought to the mine by the U.M.W. to help organize for that union. As I recall, [redacted] said that I could not work the next day unless I signed up with U.M.W. I joined U.M.W. because I wanted to keep on working.

"I don't remember the exact date, but I remember seeing [redacted] give [redacted] a beating in the blacksmith shop at Mine B. I don't know what caused the fight, but I heard that [redacted] tried to persuade [redacted] to join U.M.W. I also heard that [redacted] gave a beating to an Auburn, Ill., man by the name of [redacted] for failing to clean up the slate in his room. I don't know if [redacted] tried to persuade [redacted] to join U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"After joining the U.M.W., I voted in the election held in February 1941. Althought I was a member of the U.M.W. at this time, I voted for P.M.A. because I thought it was a better union. I remember that Klotch told me about this election, but he did not tell me how to vote.

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

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home on [redacted] in [redacted] Illinois, on the afternoon of August 31, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] and is an American citizen. He was at Mine "B" from 1930 until the strike on May 12, 1937. He is presently bedridden. [redacted] would not make a good witness, due to an extremely heavy accent. He is extremely difficult to understand, and he has difficulty in understanding questions put to him. Because of this a signed statement was not obtained.

[redacted] was not particularly interested in the affairs of the Union, prior to the date of the strike on May 12, 1937. He did not attend union meetings regularly, and did not know of the cause of the strike. He did not know that there was to be a strike until it was called. He spent some time at the mine property during the sit down. He voted in the election in December, 1937, and was not molested in any way. He has always been satisfied with the PMW and never wanted to change. He still considers himself as a PMW. [redacted] is still bedridden.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he executed a signed statement. He appeared to be quite cooperative and mentioned at the outset of the interview that he was cognizant of the purpose of same. He speaks and writes English, and appeared to have an average education. He should make a satisfactory witness except that his knowledge of pertinent facts is limited due to his working on the night shift at all times. He demonstrated an animosity for [redacted] and [redacted] and repeatedly stated that the rank and file of the miners did not know what it was all about (refering to the union controversies). He is presently working at Mine "B", and considers OSCAR FALCETTI as his personal friend.

The following is the signed statement of [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 28, 1943.

"I, [redacted] do make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make this statement.

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois and was born at [redacted]

"The first union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America when I was just a kid working at the Old North Mine out north of Springfield. I remained in that union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America while working at Mine "B" in 1932. I never held any offices in either union.

"Prior to 1932 so far as I know the relations between Elshoff and the UMWA were fine.

"The Progressives started because the UMWA stole the election and because a number of men like [redacted] and a few others wanted offices and figured that they could get it if they formed a new union.

"Towards the last, that is before the strike in May of 1937 there was considerable trouble between Elshoff and the Progressives represented by [redacted] I should mention that ever since I was employed at Mine "B" about 1930 I have worked nights, as mine examiner, and most of my information is not first hand but comes from hearsay. To my knowledge there were no strikes or close downs or attempts by the management to discredit the Progressives before the strike in May of 1937.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"Because I worked nights, I never attended any Progressive Union meetings and have no knowledge of the relations between the Progressive officials and the PMA membership. Night men were exempt from union meetings.

"Never heard or saw anything of any alleged union spies or was approached by anyone to change my union affiliations before the strike.

"My only knowledge of the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937 was what I saw in the papers. I never knew of any meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937 at which any members were expelled. The first I knew of the strike was when I reported for work on the afternoon of May 12.

"I have no knowledge or memory of ever signing any petition showing preference for either the PMA or the UMWA.

"During the time the PMA was picketing the mine in 1937 I spent about two weeks out there off and on. After a while I went over to the Panther Creek #2 mine where I worked until Mine B started up again. I retained my PMA membership over at Panther Creek #2 - securing a transfer.

"When I returned to Mine B it was working under an "open shop" agreement. But after working a while I saw that all the men were joining UMWA and I decided that I might as well get on the bandwaggon to save my job. I didn't care which union I worked for_ all I wanted was to work and didn't care who I paid dues to.

"I heard that the mine was going to reopen in the fall of 1937 but I was working already at Panther Creek #2 and didn't bother to go out.

"I remember the election held in the fall of 1937 (which the agents tell me was on December 15)_ I voted in that election and thought that it was conducted fairly and squarely. I remember that the United Miners got only 25 votes and I believe that represented the feeling on unions at the mine at the time. However, I don't think that most of the miners knew what the election was all about.

"I also remember the second National Labor Relations Board election early in 1941. I also voted in this election and believe that it was also conducted on the square.

"I don't care who knows how I voted. The first time I voted for PMA and the second time I voted for UMWA.

"I was never at any time intimidated, threatened or coerced by either union at any time during all these years.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I am still employed at Mine B working nights as a mine examiner.

"If I had a free choice of unions I would choose the UMWA because I feel that it is a real organization.

"The above page and one half have been read to me by Agent [redacted] and the same are true to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is of slight build and very nervous. He held back information for fear of retaliation by UMWA members, inasmuch as he was badly beaten by them during the labor trouble. His wife often interrupted him and gave information that he attempted to hide. For this reason it is not felt that he would make a good witness.

The following signed statement was given by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943.

"I, [redacted], do voluntarily make the following signed statements to [redacted] and [redacted] Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born at [redacted] My present residence is [redacted] Springfield, Ill. [redacted]

"I started working at Mine "B" on [redacted] joining the United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started as a "dirt picher" and am presently employed at Mine "B" as a car blocker.

"Between [redacted] and 1932 the UMWA and the mine management got along fine. In 1932 the mine turned Progressive Mine Workers of America and I joined up with them. So far as I know the theft of votes on wages was what started the new Progressive Union. Relations between Mr. ELSHOFF and the Progressives seemed alright to me until the contract troubles in 1937 when the old contract expired the Progressives & Mr. ELSHOFF couldn't seem to get together. I don't know whose fault it was.

"I never attended any Progressive meeting the night before the strike and I never heard any of the men talking about 5 of the Progressives being expelled for being spies.

"The first I knew about the strike in May of 1937 was when I heard the men talking about it about noon and the strike was called that afternoon.

"I don't recall signing any petitions for either union during this trouble.

"During the picketing of the mine by the Progressives in the fall of 1937 I was out there occassionally at nights on picket duty. I spent about

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

3 nights a week on picket duty. During this period I never saw any violence by either union nor witnessed any destruction of property.

"I was at the mine on one occassion, I believe it was in Sept. of 1937 when 13 UMWA men tried to open the mine. There were between 200-300 Progressives there picketing, but I never witnessed any violence or threats. The opening didn't succeed as more men were necessary for operation. The Progressives wouldn't work with UMWA and as I understand it the 13 UMWA and 300 PMA members represented the men's actual feelings on union membership at that time.

"I remember voting in the NLRB election in December 1937. I thought that it was an honest and fair election. I recall that UMWA received only 25 votes, and believe that at that time the great majority of the men at Mine B favored the Progressives as shown by the great majority the had in this election.

"I can only explain the failure of the Progressives to sign a contract with Mr. ELSHOFF during the 2½ years that we were out on strike to the fact that Mr. ELSHOFF didn't seem to care to deal with the Progressives but preferred the United Mine Workers. I recall a conversation with Mr. ELSHOFF way back in March of 1932 during which he said that JOHN L. LEWIS was a very good friend of his. During the same conversation he said that [redacted] didn't want to work and was just looking for an easy job.

"When I went back to Mine B about the first of 1940 I was still a member of the Progressive Union, although the mine was working under an open shop agreement. On Jan. 25, 1940 [redacted] a UMWA organizer came to me and asked me to join UMWA. He filled out the application and I signed it, because I thought that the majority was going that way. No force or violence of any kind was used on me. I got sick, however, and was unable to attend the initiation and the next morning while I was changing clothes in the wash room I was hit on the temple, knocked over a bench, and kicked while I was down by UMWA men. I didn't see my assailants but know that I was beaten for not showing up at the UMWA meeting. I only saw one other beating at the mine and didn't hang around to see who the parties to it were.

"I voted in the 2nd NLRB election in the Spring of 1941. This election was held fairly & squarely in my opinion. The majority was for UMWA and 108 for Progressives.

"Very shortly after the above election Mr. ELSHOFF and UMWA officials reached an agreement and there has been no real trouble at the mine since that date.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I have no knowledge of any financial dealings between JOHN L. LEWIS or the UMWA and Mr. ELSHOFF and never heard any talk to that effect.

"I don't care who know - I voted for PMA in both NLRB elections.

"I have read the above 3 3/4 pages of statements made by me and they are true to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESS:

[redacted] F.B.I. Special Agent, Springfield, Ill.
[redacted] F.B.I. Special Agent, Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the home which he owns, [redacted] located at [redacted], Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born at [redacted] He has been in the mines for [redacted] years. He was at Mine B for a year or more before 1932 until January 1941. He is now employed at Panther Creek Mine No. 5.

[redacted] is considered by interviewing Agents as a good potential witness. He is confused as to the sequence of details which he recalls. His interest was passive for several years between 1932 and 1939 and he does not recall events occurring in that time clearly. He recalls, clearly, however, events surrounding the establishment of the Progressive Mine Workers in 1932, and the events occurring at Mine "B" in 1939 and 1940 when he was being abused there. He is quite apt to confuse the things which happened in 1932, with those which happened in 1939 and 1940. Events occurring in between those dates evidently did not greatly concern him, and he cannot recall them vividly. [redacted] is vindictive against JOHN L. LEWIS, and OSCAR FALCETTI. He would be a stubborn witness and would not be easily confused on cross examination except as to sequence and dates of events. He makes a fair appearance, has good command of the English language, and can express himself clearly. He would be easily understood. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943

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

"I have been in the mines for [redacted] years. I first went to Mine B about 1928 or 1929. I do not reecall exacly when it was, but I was at Mine B when the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized. I was on the picket line when we struck to make the company accept the PMW of A and get away from JOHN L. LEWIS and the United Mine Workers. At the time I was picketing there in 1932 I heard JOHN SCHNEIDER talking with OSCAR FALCETTI. FALCETTI would not hire the men who had been fired before the strike, and said something about not being able to keep his job if he could. I always though since then that FALCETTI did not like the Progressive Mine Workers of Americ

"I was never an officer in any labor union. I did not go to the meetings of the unions very often. I remember the day that the strike sta

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

in 1937. I do not remember if I was at the meeting of the union the day before the strike. I remember that I was loading small cars of coal that day, but I cannot remember why it was that I was loading them small. I was not told to load them small. Something happened that made me see that I should load them small. It was something that the company did, but I do not recall what it was. After the strike was called, I do not remember exactly what it was that did happen. I know that one day they tried to open the mine. I was out there. There were about 10 men who went down into the mine with OSCAR FALCETTI. After a short time they all came up. We had a union meeting the next day or that night. I remember that we went back out to the mine and stayed on the property to keep the United Mine Workers from coming in to go to work. I stayed out there a lot of the time during the sit down. The men who were on the sit down were men who had been working at Mine B. After the injunction I left the mine property. I did not hear of any more attempts to open the mine.

"I voted in the election in December 1937. No one told me how to vote, or tried to influence my vote in any way. It was a fair election as far as I know, and I voted exactly as I pleased.

"When the strike started I was satisfied with the Progressivem Mine Workers of America, and the operation of local #54. I did not want to join the UMW. I was off of JOHN L. LEWIS for what he had done to us miners in 1932.

"During the strike I did not have any other job.

"I do not recall exactly what happened to reopen the mine, but when it was reopened as an open mine. There were men who belonged to both unions. I knew that they were trying to organize the United Mine Workers as a union there. I had heard of that. I told everybody that said anything to me about it, that I would never join the United Mine Workers because of the things the JOHN L. LEWIS had done to the coal miners in 1932. I talked about that quite a bit, and was not afraid to let anyone know how I felt about it.

"When I went back to the mine, I got my old room, but when it ran out, I was given a very bad room. It was full of slate, and it was so hard to work that I do not believe that the company ever made any money out of it at all. I began getting "docks" for having dirt in my coal. I had had very few docks before the troublble with the unions. They ran up $50 of docks against me. They charged docks of $.40 for the first car with dirt in it each day, $1.40 for the second, and $3.00 for the third car with dirt in it each day. Most of these times I found out that the dirt in my car would be sulphur or dirt, and there was no sulphur or that kind of dirt in my room at all. The company began giving me the bad end of the deals. They treated

b7C
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

some of the other men that way too. I remember that they fired me one day for taking an empty off the track in front of my room. In [redacted] years of coal mining I had always taken the car that was laying in front of my switch. There was no rule against that. Sometimes when there was a shortage of cars, the drivers would say which car belonged to which digger, but there was no such shortage that time. OSCAR FALCETTI fired me for taking another digger's car. The pit committee got me my job back again, after making me promise that I would not take anybody elses empties again. The very next day, I was fired again by FALCETTI, for leaving an empty car on the track in front of my room. The situation was exactly the same as before as far as I could see. The pit committee got me my job back again.

"About six weeks before I was fired, I went to the window one day to get my money. I handed in the stub of the statement to FALCETTI. He pulled the peg out of the window, and let it fall, and almost caught my hand. I told him that if he had hit my hand I would have sued the company. That was about the time that the other things I have mentioned were happening to me at the mine.

"Several days before I finally quit, I was having shirts stolen from the wash house. That happened several times to me. That never happened before the troulble with the Unions and the organizing of the United Mine Workers. The company knew that that was going on, and could have stopped it, but never did. The day before I finally quit my tools were all stolen. That was the first time that my tools had been taken from my room during the entire time that I was working there. I had a hard time working there that day, and borrowed enough tools to sort of finish up what was loose. I had to quit early because of it. The next morning when I went to work I went into the wash house to change my clothes. I saw [redacted] coming towards me, but did not know what he was going to do. He hit me in the eye, and about the same time [redacted], came up on me from behind. When I was knocked down, [redacted] tried to kick me in the face. They ran me off of the company property and did not even let me go back to get my pay. That was before the second election at the mine.

"One Day I saw [redacted] walking around in front of the office. He was cursing and saying things about the Progressives. He said several times, "the Progressives are no good. They have got to go." OSCAR FALCETTI was standing right there where he could hear, and did not say anything. He just laughed like he thought that it was a good idea.

"When I went back to the mine after it reopened, I noticed that there had been some falls. I did not see any evidence of any big fires that had occurred during the strike.

C - O

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS

b7C

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

[redacted] was working in the mine, or was supposed to be working there. I do not know what he was supposed to be doing, because I never saw him doing any work. He never talked to me about joining the United Mine Workers. In fact, no one ever talked to me about joining the UMW except a man from Colorado who I saw at the mine only a few times. I never learned his name. He came to me during the first few days that the mine was reopened. I told him that I would not join up with JOHN L. LEWIS. He told me that that was what he was there for, to get us to join the UMW. He came to see me in my room when I was drilling a hole. He was the only one who ever asked me to join the UMW but everybody else knew how I felt about it, because I told them.

"I do not recall signing any petitions, although I may have.

"I voted in both elections, even though I had been kicked out of Mine B before the second election. I voted exactly as I pleased in both elections.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers, and never did want to join up with the United Mine Workers, nor having anything to do with JOHN L. LEWIS.

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

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted]

Special Agents FBI"

C - O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the home which he owns located at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He is an American citizen. [redacted] probably would not make a good witness due to a heavy accent and the factor that he is extremely hard of hearing, and cannot understand well the various questions put to him. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943.

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

"I have worked at Mine B from [redacted] until [redacted] I did not intend to ever return to Mine B, and therefore did not take part in any of the activities concerned with the strike. I did not go to the union meetings and did not know what was going on. I was always satisfied with the way the Progressive Mine Workers were being operated, and with the operation of local #54 at Mine B. I did not want to change unions. I belonged to the union at the mine that was there, and was satisfied with the PMW of A union while I was at mine B.

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

(Signed) [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted] Special Agent FBI
Special Agent FBI"

C O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and who is presently employed by [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed [redacted] on the morning of August 31, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] stated he was born at [redacted] Illinois [redacted] He was employed at Mine "B" from [redacted] until May of 1942. [redacted] would make a fair witness, has a fair appearance, and is able to express himself fairly well and has an intelligence above that of the average miner. He furnished information as set forth in the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill
August 31, 1943.

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

"I have been a miner all of my life. I first joined the United Mine Workers when I was [redacted] years old. I went to work at mine B in [redacted] as near as I can remember. I used to go to the Union meetings quite regularly, but I was never a union officer at mine B. In 1932 when the entire local joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, I was willing to switch over. I had no objections at all to the formation of the PMW. The relations between the company at Mine B and the unions continued to be about the same both before and after the formation of the PMW. Before the strike in 1937, the relations of the union and the company were satisfactory as far as I was concerned. I did not pay much attention to what was going on. I just did my work and did not pay much attention to what went on at the office or at the union meetings. I went to the important union meetings, but was not interested in what went on among the union generally. I did not go to the union meeting the night before the strike. It was a complete surprise to me. I was completely satisfied with the operation of the Progressive Mine Workers of American and local #54. I did not know know that there had been any discussion about switching uions. I knew before the strike was called that there was some trouble over some men having been fined by the union or something like that. I did not know the details, but I had heard about it.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

I did not know that it was serious enough to call a strike over. I do not remember that there was any quarrel about the wages or rates at the time that the strike was called.

"After the strike was called, I went home. I did not go back out to the mine. I was not interested in union affairs. I was never on a picket line or anything like that except that I did stay on the picket line at the sit down for one night at Mine B. After the strike I stayed at home. I do not recall every having been asked to sign any papers for either union. I was in favor of the Progressive Mine Workers, and if I signed any papers it was for them. I did not know any of the men who were in troulbe with the union except one who is dead now. He had not said anything to me about changing unions.

"I did not know anything about the formation of the UMW local during the summer of 1937, nor about a contract with the UMW by the Mine B coal Company. I was not at the mine on the day in September when they tried to open, and when the sit down started. I stayed at the sit down only one night. The men there were all men who had worked at Mine B before the strike, except one [redacted]

"I voted in the election about the unions in Decmeber 1937. That was a fair election as far as I know. Non one tried to influence my vote or make me do anything that I did not want to do. It was a fair election I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"I did not hear anything about trying to open the mine at any time about an attempt to open the mine until they did get it opened, except that one time in September 1937 when the sit down started. During the time of the strike I was on WPA part of the time.

"When the mine reopened, I did not get to work until about November 17. There was bad air in my section and it was a while before things got cleaned out. There was no big fire or fall while the mine was closed that I know anything about.

"When the mine reopened there was no contract with any union. Several men came and talked to me about switching over to the UMW, but the only ones who asked me to join the UMW were [redacted] and a man whose name I do not know. [redacted] and Joe Albanese came to my house once and asked me to join the UMW. Albanese did not say anything, he just came along. [redacted] was one of the men who came to the mine after the strike. Several fellows talked to me about chaning, but none of them asked me to join the UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued)

[redacted] was one of the men who came to the mine after the strike. I do not know what he was supposed to be doing in the mine. I never saw him doing any work. He came to my room a few times and talked to me about switching unions. I told him that I did not want to switch but I would join any union which had the majority. No one bothered me, although I heard that some of the other men at the mine had been bothered about joining the UMW and that there had been some beatings. I wondered what [redacted] was supposed to be doing in the mind. I never saw him doing any work, and I asked somebody what he was supposed to be doing. They told me that he was supposed to be an Air Examinier. I had never heard of an air examiner at Mine B before. The mine examiner checked the air at night. They had never had a man to do that in the day time before [redacted] came to the mine. After he left, there was no one as an air inspector in the day time.

"I joined the UMW on the last day that I could join and not have to pay a new initiation fee. [redacted] came to me and told me that all the fellows had joined up, and that they had a majority and that the mine was going to be UMW entirely. He told me that if I did not sign up by a certain date that I would either have to leave the mine or join up with the UMW. So I joined the UMW on the last day. I did not want to join the UMW. If any other jobs had been available at the time I would quit and gone to work somewhere else, but I had to have a job, so I joined the UMW even though I preferred the PMW.

"In the second election no one tried to influence my vote. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"In May or April 1942 there was a fire at the mine and I could not work in my section. They asked me to work someplace else in the mine and double with some one, but that was against the union rules so I went home. When I went back there was some quarrel about it, and I decided to quit.

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

/S/ [redacted]

"/S/ [redacted]
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agents FBI"

C O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his home which he owns, [redacted] located at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] was born at [redacted] He has been in the mines all his life. He is considered by interviewing agents as a good potential witness because of his appearance, his ability to express himself and apparently has above average intelligence. He gave the information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943.

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

"I have worked at Mine B since about [redacted] off and on, and steadily since about [redacted] Since that time I have been a bottom man. That is, I work at the bottom of the shaft, stop the cars, and put them on the lift etc. That means that I am one of the last men to go down in the mine in the morning, and one of the first to come out at night. I do not go to the mine early, and leave as soon as I can at night. Thus, I do not get to know the men at the mine very well. I do not see the men who work back in the mine unless they happen to come out during the day. I joined the United Mine Workers first when I was [redacted] years of age. I was never particularly interested in Union affairs, but I did keep track of things in the Union. I did not go to meetings often. I was never and officer. In 1932 the entire local went over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was not particularly interested in going over to the PMW of A, but I was willing to follow the majority. It did not make much difference to me which union I belonged to. I did not go the PMW meetings, because [redacted] and they meet the same night.

"I did not attend the meeting of the union the night before the strike. I did not know what the strike was about. I was called out. I did not know that there was going to be a strike until I was called.

"I did not stay around the mine after the strike started. I do not think that I signed any petition for any union.

"At the time th t the strike occurred I was not disatisfied with the operation of the Progressive Mine Workers of America or the local at Mine B. I did not particularly care which union I belonged to. I was still

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

interested in the UMW and was keeping track of the things that they were doing, but I would not have wanted to change unions at that time.

"I did not know of the formation of the UMW local at mine B. I did not go out to the mine the day that it was opened in the fall of 1937. I did not stay out at the picket line when the men stayed there for several months. I was asked to go out, but I told the men that I would go around to the houses and talk to the men but I would not go to a picket line, because I did not think that it was a fair way of running things.

"I voted in the election of December 1937. I met up at the Progressive Hall, and went down to vote in a group. No one told me how to vote, or tried to influence my vote in any way. It was a fair election as far as I know. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote.

"During the strike, I was unemployed except for what work I could get on WPA.

"I went back to the mine soon after it opened and went to the same job tht I had before. I still continued to go to the mine late in the morning, and leave early at night, and i did not know much about what was going on out there. I understood that several men were beaten up out there and th t there was a lot of organizing going on. I knew [redacted] I do not know what he was supposed to be doing in the mine. I always thought that he was an organizer for the UMW. I talked with him several times in the mine. No one ever asked me to join the UMW. I heard that Falcetti had said that he did not want anyone to bother the bottom men. None of us working at the bottom of the shaft were approached to join the UMW. Several of us decided a few days before the second election that the mine was going to be UMW and so we went up and signed up with the UMW. We had not been asked to join, but the old Progressives had been run out of the mine or had left, and it looked as if everyone there was a United Mine Workers, and I always wanted to be with the majority, so I joined.

"I never heard anyone connected with the management say anything about wanting the mine to change unions or anything like that. I did hear Oscar Falcetti say three or four times before the strike or any trouble started at all, that he thought that the mine would go back to the United Mine Workers. I did not pay much attention to him. I did not hear anything about that afterwards.

"When I went back to the mine when it was reopened, there was no indication as far as I saw of any fire. I heard th t there had been a few falls. I do not know of any big falls.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

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

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] signed)
[redacted] (signed)

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the home which he [redacted] owns located at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born in [redacted] He is considered as a good potential witness by interviewing agents due to his appearance, ability to express himself, and an apparent above average intelligence. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943.

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

"I have been working at Mine B since 1929 as a digger. I was a member of the local when it changed over from the UMW to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was not too anxious about the switch in the beginning, but afterwards I did not want to change back to the United Mine Workers. I was living at [redacted] Ill, at the time, and did not come back to town to attend the union meetings. I did not go __ the meetingws very often.

"At the time of the strike in 1937, I was very much satisfied with the way the things were going out there at the Progressive Mine Workers and the local #54. I did not want to change. As far as I know all the men were satisfied with the union as it was. There were a few men who had always been for the UMW ever since the PMW was organized, and they did not switch over as we thought they would, and kept talking about going back to the UMW. No one of them talked to me about it though, and I did not hear them say anything personally.

"I did not attend the local meeting the night before the strike. I was down in the mine and did not know that a strike was being called. It was all a surprise to me. I did not stay around the mine, and I have forgotten now, just exactly what it was that the men struck for. I signed a petition or some kind of paper for thee Progressives. They brought it to me at my home in [redacted] Ill. I did not sign anything for the UMW because I was not interested in joining the UMW. No one approached me to join the UMW or to sign their petition.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

"I did not go out to the mine the day that the sit down started. I did got out there three or four days later, and stayed there on the company property for several days, until the injunction came and we had to leave. The men who were on the sitdown were miners who had been working at mine B. There were not a new bunch of men brought in.

"I voted in th_ election in the December 1937. That was a fair election as far as I know. No one asked me or tried to influence my vote in any way. I voted exactly as I wanted to, and no one said anything about it.

"I did not know that they ever tried to open the mine except that one time in 1937 when the sit down started. During the stri_e I was unemployed most of the time, and worked on the WPA part of the time. When the mine reopened, I went out there to work, and worked two days when I finished my room. It was about a month before I got a new room. When I went back I saw no indication of any big falls or fires in th_ mine.

"When I went back [redacted] was working there in the mine. I do not know what he was supposed to be doing. The only times that I saw him he was walki_g around with the air testers, etc. He was talking most of the time to men about joining the UMW. He never had a man going around with the air testers before the mine went on strike. We do not have any now. [redacted] was the only man at the mine I have ever seen going around in the daylti_e making such tests. [redacted] talked to me about joining the UMW. I told him that I did not want to at that time. He was the only one in the mine who approached me on the matter until the day that I signed up as a UMW. On that day I was approached by [redacted] We had been told, by ads in the paper, etc, that we had until the 17th of Januray 1941 to join the UMW. I joined up on that day when [redacted] approached me, because I felt that I would h_ve to join in order to keep my job at the mine. I knew at that time that I would have a chance to vote on which union that I wanted, and knew that if the election went for the Progressives, that my application to the UMW would not mean anything. I signed up for the UMW even thought I really wanted to stay and be with the Progressives. That occurred before the second election about the union at the mine.

"At that election, they told us to go to the United Hall and go up to vote in a body. I went directly from my home, and voted exactly as I pleased. No one influenced me in my vote at all.

"I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America and wanted to stay in that Union, and only joined the UMW in order to keep my job at mine B.

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

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted] F.B.I.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, which he opofates and where he resides. He was interviewed on the afternoon of August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born at [redacted] is considered as a fair witness by interviewing Agents. His intelligence does not rank above the average, but he can express himself fairly well, has a fair memory, and a fair appearance. He would not be easily confused on cross examination. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943.

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

"I worked at Mine B as a digger from sometime in [redacted] until May 12, 1937, when the strike at Mine B started. I was a Mmber of the United Mine Workers until 1932 when the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized. I did not have to much to do with the organization of the PMW, but I was glad to join the organization because I wanted to get rid of John L. Lewis. I was a member of the Pit committee of the PMW union at Mine B for a year and a half sometime between 1932 and 1937. I had not been on the committee for a couple of years before the strike started. I attended the meetings of the Union quite regularly. The attendance at the meetings varied from very large numbers to very small numbers, depending on what was to come up at the meetings.

"I did not attend the meeting of the union the night before the strike started. There had been some discontent about the mine but I do not know exactly what it was about. There had been some discussion in the mne about going over to the United Mine Workers. Charley Bohannon, Tony Plotch, and [redacted] talked to me and asked me to join the United Mine Workers, and asked me what I thought about it. Frank Austin also talked to me about joining the United Mine Workers, before the strike started. I had not intention of joining the United Mine Workers. I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and with the operation of local #54. I have never wanted to change over to the UMW. No one connected with the PMW ever asked me to do anything tht I did not want to do. After the str e I did not go back to the mine because I decided that I would get out of the mines if I had to fight for my life for a right to work. I had quit the

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

pit committee when one of the other men had been shot. I did not want to get shot.

"I was down in the mine the day that the strike was started. I sent up short cars that day because I was almost finished with my room, and knew that there was some discussion about quitting until a new contract was fixed up. I had finished cleaning up my room and was on top and in the wash house when the strike was called. I was out at the mine shaft a few days after the strike started. I think I signed some sort of paper for the Progressives. I know that I never signed any paper for the United Mine Workers.

"I never heard anything about the formation of a UMW local for Mine B. I never heard anything about a contract with the UMW.

"I was not at Mine B the day that they started to open the mine in September 1937. I went out there on the second or third day after that. I stayed there at the mine about two thirds of the time after that when the men were there on the company property. The men who were there on the property were men who had worked there all the time before that. I heard that they tried to open the mine a few days after the injunction, but I did not go to work and do not know what happened. I voted at the election held at the Armory in December 1937. That was a fair election as far as I know. No one attempted to influence my vote, or tell me what to do. I voted at that election just exactly as I wanted to vote.

"When the mine reopened I did not attemt to go back to work. I got a letter to go back, but I was doing alright and decided not to work any more. I went out to the mine, and told them, and asked them to send my tools up. I sold the tools right there to someone else.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. No one in that organization ever threatened me or asked me to do anything that I did not want to do. I would have liked to have continued to work at Mine B if I could have without all that troulble. I had a hard time getting a job after that.

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

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

[redacted]

F.B.I.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at the home which [redacted] he owns, located a[redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was born [redacted] is considered by interviewing agents as a good potential witness. He is sincere, makes a distinct effort to be accurate, and would be difficult to confuse on cross examination. He makes a good appearance, and can express himself quite well. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill
August 30, 1943.

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

"I first went to Mine B in 1932 when I was [redacted] years of age. At the time that I went to Mine B the local there was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I liked that union. I was very much satisfied with the way the PMW of A and local #54 was being operated. I would have stayed in the PMW if I could have. There was nothing wrong with that union as far as I know. I did not go to the union meetings very often. I was not at the meeting of the union the night before the strike was called. I did not know anything about the strike until the day that the strike occurred. I was working on top of the mine, and noticed that the men were sending up small cars. I did not knw anything about it until then, and thought then that there might be a strike. I did not know why, but I recall that someone told me afterwards that the quarrel was because the company would not discharge some men, or something like that. I did not know any of these men before the strike.

"After the strike I went back out to the mine on the days afterwards for a short time. I do not remember that anything happened out there. I do not recall signing any papers, but if I did they were for the Progressive Mine Workers. I could not get a job at that time.

"I did not know anything about the formation of the UMW local in the summer of 1937 nor anything about a contract that Elshoff was supposed to have signed with the UMW.

"I was at the mine the day that they tried to open it in the fall of 1937. I went out the first day expecting to work. I do not recall

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] exactly what happened. We did not go down in the mine, and stayed there at the mine property for 54 days. At the day of the start of the sit down no one told me anything about why the men were not going to go back into the mine. We stayed out at the mine in order to keep the UMW from going to work at the mine. We were protecting our jobs. The men who were out at mine during the sit down were almost entirely men who had worked at the mine before the strike.

"I voted at the election in December, 1937. That was a fair election as far as I know. No one tried to influence my vote. I voted exactly as I wanted to vote. I did not know of any attempts to open the mine either soon before the election or after it until the mine actually did open.

"During the strike I did not have a job most of the time. [redacted] I got to talking with one of the customers. I told him that I was a Miner at Mine B. He asked me to join the UMW, but I told him that I was satisfied with the Progressives. I do not know who this man was.

"I went back to work at Mine B the first day that it was reopened. I resumed my same job on top of the mine. I did not go down into the mine. I did not hear about any large cave ins or falls, or fires that had occurred at the mine while the strike was in progress. They brought up quite a bit of dirt after the strike, but I do not know what they were doing below.

"After the mine opened, I was treated alright. [redacted] and Charley Bohannon asked me a couple of times to go to the meetings but no one asked me directly to join up with the UMW. I did not see any fights, or have anything done to me, but I did see some of the men after they had been beaten up.

"I joined up with the UMW on the last day that I could join and not have to pay a new iniation fee. No one told me that there was any deadline, but I used to hear the men talking about it in the wash room, and decided to join the UMW in order to keep my job. I joined up shrotly before the sencond election. If jobs had been plentiful then as they are now I would not have signed up with the UMW but would have changed and gotten another job, because I preferred to stay with the Progressvie Mine Workers.

"I was always satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers and would have liked to still be a member of that organization. No one in the Progressives ever bothered me or made me do anything that I did not

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH
[redacted]
(continued)

want to do.

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

/s/ [redacted]

[redacted], F.B.I.
[redacted] F.B.I. "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at the residence of [redacted] on August 30, 1943, by Agents [redacted] and [redacted] He was born [redacted] and is employed at Mine "B". He became employed at Mine "B" in [redacted] and joined the PMA at that time. He quit work at Mine "B" in April of 1937, and became employed again at the mine in September of 1941, becoming a member of the UMW at that time.

He said he was satisfied with the PMA, and that he knows nothing concerning the goings on at the Union, not having been connected with it or either union during the period under investigation.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. [redacted] was interviewed at his home on August 30, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] was cooperative and willing to give his information freely. He speaks in a very slow and low voice. It is believed that he would make a good witness to the extent of his knowledge of events at Mine B. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was executed by [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943.

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

"I presently reside at [redacted] I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted]

"I first joined a mine union in [redacted] when I joined the United Mine workers in [redacted] I stayed in this union until 1934 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. some time after February 1941. I have never held an office in any union.

"I started to work in Mine B some time in 1934 or 1935. I took no part in the formation of P.M.A. at Mine B.

"Prior to May 1937 I don't remember any strikes at Mine B. To my knowledge there was no activity by U.M.W. organizers. I don't remember any expressions of favoritism by the management for U.M.W.

"I was always satisfied with P.M.A. and I thought that the officials were fair and square with the members. I went to the P.M.A. meetings occasionally, and I was not fined for the meetings that I missed. I don't remember many extra assessments by the P.M.A.

"Prior to the strike of 1937 I don't remember any picketing by U.M.W. men. But I heard from the miners that the following men were agitating in Mine B for U.M.W.: Joe (Sam) Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, and Charles Bohannon. I also heard that these men were going on parties with the management of Mine B, but I can't remember

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

the persons who told me about this.

"In 1937 the P.M.A. were getting angry about the activities of the men I have named above. They did not want to work in Mine B with these men because these men were organizing for U.M.W. I think that the only reason for the strike in 1937 was that the P.M.A. men did not want to work with the U.M.W. organizers. The members of the P.M.A. felt that their leaders could get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. leaders, so I don't think the wage scale had anything to do with the strike.

"I did not know of any meeting just before the strike in 1937. On the morning of the strike, the officials of P.M.A. and the men themselves said that they would not go into the mine if the U.M.W. men went in. The U.M.W. men stayed in the office of Mine B that morning, and the P.M.A. men stood around the shaft to prevent the U.M.W. men from going into the mine.

"Prior to the strike I heard something about the activity of 5 or 6 U.M.W. spies in Mine B, and that the P.M.A. had fined them and discharged them. I don't recall from whom I heard this. When the management of Mine B let the U.M.W. men go into the mine on the day of the strike, the P.M.A. men, who did not want to strike, began to load their coal cars short. I don't know if this action had been decided on in advance of the strike. I think the men just decided to do it on the spur of the moment.

"I signed the P.M.A. petition in May 1937 voluntarily because I wanted to. As I recall I was told that the petition was to be sent to Washington to show that P.M.A. had a majority of the miners in Mine B. I think I signed the petition in the vicinity of the mine.

"I recall signing a second petition for P.M.A. just before the election in December 1937. I think that the purpose of this petition was to send it to Washington with the request that an election be held for Mine B. I think this petition was started by the P.M.A. officials.

"I was not asked to join the new U.M.W. local that started up in the summer of 1937. I don't recall any incidents of violence in the summer of 1937.

"I received a notice from the management of Mine B about the opening that was scheduled for September 1937, but I don't recall getting any other notices of an opening of the mine. I don't recall any comment by P.M.A. officials about the mine reopening in Sept. 1937. In the fall I was in the picket line at Mine B for about 30 days. The purpose of this picket was to keep U.M.W. men out of the mine. I was not forced to picket, and I did so because I wanted to.

C O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"I don't recall how I received a notice for the election in December 1937. I went to the election voluntarily, and voted for P.M.A. because I thought that was the better union and because I did not like John L. Lewis. I think that this election was fair.

"I started back to work in Mine E about two months after it opened. I could not go back sooner because that section of the mine in which I had been working had been damaged during the time the mine was shut down. After the mine opened up there was considerable trouble in the mine. There many fights and many men were beaten up. I did not see any of these fights and I don't know the names of any of the men involved. No threats or violence were used against me.

"After I started back to work, a man known as [redacted] and another known as [redacted] came to me in the mine about once a week, and asked me why I did not join the U.M.W. union. They said that everyone else in the mine was going to sign up, and that I would lose my job if I did not sign up. During this time I don't remember that the management ever expressed an opinion as to which union they preferred.

"In the election of February 1941 I voted for the U.M.W. At this time I was not a member of the U.M.W. I voted for the U.M.W. because the men that I have mentioned before in this statement had told me at one time or another that if the P.M.A. won the election, the mine would shut down again because the management had said they would shut down in that event. I did not want to lose my job so I voted for the U.M.W.

"Prior to the strike in 1937 I don't remember any employ who had the job of "air checker" but after the mine opened up in 1939 the man known as [redacted] had such a job. He had no particular duties, and I think that he was merely organizing for U.M.W. There were a couple of other jobs like this but I don't recall who held them.

"I cannot estimate the cost that was involved in reopening the mine. I don't remember big fires after the mine opened up.

"Many of the miners are of the opinion that John L. Lewis was giving money to Carl Elshoff during the time the mine was shut down. I, like the rest of the miners, think that Lewis gave Elshoff money to live on and to keep the mine in condition so that it could be reopened some day when the U.M.W. had the majority of the miners. I don't know where these ideas came from, but most of the miners had them.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

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

(continued)

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:

[redacted]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is able to understand English very well and to express himself easily. He speaks clearly and is easy to understand. He claimed to have no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 1, 1943.

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

"I presently live at [redacted], Springfield, Ill., and I am employed by the Peabody Coal Co.

"I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted] Federal court in [redacted]

"I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers in [redacted] at Peoria, Ill. I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine workers of America at Mine B in 1936. I rejoined the U.M.W. some time in 1941, as I recall, when I was working at Mine A

[redacted]

"I always thought that the relations between P.M.A. officials and the miners were satisfactory. The officers of P.M.A. seemed to be good men, clean and square, and trying to help the miners. I think that the relations between P.M.A. and Elshoff were O.K. As I recall there were no extra assessments by P.M.A. except to pay death benefits to members of P.M.A.

"I don't know anything about any activities of any U.M.W. men or organizers before the strike in 1937. Prior to the strike I never received any literature from U.M.W.

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(Continued)

"After April 1, 1937, I knew that P.M.A. was working under a temporary agreement with the mine management. I think that the miners all were aware of the extension, and I think that they were satisfied with this arrangement. I did not hear any talk to the effect that U.M.W. would be able to get a better contract than P.M.A. Elshoff was an independent operator at that time, and could not sign a contract with any union until the association of mine owners signed with a union. Most of the men knew this, and I think that the men had no fault to find with P.M.A. in this matter.

"I can't recall attending a meeting of P.M.A. on the night before the strike started in 1937, and I don't remember whether or not I had a notice of this meeting.

"I went to work on the day that the strike started. I remember that some of the miners loaded their cars with short weights. I remember that the strike was finally called, but I don't remember if the men were called out of the mine during the day, or if they were told of the strike after they came up from the mine at the end of the day.

"I really don't know the reasons for the strike. I had heard that charges had been preferred against some of the men previous to the strike. These men, I think, were supposed to be U.M.W. men. I don't remember anything more about this matter. I remember that some men were accused, but I don't know whether they had to stand trial, or what happened to them. I don't know whether the strike was called because the company refused to fire these men or because of some other reason.

"I recall that I signed a petition for P.M.A., but I don't recall what the petition was about. I was not forced to sign this petition. I never signed a petition for U.M.W.

"I don't recall getting a notice about the reopening of the mine in September 1937. I saw in the newspaper that the mine was going to reopen. I went out to Mine B with the intention of going to work. When I got to the mine, a committee of P.M.A. men had met with the management, and were told that the management had a contract with U.M.W. and that the P.M.A. men could not work unless they up with U.M.W. The men were told this by Elshoff. Twelve men went into the mine, and were not molested at all. The rest of the men, all of them P.M.A., refused to go into the mine. The next day the P.M.A. started to picket the mine so the company could not bring any outsiders into the mine. I was on the picket line several days. I saw only Mine B men in the picket line. There were no strangers. I went to the picket line because I wanted to. No force was used against me.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (Continued).

"I think that the Federal injunction in December 1937 was secured to get the P.M.A. men off the premises. I don't know anything about the attempts to open the mine in December, 1937, or January, 1938.

"In the election in December, 1937, I voted for P.M.A. because I thought that the majority of the men were in favor of P.M.A. It did not matter to me which union won, but I wanted to be with the majority so I voted for P.M.A.

"In the late fall of 1939 I received a notice from the company that the mine was going to reopen. I started to work the second day that the mine was open, and worked steadily until March 1940, when I quit and went to Mine A. [redacted]

"In the time that I was an officer of P.M.A. I had one case with Falcetti. At that time he treated me O.K. I don't know of any acts of favoritism by the management for any union.

"No one ever came to me and asked me to join U.M.W. I heard that many men were asked to join U.M.W., but I never was. No one ever threatened me.

"I heard of one case where Baumgardner hit a P.M.A. man, but I do not know the man's name. The case was taken up with Falcetti, and Baumgardner denied the charges. The man who was beaten had no witnesses. The case was pending when I quit at Mine B.

"I have heard that Baumgardner asked some men to join the U.M.W., but I don't know the names of any of these men. He never asked me to join U.M.W.

"I quit working at Mine B because I was able to get a job in Mine A where I had been trying to get a job for several years. I always thought that the working conditions in Mine A were better than in Mine B. No pressure was brought to bear on me to make me quit in Mine B. After I quit I heard about some rough stuff at Mine B, but there was none of it that I heard about when I was working in Mine B.

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

/S/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:
/S/ [redacted]
Special Agent, FBI
Springfield, Ill."

C a

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and Special Agent [redacted] appears to have slightly more intelligence than the average miner, and related his story in a clear manner. He would be a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters contained in the following statement which he signed:

"Sept. 1, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I was born on [redacted] and became a U. S. citizen when I was [redacted] years old. I presently reside at [redacted] The first union that I joined was the U.M.W. in [redacted] I have never held an office in any union. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and joined the PMA union when it was formed in 1932. I believe the PMA union was formed in 1932 because the men figured they were getting a raw deal from John Lewis and the U.M.W. After the PMA was started, things seemed to be going along good until 1937 when the strike took place.

"I don't remember anything about the wage contract expiring in the spring of 1937. As far as I know the strike was called when the PMA men discovered that some of their men were acting as spies. I remember that Tony Plotch, Pete Canter, Frank Austin and others were the men who were supposed to be spies. These men would come to our meetings and try to break up the meetings. I have heard Pasquale make the remark that "there wouldn't be any progressive pretty soon". I was never asked by any of these men to join the U.M.W. I used to attend the meetings quite regularly. I was at the union meeting when our union expelled the spies from our local. As I remember it this was a regular union meeting and it took place about a month before the strike. We held a trial for the men after one of these meetings and several of our men testified that those men were working for united and trying to break up our union. I believe that Pete Carter was there and he didn't offer any defense.

"I went to work on the day of the strike, which was in May of 1937, and started my work as a digger [redacted] I don't remember any arguments or anything when I first went to work. I worked along as usual & didn't load any cars short that day. I didn't hear of any cars being loaded short until after the strike. When I came to the top after my work was over I was told the mine was on strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

"After the strike was over I recall that I signed a PMA petition one day when I was at the union hall. I believe I also signed some kind of a petition at my house, which petition was brought to my house by [redacted] and [redacted] To the best of my knowledge the strike was called because of the spies being allowed to work after they were expelled.

"During September of 1937 I went out to the mine when I was told by the union that the mine was to open. As I remember it the men who had been acting as spies were there & wanted to go to work, but our men said they wouldn't work if those men were allowed to work. Since no agreement could be reached the mine didn't open and some of our men stayed there on picket duty. I went on picket duty for a couple of weeks sometime later on in September.

"I recall the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937. I left my house and went to the armory alone at which time I voted. I never heard of any fights or violence at that time. I recall that some of the spies were around the Armory passing out pamphlets for the U.M.W., but there were no fights.

"I started working for the Panther Creek #5 Mine in the fall of 1939 and never tried to go back to work for Mine B. I recall that Pete Carter, Bohannon and Frank Austin were driving new cars shortly after the strike and our men all figured they were getting the money from U.M.W. I have known Boahnnon for a long time and know that before the strike he never seemed to have any money.

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

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] stated that he has always had a bad memory and for that reason could not give much information relative to the events which took place at the time of the strike and subsequent thereto. It is believed that [redacted] would make a poor Government witness.

There is being set forth below the signed statement which [redacted] executed at the time of this interview.

"August 31, 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 any statement.

"I was born [redacted] and have been a U. S. citizen for about [redacted] years. I presently reside at [redacted]

"I first joined a union in [redacted] when I joined the U.M.W. During the last war I was a pit committeman. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and joined the P.M.A. in 1932. I quit working about a year and a half ago. Between 1932 and 1937 I attended union meetings quite regularly. I do not recall much about the contract expiring with Mine B in 1937 in view of the fact my memory is not so good. To the best of my recollection, I think the strike was called because some of the men wanted to be with the Progressive union while the others wanted to be with United.

"I remember that some of these men who wanted to form a U.M.W local were DOMINICK PASQUALE, TONY PLOTCH and some others. As far as I know all of the men were satisfied with the PMA union. I remember that at one of the union meetings some of the men were fired from the union because they were spies. I do recall that it was sometime around the time of the strike, but I don't know any of the details. I know that there were some claims made that somebody stole some ballots when the mine went PMA, but I do not remember anything more about the relationship between the company and the union.

"I recall that there was some question about a contract and wages about the time of the strike, but I can't remember the details of the disputes.

"I was on the picket line at mine B from some time in Sept. of 1937 until I started working for the Panther Creek Coal Co. I worked there

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

for about four years and did not work for Mine B again. I never saw any fighting while I was at Mine B and I was never threatened at any time. I remember signing some kind of a petition at PMA union headquarters and I think this was a petition to the company about going back to work.

"At the time of the strike I was working [redacted] and I remember loading some of the cars short because everybody else was doing that, but I don't remember why they were doing it. I don't remember any of the details about the strike because I have always had a bad memory.

"I think the petition that I signed was a petition to the labor board to show them how many PMA men were at the mine. I have read over this statement, have initialed the first two pages, and hereby sign the last page. This statement is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESS

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated that [redacted] stated that he had a great deal of difficulty remembering dates and events [redacted] and so for that reason it is not believed that [redacted] would make a good witness.

The signed statement executed by [redacted] at the time of this interview is being set forth as follows:

"August 30, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I was born [redacted] I have been a U. S. citizen about [redacted] years and presently live at [redacted] I am presently employed at [redacted]

"I first started mining in about [redacted] and followed that trade until June of 1943. I joined the U.M.W. in about [redacted] and was in that union until about 1932 when I joined the P.M.A. I do not recall when I went to work at Mine B, but I was there when I joined the P.M.A. As far as I was concerned I was satisfied to remain with United, but when the PMA came into being at Mine B I was more or less compelled to join PMA in order to hold my job. As far as I was concerned, conditions were the same under PMA as under the United. I lived quite a way out of town so I never attended many of the meetings. I heard about the PMA men being convicted for some bombings in about 1936 or 1937 & I always felt they were not guilty of what they were charged with.

"Before the time of the strike I don't remember any activity on the part of the U.M.W. to organize the men. I was never asked to join the U.M.W. before the time of the strike. I remember that a new contract was to be signed between the company and the union in the spring of 1937. I was quite sure the matter of wages would be settled by our union and the company. I do not know anything about what the union was doing to settle the issue, as I hardly ever attended any meetings. I did not attend a union meeting the nite before the strike.

"On the day of the strike I went to work as usual in [redacted] as a driver and as I recall it a lot of the men starting loading the cans short.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

I asked some of the men why they were loading the cans short and the men told me they were trying to bring the company to terms. I believe some of the men said they didn't want to work with some men who were supposed to be spies for the U.M.W. I do not know the names of any of the men who were supposed to be spies. I do not know of my own knowledge what caused the strike.

"I remember that within a few weeks after the strike somebody asked me to sign a PMA petition to go back to work. As I recall it these men brought the petition to my house. I also recall some men asking me to join the U.M.A. one night while I was in a tavern, but I told them I didn't want to join the United. I was never threatened by anyone trying to get me to join a union.

"About two or three months after the strike I went to work for Mine A. I only worked for Mine A until [redacted]. [redacted] I have not been able to do any hard labor since that time and have not worked in a mine since that time.

"I have read over this entire statement of four pages, have initialed the first three pages, and hereby sign this page. This statement is true to the best of my memory.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnesses

[redacted] (signed))
[redacted] (signed)) Special Agents, FBI
U. S. Dept. of Justice"

C O

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated [redacted] he could not talk the English language very well. [redacted] is a rather elderly man and stated that he had a very bad memory. It is believed that this man would make a very poor witness. There is being set forth below the signed statement executed by [redacted] at the time of this interview.

"August 30, 1943
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I was born [redacted] and have been a U. S. citizen since about [redacted] I presently reside at [redacted] I joined the U.M.W. union in [redacted] and have been a miner all my life. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and stopped working in about [redacted]

"When the rest of the miners joined the FMA I also joined the F.M.A. union. I was working at Mine B at the time of the strike in May of 1937 and I remember that a motor man came to me and told me that the mine was on strike. The men were dissatisfied with the union because of the high dues they were paying and because they weren't getting anything in return. I do not know anything about any men who were supposed to be spies for the U.M.W. I do not know anything about any dispute between the men and the company. I never went to many of the union meetings at that time so I do not have any knowledge about the union's activities. [redacted]

"I do not have any information about what took place at Mine B between 1932 and 1937. This statement has been read to me by [redacted] at whose residence I reside, and I wish to state that it is true to the best of my memory.

"x [redacted] (signed)

"Witnesses

[redacted] (signed)

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted], at which time he stated he had only a vague recollection of what took place at Mine B at the time of the strike. [redacted] has difficulty understanding the English language and it is believed he would make a poor witness. [redacted]

There is being set forth below the statement which was taken at the time of the interview with [redacted] It is being noted that [redacted] stated he did not want to sign this statement inasmuch as he was [redacted]

"Sept 1, 1943
Springfield, Illinois

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

"I was born in [redacted] and have been a U.S. Citizen since [redacted] My home address is [redacted] and I am presently [redacted]

"I started mining in about [redacted] & joined the U.M.W. at that time. I have never held an office in the union. I started working for Mine B in 1937 and at that time I was a member of the PMA union because I had worked at the Sangamoun Coal Co. before that time. I started working for Mine B in the spring of 1937 and so I don't know anything about the strike. I was working [redacted] as a timberman and at that time I was working nights so I don't know anything about the union activities. I never heard anything about any men who were supposed to be spies for the U.M.W. I do not know anything about any wage dispute or contract at the mine in the spring of 1937. I was on the picket line at the mine for about 52 days and everything was quiet at that time. There was no fighting or violence that I know of.

"I went back to work at Mine B when it opened up in 1939, but only worked there about a month. I left Mine B to work for the B.J.G. Coal Co which was Progressive and later worked at Panther Creek #6. 1/2 HE I quit Mine B because I got a better job and because I didn't like to

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] (continued)

work nights.

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

His mark (X)

"Witnesses

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

"NOTE: This statement read to [redacted] who admitted it was true, but he declined to sign it."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Springfield, [redacted] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] can understand very little English and cannot carry on any kind of conversation in the English language. He was interviewed by Agents through the cooperation of [redacted] who acted as interpreter. [redacted] had very little information relative to the instant case and it is believed he would make a poor witness. There is being set forth below the following statement which was executed by [redacted] and signed with his mark, "X".

"August 31, 1943
Springfield, Illinois

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

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted] I am not a citizen of the U. S. I started working as a miner in [redacted] when I came to the U. S. and joined the UMW in [redacted] I have never held any office in any union. I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and am still employed at Mine B.. I joined the Progressive Union in 1932 when the rest joined. Nobody threatened me at any time to join the union and as far as I'm concerned, one union is as good as the other.

"I do not know anything about any of the men in Progressive acting as spies and trying to organize for U.M.W. Since I cannot understand much English and cannot speak the English language to any great degree, I never heard anything about what the men were talking about. I never talked about wages or strikes with any of the men at the mine. I just went to the mine and did my work and then came home. I know there was a strike at Mine B in 1937, but I don't know what the strike was about except that there was an argument going on between United and Progressive.

"When the mine went on strike I came home with the rest of the men. I went out to the mine in Sept. of 1937 and stayed on picket duty at the mine until Thanksgiving. I do not know anything about any petitions put out by the P.M.A. In view of the fact I cannot write my own name I know I didn't sign any petitions and don't remember ever giving my consent to anyone to sign any petition.

"I remember the NLRB election held in Dec. of 1937, but do not know any of the details of the election. I do not have any knowledge of what took place at Mine B between Dec. of 1937 and November of 1939. I heard the mine was to open in November of 1939 so I went back to the mine.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

When I started working for the mine in 1939 I stayed a member of the PWA until about Jan. of 1940 when I joined the UMW. I joined the UMW because all the other men were joining that union. As far as I was concerned conditions were the same under United as they were under progressive. When I went back to the mine I was given my old job as a digger [redacted] I have never been threatened by anyone at the mine and I have never seen any of the men fighting. The only thing I can say about the strike of 1937 and the conditions out there, is that there was some kind of fight on between the unions.

"This statement has been given by me with the aid of [redacted] who has acted as interpreter. This statement has been read to me by [redacted] and it is true to the best of my memory.

X (his mark)

Witnesses

[redacted]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C
b7D

[redacted]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] in an effort to interview [redacted] who had been employed by Mine B at the time of the strike. The city directory reflected a [redacted] residing at [redacted] At that address it was ascertained that the [redacted] who had lived at that address operated a gas station located [redacted] was interviewed at that place at which time he stated his home address to be [redacted] that he had never worked at Mine B and that there was a great possibility of there being two [redacted] in Springfield.

[redacted]

In view of the fact the [redacted] who formerly worked at Mine B is no longer residing in this community, no further effort is being made to locate him.

b7c b7D

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] appears to know nothing concerning events at Mine B, it being noted that he was unaware at the time that a strike had been called at Mine B. He would not make a satisfactory witness, he neither reads nor writes English, and expresses himself with difficulty.

He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 1, 1943

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

"I was born [redacted] and have been a citizen since [redacted] I presently reside at [redacted] I came to Illinois in [redacted] and started working in the mines then. I joined the U. M. W. union in [redacted] and have never held any office in any union.

"I started working for Mine B in about [redacted] and at that time I was a member of the Progressive union since I had been working at Peabody #5. I have never attended many of the union meetings and so I don't have any information as to why the mine went on strike. I went to work on the day of the strike and worked that whole day [redacted] as a digger. When I came home that day nobody told me there was a strike and in fact I got up the next morning & waited for the men to pick me up to go to work. When the men didn't come for me I went for a walk and saw some miners who told me the mine was on strike.

"I remember that after the strike I signed a petition at Progressive union hall to go down to work. I think I signed some other petitions. After the strike I heard that some of the Progressive men were spies for the United. I do not know the names of any of the men who were supposed to be spies.

"I never went to the mine while it was shut down and never was in the picket line. I voted in the election of Dec. 1937 and as far as I was concerned everything went along fine.

"I went back to work at the mine in 1939 when I got a letter telling me to come back to work. I went back to work and took up my old job. I joined the U. M. W. a couple of months before the election at the mine in February in 1941. I joined the U. M. W. union because I thought all the rest were joining up and I didn't want to lose my job. Nobody even told

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
(continued)

me that I would lose my job, but I didn't want any trouble. I hardly ever go to any union meetings now, and never did go to many because I don't understand the English language very well.

"I haven't any information as to what caused the strike.

"This statement was read to me by [redacted] in the presence of my wife and I wish to state it is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

[redacted]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, by

Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 29, 1943. [redacted] is [redacted] years of age, a United States citizen and is employed at Mine "B" as an entryman. He informs that he has never been convicted of a major crime, but refused to state whether he had ever been convicted of any crimes. [redacted] appears intelligent for a miner but conveniently forgets things. He would not make a good government witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943

"I, [redacted] of [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Fed'l. Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat_ force or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [redacted] and came to the U. S. in about [redacted]. I derived my U. S. citizenship from my father, [redacted] who was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted]

"I first started mining when I started work in Mine 'B' in Springfield in about [redacted] I belonged to the United Mine Workers of America at that time. In 1932 our UMW local went over to join the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and I became a PMA in 1932. I changed because the majority of the men wanted to change. I was a PMA from 1932 until the strike at Mine 'B' in 1937. During this time I never noticed any attempts on the part of the UMW to organize a picket of Mine 'B' and I never noticed that any of the company officials in any way influenced the men for either UMW or PMA. During this time I noticed no strikes or closedowns at Mine 'B'. I thought the PMA union was all right and the PMA officials honest. I read of the bombing cases about this time but I am not familiar enough with this situation to be able to make a statement.

"I remember some of the men were expelled from PMA but I do not know why and I never asked why. I had very little activity with the Union, PMA, altho I had been elected to the PMA Pit Committee in Dec., 1936. In about March, 1937, one of the PMA officials whose name I don't remember, suggested I resign from the Pit Committee

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] because I was not capable, but nothing more was said or done about this.
(Continued)

[redacted] and was not working at the mine at the time of the strike in May, 1937, or right before that time, and I didn't attend any meetings of PMA during that time. I do not know anything about the strike, why there was one, or how it was called, [redacted] the PMA was picketing at Mine 'B' and I joined them for about a week, [redacted]

"During the summer of 1937 I do not remember signing any petitions either for UMW or PMA.

"I do not remember having been called to work at Mine 'B' between May 1937 and Nov., 1939, and I do not remember whether any effort was made to open Mine 'B'.

"I don't remember anything about a UMW organizing in 1937.

"I was at the Mine 'B' picketing when the U. S. Marshall came out just before Thanksgiving of 1937 and told us we had to leave. I just walked off and thought no more about it.

"I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Board Election in Dec. 1937 in which PMA beat UMW. I was not threatened in any way in this election.

"I returned to work in Nov. of 1939 as a Progressive and changed to UMW the following spring. No force or violence of any kind was used to make me change to UMW and I changed because I saw most of the fellows were changing to UMW.

"During this time I knew of no organizers in the mine and after I heard some of the PMA men were beaten up I never said anything which would indicate that they were. Since the Spring of 1940 I have been UMW and no one has tried to make me change. I voted in the NLRB election in about 1941 when UMW won, but no one threatened me in any way.

"When I returned to work in Nov. of 1939, I don't remember seeing anything unusual like results of fires or cave-ins.