



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JOHN L. LEWIS

PART 6 OF 13

FILE NUMBER: 44-845

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT JOHN L. LEWIS

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 7

SERIALS 105 p. 151

thru

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

of this case, I thought there was just as much that the Peabody men could have been just as guilty but they were never fired. But most of my information came from the newspapers.

"During the time from 1932 to Mar. 1937, I went to most of the PMA meetings.

"In the spring of 1937, I knew about five PMA fellows were stool pigeons, but I didn't know exactly who they were working for or what they were doing. They were Andy Schrelevis, Dominic Pasquale, Fete Carter and Frank Austin. There may have been more but I don't remember who. I do not remember anything about these men or any other men being expelled from the PMA. The reason we went out on strike in May 1937 was because of contract trouble and some wage trouble. I do not know anything about the company refusing to fire some men expelled from PMA.

"I do not remember attending a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the night before the strike. On May 12, 1937, I went to work as usual. I was [REDACTED] I did not hear anyone say anything about loading cars short that day, but I noticed most of the cars were loaded short. I didn't hear anything about a strike until sometime during the day we were pulled out. I did not know why we went out, but I came up to the top and went home. A couple of days later I heard the reason we were out was because of the contract or pay. I don't remember receiving any notice of any kind to come back to work until Nov. of 1939. In the summer of 1937 I got a job [REDACTED] so I didn't go back to Mine "B" except a couple of times to talk with the PMA men who were out there protecting their jobs. During the summer of 1937 I cannot remember if I signed any PMA petitions. I may have. But I am certain I did not sign any UMW petitions.

"I remember that a UMW local was organized during the summer of 1937, but I cannot remember anything about it. I was not asked to join it.

"During the time from 1932 to May of 1937, I never noticed that anyone from the company ever favored UMW or PMA one over the other. I never saw any UMW picket line at Mine "B" during this time, and I never saw any UMW attempts to organize at Mine "B" during this time.

men

"The reason why PMA went to the Mine "B" in the fall of 1937 was to protect their jobs and keep the mine from being blown up, because we had heard some one was going to blow the mine up and blame

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

it on the PMA. I was not there when the Fed'l Injunction was obtained and the men had to leave the mine in the fall of 1937.

"Just before the mine re-opened in 1939, I heard from several sources, none of which I can now remember, that I was the first one the UMW was going to get, because I had been active in PMA. So I did not go back to Mine "B" when it opened because I wanted no trouble. No one ever openly or directly threatened me.

I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Election in Dec. 1937, where PMA beat UMW. I think it was a fair election and no one threatened or forced me in any way. That is the only NLRB election concerning Mine "B" in which I ever voted.

"Inasmuch as I never went back near Mine "B" after early fall of 1937 I do not know anything about anything that happened out at Mine "B" after the fall of 1937.

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

/s/

Witness

Special Agent, F.B.I.

Special Agent F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at the Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Springfield, Illinois on September 7, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak and understands English. [REDACTED] could not make a good witness as he is very vague in answering questions.

[REDACTED] provided the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,
September 7, 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] I am unemployed and I am being supported by [REDACTED]

"I first started mining coal at [REDACTED] at which time I became a member of U.M.W. I remained a member of U.M.W. until 1932. My local U.M.W. union changed from U.M.W. to P.M.A. in 1932 and I became a member of P.M.A. because my local U.M.W. changed.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"I was employed by Mine "B" in about 1928 and remained in the employment of Mine "B", except during the time of strikes until in July 1942. I was discharged because I did not report for work three days.

"Prior to 1932 the management of Mine "B", so far as I know, was on good relations with U.M.W.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B" and the mine was not closed down by the management. During that period of time the management seemed to have been on good relations with P.M.A. and all grievances were settled in favor of P.M.A. At no time prior to May 12, 1937 did the management of Mine "B" attempt to discredit P.M.A.

"I thought P.M.A. was a good union being operated for its membership, no unusual special assessments were made against me. I took no interest in union activity.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

"I think the PMA members convicted in the bombing cases did not get a fair trial as I believe UMW had witnesses testify falsely against the PMA members.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 UMW did not set up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did UMW distribute any literature at Mine "B". Prior to May 12, 1937 no one attempted to get me to change from PMA to UMW.

"I do not remember a wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I attended a regular meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937. I do not remember much about the meeting, but I do remember a member, the name of whom I do not know, was expelled from PMA because he was associating with UMW members. I am unable to furnish any other details about the meeting. I do not know of any other members of PMA being expelled.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I reported for work, some of the miners stated the management of Mine "B" wanted the mine to be UMW rather than PMA. I thought there was going to be trouble at the mine that day, therefore, I did not go to work and return to my home. No one told me why Mine "B" went on strike May 12, 1937, but I thought the strike occurred because the management wanted Mine "B" to change from PMA to UMW.

"I signed a PMA petition in the Summer of 1937 naming PMA as my bargaining agent at Mine "B". I did not sign a UMW petition.

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

"In Sept. 1937 I was informed by someone that PMA had a picket line at Mine "B". I voluntarily went to Mine "B" to act as a picket. No violence occurred during the during the time I was a picket and only Mine "B" miners were pickets, no outsiders were brought in. In about Dec. 1937 an injunction was obtained to prevent picketing at Mine "B". It made no difference to me whether the injunction was served or not.

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

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

"I received notice that Mine "B" was to open in the last part of 1939. I immediately received employment. I did not notice the results of any large fires on returning to work, but I did see many cave ins. I returned to Mine "B" as a member of PMA.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

"Almost every morning after my return to work and the time I became a member of UMW in the summer of 1940 I was asked by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to join UMW. In the summer of 1940 I was told by someone to report to the Mine "B" office before I changed my clothes. On reporting to the office Falcetti the supt. at mine "B" in the presence of the UMW committee told me that I had to join UMW if I wanted to keep working at Mine "B". I signed the membership card to join UMW that morning in order to keep my job although I did not want to join UMW. Those of the committee present at the time I joined UMW were Cudge Bungarner, Charles Bohannon and some others whom I do not know. I saw fights at Mine "B" between UMW and PMA members almost every morning from the time I returned to work in the last part of 1939 until the NLRB election in Feb. 1941. At no time was I threatened nor did anyone beat me.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election Feb. 1941 for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

"I did not wish to join UMW as I wanted to be a member of PMA. I only joined UMW because I was forced to join UMW in order to keep working at Mine "B".

"I have had this statement consisting of six pages read to me and it 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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and is not a U.S. citizen. He states he had never been arrested. [REDACTED] favors the UMW over the PMA, although he admits being contacted in Mine "B" by a UMW man and then joined UMW. He understands English fairly well and speaks English only fair. It is felt he would not make a good witness.

The following signed statement was obtained:

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 4, 1943

"I [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] of [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 [REDACTED] I got my first papers in Springfield in [REDACTED] but I have not yet become a U.S. citizen.

"I first started working in Mine "B" in Springfield in [REDACTED] I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union in [REDACTED] and stayed with UMW until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union because I wanted to keep my job at mine "B". No one forced me in any way to join PMA in 1932. I did not take an active part in organizing PMA and I have never held an office in any union.

"During the time from 1932 to May of 1937 I did not notice any strikes or closedsowns at mine "B" except that there were probably a few times when the mine closed down because of slack work. But I cannot remember when this was. During this time I never noticed that any of the company officials tried to discredit the PMA or tried to make any of us join UMW. I heard they liked UMW but I never saw anything to indicate that.

"During this time I did not think that the PMA was an honest union. They made many assessments against us and I thought it was a racket. I don't know for certain who got this money, but if the officers of this local did not get the money I do not know who did get

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

the money. I did not take an active interest in the PMA union.

(continued)

"I remember there were some bombing cases during this time, but I took no interest in them and cannot say whether the trials were fair.

"During this time between 1932 and May 1937, I never noticed any attempt by the UMW to organize Mine "B". I noticed no strikes and I never saw any UMW literature. I do not know anything about any members of PMA in May of 1937 and I never heard there were UMW spies in PMA.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937. On May 12, 1937, I went to work as usual, and when I went down into the mine some one said we were to load only half cars. I don't remember who said this. But I did not load any of my cars short that day and I worked all day. When I came up at the end of the day I heard that [REDACTED] had called us out, but I didn't know why. A couple of minutes later some one told me that we went out because the company would not open under PMA.

"I did not go to work the next day, and never received any notice to come back to work until Nov. 1939. Sometime in Sept. of 1937 I heard from some miners that a picket line had been set up that day at Mine "B", so I went out there the next day to look around. That was the only time I went out to Mine "B" during the picketing.

"After the strike started I think I signed one petition for PMA. UMW asked me to sign a petition in the summer of 1937 but I did not sign it. I did not know when the UMW local had been formed.

"I did not attend many PMA meetings in 1937. I do not know why the picket line was taken off in the fall of 1937.

"I voted in the National Labor Relations Board election in Dec. 1937, when PMA won over UMW. I was not forced or threatened in any way and I think it was a fair election.

"In Nov. 1939 I got a registered letter that the Mine "B" was going to open, I went back to work there in Nov. 1939. I heard there were some cave-ins, but I never saw them. I never saw that there had been any fires and no one told me there had been.

"About two or three months after the mine opened [REDACTED]

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] asked me to join the UMW but no one ever forced or threatened me at any time to join UMW. I told him I would think it over and about two or three weeks later I joined UMW.

I never saw anyone get beat up out at the mine and I never saw anyone else try to organize for UMW at Mine "B".

"I joined UMW because I was disgusted with all the death benefits I was having to pay PMA and not know where the money went.

"I voted in an NLRB election in about Feb. of 1941 when UMW beat PMA. No one forced or threatened me in any way at that election and I think it was a fair election.

"I prefer UMW over the PMA.

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

Witness

(Signed) [REDACTED]

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

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

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INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] Springfield, Illinois was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 4, 1943. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] speaks English and would make a fair witness.

[redacted] provided the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 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] emigrated to the U.S. in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in [redacted]

"I started mining coal in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted] at which time I became a member of UMW. In about [redacted] I started mining coal at Mine "B" and remained there until Jan. 1943, except during the strikes. I stopped working at Mine "B" at my own free will. I am now employed by [redacted] and I have been employed by [redacted]

"In about 1932 I heard UMW stole some votes cast in an election and for that reason I joined PMA which was being formed at that time. I took no part in the formation of PMA.

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

"I have not held an office or taken an active part in any union.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 the management of Mine "B" seemed to have been on good terms with P.M.A. there was no hostile attitude taken by the management in settling grievances. So far as I remember there were no strikes or close-downs at Mine "B" between 1932 and May 1937.

"I thought PMA was a good union and one operated for the benefit of its membership, no unusual special assessments were made against me.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

"I took no interest in the bombing cases.

(continued)

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 I did not see a UMW picket line at Mine "B", nor did I see any UMW literature being distributed at Mine "B". No one attempted to get me to change from PMA to UMW.

"I did not know of a wage scale controversy 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 had notice of the meeting.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I went to work as always and loaded my coal cars full. In the afternoon that day someone told me there was a strike as PMA and Mine "B" could not come to an agreement about something. I was not told why the strike occurred. I did not know of anyone being expelled from PMA prior to May 12, 1937 or after that date.

"I do not remember signing any PMA petitions in the summer of 1937, but I know I did not sign any UMW petitions.

"I did not know of a new UMW local being formed in the summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 I heard that that PMA had pickets at Mine "E" and I voluntarily went to Mine "B" to picket. I acted as a picket for about two weeks at the end which time I went to work at the Panther Creek Coal Mine. I do not know what went on at Mine "B" from about Oct. 1937 until about Nov. 1939 when I received notice that Mine "B" was to re-open. I did not vote in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937.

"I went back to work at Mine "B" in the last part of 1939 as a member of PMA. I did not see the results of any large fires although there were many cave-ins. No one requested me to change from PMA to UMW prior to the election in Feb. 1941. I did not see any fights at Mine "B" prior to Feb. 1941 although I heard someone was beaten on account of union trouble.

"I voted in the NLRB election Feb. 1941 for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair.

"I joined UMW a short time after the election in Feb. 1941 because majority of the miners were UMW. It does not make any difference

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] to me whether I am a member of PMA or UMW.
(continued)

(Signed) [REDACTED]

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his home, 9-4-43. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] would not make a good witness [REDACTED] inability to speak or understand English very well. [REDACTED] provided the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,
September 4, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, 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] emigrated to the U.S. in [REDACTED] I became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in [REDACTED] I have been employed at Mine "B" since about [REDACTED] and I am at the present employed at Mine "B".

"I became a member of UMW in about [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. at which time I started to work in the Peabody Mines.

"In about 1932 I became a member of PMA because my local UMW changed to PMA. I took no active part in the formation of PMA.

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

"I have never been an officer of any union.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes or close-downs at Mine "B". The management seemed to have been on good terms with PMA and the management was not hostile in settling grievances.

"I thought PMA was a good union being operated for its membership. No unusual assessments were made against my pay. I took no active part in union activity.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases.

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INTERVIEW WITH
(continued)

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 I did not see any UMW pickets at Mine "B", nor did I see any UMW literature being distributed. Prior to May 12, 1937 no one attempted to get me to change from PMA to UMW.

"I do not remember a wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

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

"I remember the strike at Mine "B" started on May 12, 1937, but I do not remember any details. I do not know if I worked that day or not, nor do I know the reason for the strike.

"I do not remember anyone being expelled from PMA before or after May 12, 1937.

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

"I do not remember the formation of a new UMW local in the Summer of 1937.

"In Sept. 1937 I heard PMA was having a set down strike at Mine "B". I went to Mine "B" several days as a picket as I was a member of PMA. No one told me I had to act as a picket. In the last part of 1937 an injunction was obtained to prevent picketing at Mine "B". It made no difference to me whether PMA was allowed to picket at Mine "B" or not.

"I did not know of Mine B" opening in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. The election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

"Sometime in the last part of 1939 I received a letter to return to work at Mine "B". I returned to work at Mine "B" in the last part of 1939 as a member of PMA and paid my dues in PMA until I joined UMW sometime in the first part of 1941. No one asked me to join UMW nor did anyone threaten me if I did not join.

"In Feb. 1941 I voted for UMW in the N.L.R.B. election as majority of the miners at Mine "B" were voting for UMW. I think the election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

"UMW won the N.L.R.B. election, therefore, I joined UMW a short time later. No one asked me to join.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
(continued)

"I heard some of the miners were beaten because they would not join UMW, but I never saw any fights.

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

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

[REDACTED]
"Witnessed:-

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

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] September 3, 1943. [REDACTED] has a fair understanding of English although he is uneducated. [REDACTED] would make a fair Government witness as he is very forceful in his loyalty to PMA. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 3, 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]

"I started working in a coal mine when I was about [REDACTED] years old. In about [REDACTED] I joined the Federation of Miners in Pa. I joined UMW in about [REDACTED] in Ill. I remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I became a member of PMA. I changed from UMW to PMA because I heard UMW stole the votes cast in 1932 concerning the wage scale.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have held no office in any union since [REDACTED]

"I was employed at Mine "B" in about [REDACTED] as a miner and remained in the employment of Mine "B" until May 12, 1937. I am at the present retired.

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

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

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INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]

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"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes or close downs at Mine "B". The management seemed to be on good relations with PMA prior to May 12, 1937 and the management was not hostile in settling grievances.

"I thought PMA was a good union and one which the members operated. No unusual special assessments were made against me. I took no active part in union affairs when I was a member of PMA.

"I did not think the PMA members in the bombing cases got a fair trial. I think UMW produced false evidence in the cases.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 I do not remember UMW setting up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did I see UMW distribute any literature at Mine B.

"About two weeks before May 12, 1937 CHARLES BOHANNON asked me what I would do if UMW took control of Mine "B". I informed him I would quit. BOHANNON said no more. No one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW prior to May 12, 1937.

"Prior to May 12, 1937 I did not see the management of Mine "B" with UMW officials. I heard from unknown sources at Mine "B" that CHARLES BOHANNON, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, JOE ALBANESE, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, GEORGE JACOMAY and EMORY JACOMAY were attempting to organize UMW at mine "B". In the Spring of 1937 I saw the above mentioned men almost every morning in the Mine "B" office talking to someone in that office. I do not know who they talked to in the mine office.

"So far as I know there was no wage scal controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 and I do not remember if I received notice or not.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 someone told me that CHARLES BOHANNON, DOMINIC PASQUALE, FRANK AUSTIN and some others, the names of whom I do not know, were expelled from PMA because they were trying to organize UMW at Mine "B". Someone told me to load the coal cars short on the morning of May 12th and I loaded some cars short that day. I do not know the reason for loading cars short. On the morning of May 12, 1937 there was no growing sentiment to strike. About 2:00 PM May 12, 1937, I was told by a bottom boss that the mine was on strike. I was told by [REDACTED] a pit committeeman that the strike was called because the management of Mine "B" would not discharge the men expelled from PMA.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
(continued)

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"I signed a PMA petition at a PMA picket line at Mine "B" in the summer of 1937 naming PMA as my bargaining agent. I signed the petition voluntarily.

"I signed no UMW petition in the summer of 1937.

"I heard a new UMW local was formed in the summer of 1937, but I was not asked to join.

"In Sept. 1937 I heard somehow that Mine "B" was to open, therefore, I reported for work. On that morning UMW members were allowed to enter the mine and for that reason PMA refused to work. No one told me I could not work. I acted as a voluntary picket at Mine "B" until an injunction was served by the U. S. Marshal, in Dec. 1937. The PMA members did not think they should have been enjoined from picketing at Mine "B". No outside pickets were brought in to picket.

"I did not know of Mine "B" opening in December 1937 and Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. I think the election was fair.

"I received notice in about Nov. 1939 that Mine "B" was to open as an open mine, but I would not go to work unless PMA got a contract.

"I lost all interest in Mine "B" after 1939 [REDACTED]

"I have had this five page statement read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] known as [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, on September 3, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] years of age and [REDACTED]. He had great difficulty in speaking and appeared [REDACTED]. The interview was terminated after a short while as it was felt [REDACTED] made it inadvisable to tax him further. [REDACTED] It is felt he would make a very poor witness. [REDACTED] advised he favored PMA, that he no longer likes UMW and that he personally dislikes John L. Lewis because Lewis deals with the operators and forgets the miners.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 23, 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] came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED]

"I started working in mine "B", Springfield, in [REDACTED] and was a member of the United Mine Workers Union. In May of 1937 Mine "B" closed, and I never got any notice to come back to work-- and never was notified to come back in 1939.

"I was never forced or threatened in any way by anyone from UMW or PMA.

[REDACTED]

"Just before the Mine "B" closed in May, 1937, there were about twenty or twenty five men in PMA who were really working for UMW. I do not remember whether these men were expelled from PMA but the reason I heard the mine closed was because the company did not want to do business with PMA but wanted to work with UMW. I heard these 'spies' were paid \$35.00 a week by UMW while they were members of PMA and working in Mine "B". All this was common talk but I cannot state where I got this information.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
(continued)

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

[REDACTED] (signed).

WITNESS

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, September 8, 1943:

[REDACTED] Agents interviewed [REDACTED] and he advised he never has been arrested in his life. He also said he quit Mine "B" about two years ago.

[REDACTED] is more intelligent than the ordinary miner and he thoroughly understood all questions and answered them readily. It is felt that he would make a good witness if his testimony were necessary. Agents obtained the following signed statement from him:

[REDACTED]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made to me to give this statement.

"I was born [REDACTED] I first joined U.M.W. about [REDACTED] years ago at Springfield, Ill., & I never have been an officer. I went to work for Mine B about [REDACTED] or so & also worked there before once. Before 1932 ELSHOFF & U.M.W. seemed to get along alright but there seemed to be difficulties between committees. I was a blacksmith there. I took no part in going over to P.M.A. as all did & one one forced me to go over. Between 1932 & 1937 they were about same as under U.M.W. but there was no difficulties that I know of. I never heard ELSHOFF or FALCETTI say anything against P.M.A. I never attended many meetings at all & I just paid my dues & didn't pay any attention to union affairs. I never knew if P.M.A. officials were taking money or doing wrong things but as far as I know they were O.K. & looked after the mens rights. Assessments were about the same as in any union - had them for sick members etc. I never felt they used the money for other purposes than union affairs. Before Mine B closed there were some U.M.W. organizers working in Mine B & I was asked by them to go back to U.M.W. & I told them I would go the way the rest of them did. I never got any literature from them. There were 4 or 5 that I saw around & I believe that some of them were SALLY; CHARLES BOHANNON & ANDY SCHRELEVIOUS. I never heard of U.M.W. or ELSHOFF giving parties. In spring of 1937 the men were saying we were working without a contract but just a few talked about it & they never were mad about it & they just kept on working. The Pit Committee would handle such matters & I didn't hear any of the above men complain or talk about it. I never heard the company say anything about the

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

wages. I heard there was going to be a meeting the night before it closed but I didn't go as I quit then at 2 P.M. On the day the mine closed I heard nothing about the mine going to close. I did not hear anything about some men being expelled the night before. I know nothing of any cars being loaded short. I was just leaving when I saw [redacted] at the mine & other miners at the mine but I kept on going home & I saw them go into the engine room but that evening I heard the men were called out & I did not know of it when I left. I later heard that the trouble was because the P.M.A. didn't want to work with some U.M.W. men. After Mine B closed I believe I signed a petition for P.M.A. & some one came to my house and he didn't force me to sign it. [redacted] brot it to my house. I don't recall of signing any petition for U.M.W. & I can't recall of signing anymore petitions for P.M.A. I heard that U.M.W. formed a new local & I read of it in papers & no one came to me about it. During summer of 1937 I can't recall anything unusual happening & I went to a couple of P.M.A. meetings. I heard that some Mine B men went to Jefferson Mines. I heard ELSHOFF took it over as a Receiver. HAROLD McDONALD, now dead, was over & I think EMORY JACAWAY was over there too. I also heard FALCETTI was over there, too.

"In fall of 1937 I went out on picket line several nights. It didn't make sense to me in going out. The men were quiet & I saw no trouble. The men claimed they might run into some U.M.W. guys. No one made me go out to picket. Nothing bad happened there. I never saw any outsiders doing picket work. I was not there when the U. S. Marshall came out. I heard of the Mine going to be reopened but I didn't go out & I heard of it thru someone. I voted at first N.L.R.B. election at Armory in Springfield, Ill. It was by secret ballot. Everything was O.K. as far as I know. I didn't see any U.M.W. men giving out literature but I saw some standing around. No one told me how to vote. I went to vote right from home. I voted for P.M.A. Later I did not go out when they attempted to reopen it. I heard it was to be opened under U.M.W. so I did not go out. I don't know why ELSHOFF would not sign a contract with P.M.A. but I heard he wouldn't. In fall of 1939 I got a letter to come back to work & I went out & at time I was on P.W.A. I saw FALCETTI & he told me to come to work the next morning. The didn't say a thing about wages or union. After the mine opened there were new men there at the mine, but that was not unusual. I don't know if they were P.M.A. or U.M.W. I went back as P.M.A. & kept on paying dues to them for some time. I never heard ELSHOFF say he wanted U.M.W. back. There were some U.M.W. organizers around & I heard of fights & trouble but never saw any. In summer of 1940 I never signed any cards for P.M.A. or U.M.W. [redacted] came to my house once & said they were going back to U.M.W. & that they already elected officers & were going to have a meeting in the U.M.W. Bldg. & that I should come up & I told him I would be there & I did & saw only 8 or 10 in there & I left at once. I think the same bunch was there & EMORY JACAWAY. I joined up with U.M.W. after they won the second N.L.R.B. election. I never saw any preference for U.M.W. over P.M.A. For a while this bunch was talking

RE: JOHN L. LEVIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

to all of us about joining up with U.M.W. I voted at second N.L.R.B. election I think -- no, I don't think I did & I don't recall why I didn't go down. I felt that U.M.W. was going to win so didn't go down.

"I don't know what the condition of Mine B was when it opened as I worked on top & it took just a few days to get coal out again. I don't know of a fire at Mine B when it was closed. I was not at a meeting when GLASCOE talked. I had to join up with U.M.W. otherwise I wouldn't have a job.

"I have read over this seven (7) page statement & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge & I can't recall anything else of interest and I have signed this of my own free will."

/s/

WITNESSES:

Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)

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

Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 8, 1943

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] September 4, 1943. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] would not make a good witness as it is difficult for him to speak and understand English.

[REDACTED] provided the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 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] emigrated to the U.S. about [REDACTED] I am a registered [REDACTED] I am employed by the [REDACTED] and was employed by that company in Oct. 1937.

"I was employed by Mine "B" in about [REDACTED] and remained in the employment of Mine "B" until May 12, 1937 at which time Mine "B" closed.

"I became a member of U.M.W. in about [REDACTED] when I started mining coal in Ill. I remained a member of UMW until 1932, when I became a member of PMA until 1932, when I became a member of PMA. I became a member of PMA because the local UMW of which I was a member changed from UMW to PMA. I was not active in the formation of PMA.

"I have never held an office in any union.

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

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B", nor did Mine "B" close down. During that period of time the management of Mine "B" was on good relations with PMA and did not try to discredit PMA to me. Although about six months prior to May 12, 1937 I heard Oscar Falcetti telling some of the miners that Mine "B" was to be UMW within two years from that time. I do not

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Know the reason for Falcetti's remark. From 1932 to May 12, 1937 the management of Mine "B" was not hostile in its attitude settling grievances.

"I think PMA is an honest union; being operated for its members, no unusual special assessments have been made against me. I have never taken an interest in union activities. I am at present a member of PMA and I think it is a good union.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases and I do not know whether the PMA members convicted, got a fair trial or not.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937, so far as I know, UMW did not set up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did UMW distribute any literature at Mine "B". About six months prior to May 12, 1937 Charles Bohannon and Tony Plotch told me that UMW was better than PMA and wanted to know if I wanted to join UMW. I did not answer Bohannon or Plotch and they said no more to me. I do not know if they talked to anyone else. No one other than Bohannon and Plotch made efforts to convert me from PMA to U.M.W.

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

"I did not know of a wage scale controversy in the spring of 1937.

"On the night of May 11, 1937 I attended a regular meeting of PMA. Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, George Jacaway and Charles Bohannon were to have been expelled that night. I did not stay until the meeting ended and do not remember the details. The members at the meeting were talking about striking the following day as they did not think those expelled would be discharged from Mine "B". I do not know if the above mentioned men defended themselves, but they were charged with attempting to organize Mine "B" for UMW.

"I did not go to work May 12, 1937 as I thought there would be a strike if those expelled from PMA were not discharged, therefore I can furnish no information as to what went on that day. I heard later a strike was called.

"I do not remember signing any petition in the summer of 1937. I know I did not sign an UMW petition.

"I heard a new UMW local was formed in the summer of 1937,

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

but I was not asked to join.

(continued)

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 I heard PMA had a picket line at Mine "B". I went to mine "B" two or three times to talk with the pickets, but I did not stay. No one threatened me if I did not act as a picket. I received no notice Mine "B" was to have opened in Sept. 1937.

"I received a job at [REDACTED] Sherman, Ill. in Oct. 1937 and lost all interest in Mine "B". I can furnish no information as to what occurred at Mine "B" after Oct. 1937. I did vote in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. As far as I know the election was fair.

"I met [REDACTED] on the street just before Mine "B" reopened in the last part of 1939 at which time he told me Mine "B" was to open as a UMW mine and I should go back to work at Mine "B". I informed him I had a job and did not want to work at Mine "B".

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

His (X) Mark
[REDACTED]

Witnessed: -

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his place of employ-
ment, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on September 7,
[REDACTED] by Special Agents [REDACTED] a [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] and presently resides
at [REDACTED]
He stated he has never been arrested. [REDACTED] speaks and understands
English well, but would give no information of value. He furnished the
following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943,

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

"I was born in [REDACTED]

"I first started working in mines when I went to work in
Mine "B" in Springfield, Ill. in about 1934. I joined the Progressive
Mine Workers of America Union at that time because that was the union at
Mine "B" at that time. I worked at Mine "B" from 1934 to 1937 [REDACTED]

"I do not remember anything about any union activities at
Mine "B". I do not remember any trouble between the United Mine Workers
of America, PMA, or the company. I know Mine "B" closed down in about
May of 1937, but I still do not know why. I do not know anything about
what caused the strike, or if it was a strike or a close down.

"I do not know anything about any labor trouble, any union
union trouble, or about anyone being expelled from PMA in the spring of
1937.

"After the Mine "B" closed down, I got a job at the Jefferson
Mine in Springfield. But I had to join UMW to get the job. No one forced
or threatened me in any way.

"I do not remember getting any kind of notice to come back
to work at Mine "B" in 1939, but I saw it was going to open by reading
the paper, so I went to Mine "B" in Nov. of 1939 and went to work. I
was still a member of UMW and as long as I worked in the mines which was

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

until about Nov. 26, 1941. I remained a member of UMW.

"I do not know anything about any union activity or organizing at Mine "B" as long as I was out there. I was working as [REDACTED] and was a company man, and I never heard of or saw any trouble among the men.

"I remember the National Labor Relations Board held an election but I cannot remember when. I did not vote in this or any other election. I do not remember ever signing at any time any union petitions, either for UMW or PMA.

"When I went back to work in Mine "B" in 1939, I never went back in the mine and I never saw whether or not there had been any fires or caveins while the mine had been closed.

"I have no feelings either for or against either the PMA or UMW. I have belonged to both, and I have no hard feelings toward either. I believe both are honest and I do not know anything wrong about either of them.

"I never noticed that any of the company officials favored either UMW or PMA one over the other.

"I do not know of any fights or trouble of any kind between UMW and PMA in connection with Mine "B". I took no interest in any union activities. I have never held an office in any union and I have never helped to organize any union.

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

Fitness

(Signed) [REDACTED]

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home on September 6, 1943 by
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was cooperative in the
interview and expressed his willingness to testify if necessary. He under-
stands English fairly well, but has difficulty in expressing himself. He
claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 6, 1943

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

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

"I joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] Missouri, and was a
member of that union until 1932, when I was working at Peabody No. 59 when
I joined the P.M.A. When I began working at Mine B, and joined the Pro-
gressive Mine Workers of America, I was satisfied with the P.M.A. because the
leaders seemed square, and the union seemed pretty good. They didn't have
many assessments, merely the regular dues.

"Just before the strike in 1937, I heard that there were some
men agitating for the U.M.W. No one asked me to join, and I don't know
whether the agitators worked at the mine. I don't remember going to a P.M.A.
meeting on the night before the strike. I heard from some men who went to
the meeting that there was to be a strike because Elshoff wouldn't have any-
thing to do with the P.M.A., and only wanted to bargain with the U.M.W. I
never heard of any statements made by the management which would show that
they preferred the U.M.W. to the P.M.A. I don't remember hearing that any men
were kicked out of the P.M.A. Because I had heard that there was to be a
strike, I didn't go to work on that day. I don't think the wage dispute had
anything to do with the strike. When the P.M.A. got only a temporary agree-
ment with Mine B, the miners felt that the P.M.A. officers could get as good
a wage scale as U.M.W., and were satisfied with their efforts. I don't know
anything more about the strike, or the reasons for it.

"I don't remember signing a petition for any union, or being asked
to sign one. I don't ever remember being asked to join a U.M.W. local. I got
a letter about a U.M.W. membership, but don't remember the date of it. In

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INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(continued)

December of 1937 I voted for P.M.A. because I liked conditions under that union, better than under the U.M.W. I wasn't forced to vote a certain way, but could vote as I pleased, and think the election was fair.

"I remember, that in the fall of 1937, I went out to the mine to the picket line. No one made me go out there, but, as a member of P.M.A., I went out to protect my tools and property, and to keep the U.M.W. men from going down into the mine. I think Elshoff got the injunction so the U.M.W. men could get into the mine, rather than to protect his property. I saw only Mine B men on the picket line.

"In the fall of 1939, I went back to Mine B when it opened, to get my tools and clean up the work I had left in 1937. I only stayed about [REDACTED] and couldn't work in the mines any longer. I was not contacted by anyone to join the U.M.W. in the [REDACTED] I was at the mine. After I left the mine, I heard men, among them [REDACTED] say that they had to join the U.M.W. or they would lose their jobs.

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

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 5, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This man has a fair understanding of the English language and can express himself sufficiently to be understood. He said that he was put in jail one night for some trouble in his neighborhood, but denied any other arrest record. He stated that he is willing to testify if necessary.

The following signed statement was obtained::

"Springfield, Ill.
September 5, 1943.

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I am employed at Panther Creek Mine #5.

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

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [REDACTED] I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I began to work in Mine B in [REDACTED] I have never held any office in any union.

"In 1932 I went with the men when all of them joined the P.M.A. From 1932 until 1937 the men and officers of P.M.A. treated me O.K. The officers did all they could to help the miners. I liked the P.M.A. better than the U.M.W. for this reason. When I went back to work in 1939 I was still a member of P.M.A. I quit working at Mine B in 1940 because I did not want to join the U.M.W.

"After the mine reopened in 1939 [REDACTED] told me that if I did not join the U.M.W. I would get beat up. After this I quit because I did not want to join U.M.W., and because I did not want to get beat up.

"One day when I was in Mine B I recall that I asked [REDACTED] who was a driver, for some more rails in my room. [REDACTED] said that if I joined up with U.M.W. I would get more rails, and everything would be better in the mine, but that as long as P.M.A. had the contract

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

with Mine B conditions would be no better and the miners would not get anything.

"I remember that Schrelevious came to my house a couple of times after the mine reopened, and tried to get me to join U.M.W. He said that I better join the U.M.W., and that if I did not join U.M.W. I would not have a job at Mine B. I told him that I would stay in P.M.A., and then Schrelevious said that soon there would not be any P.M.A.

"I think that Sam (Joe Albanese) came to my house a couple of times. I can't remember his name very well. He tried to get me to join U.M.W., and said that if I did not join U.M.W., I would get a beating.

"As long as I was working at Mine B, I did not hear much about the miners being beaten up. I heard that the rough stuff started after I quit working at Mine B.

"When the strike started in 1937, I think that the reason for it was that there were some U.M.W. men working in Mine B, and the P.M.A. union threw those men out of their union. When the company at Mine B refused to fire those men, the miners who were in P.M.A. struck.

"In September 1937 the management would not let P.M.A. go into the mine, and wanted the U.M.W. men to go into the mine. When the company tried to reopen the mine in the fall of 1937, the first day the U.M.W. men went into the mine. On the second day the P.M.A. would not let the U.M.W. men go into the mine. I think that Elshoff got the federal injunction to keep the P.M.A. men off his premises so that the U.M.W. men could go into Mine B and work.

"In the election in 1937 I voted at the State Armory for the P.M.A. because I liked that union, and I wanted to keep it at Mine B. I did not like U.M.W. I don't remember signing any petitions in 1937.

"After the mine reopened in 1939 the U.M.W. men got better rooms and better working conditions than the P.M.A. men. A man known as [redacted] was an air checker, but he never did any work. He merely walked around trying to organize the men for U.M.W. [redacted] told me that if I did not join the U.M.W. there would be a lot of trouble, but he never told me that I would get beat up. However, he inferred that I would be beat up if I did not join the U.M.W. He talked to me about three or four times.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
(continued)

"Other men also talked to me about joining the U.M.W., but I can't remember their names. In the fall of 1940 I quit working at Mine B because I did not want to join the U.M.W. and I knew I would get beat up if I did not join the U.M.W.

"I remember that before the strike started Schrelevious used to say that there was going to be trouble at Mine B. I don't remember him saying anything about the U.M.W. He was just trying to make trouble among the miners. I don't know of any other trouble makers.

"I never heard Falcetti or Elshoff say anything about their liking U.M.W. better than P.M.A. I did hear that 12 U.M.W. men had been on social parties with Falcetti and Elshoff, but I never saw any of these parties.

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

Witnesses:

(Signed) [REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] understands English fairly well, and can express himself intelligently, but with difficulty. He claimed to have no criminal record. If necessary, he is willing to testify in court.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.
September 4, 1943

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I am employed at Mine A.

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

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [REDACTED] In 1936 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America when I was working at Mine B. In 1942 I rejoined the U.M.W. when they took over the contract at Mine A.

"I began to work at Mine B in 1936. I had nothing to do with the organization of P.M.A. After I became a member of P.M.A. I was satisfied with that union. However, one union is just about the same as any other union to me. I was entirely satisfied with P.M.A.

"No one contacted me before the strike in 1937 about joining U.M.W.

"Before the strike I heard that some U.M.W. men were trying to get men to join the U.M.W. I know of two men who did this, but I can't remember their names.

"I know nothing about the wage scale dispute. I attended a few P.M.A. union meetings, but I don't remember whether I went to the meeting on the night before the strike started or not. I do remember that at a few meetings there was some discussion about kicking some men out of the union because of their U.M.W. activities.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
(continued)

"I can't remember how the strike started, or why it started. The miners started to load their cars with short weights. I remember that we were called out of the mine just before quitting time. I don't know why the miners were loading their cars with short weights, but it might have been over some trouble with the U.M.W. organizers.

"I remember that I signed a P.M.A. petition in 1937, but I can't remember what it was for. I don't remember signing any other petition. I know that I did not sign a petition for U.M.W.

"Nobody came to my house after the strike began to get me to join the U.M.W.

"In September 1937 I think that I received a notice from the management of the mine that the mine would reopen. As I recall the P.M.A. had a meeting the day before the day the mine was to reopen, and it was decided at this meeting that the P.M.A. men would picket the mine if any U.M.W. men were allowed to go down into the mine. Falcetti, the super, tried to push the P.M.A. men away from the cage to let the U.M.W. men get into the cage to go into the mine. The P.M.A. men picketed the mine so that the U.M.W. men could not go into the mine to take away the jobs of the P.M.A. men. The P.M.A. men only wanted to protect their jobs.

"I was in the picket line in 1937 for a long time. I can't remember just how long it was. There were only Mine B men on the picket line. No one forced me to go on the picket line. The P.M.A. had a meeting, and voted to picket the mine if the management tried to put U.M.W. men into the mine.

"While the picketing was going, I obtained a job at Mine A. I have been working at Mine A ever since. I don't know what went on at Mine B after I left. I heard a lot of rumors, but I only want to tell what I know personally.

"I joined the U.M.W. when that union obtained a majority of the miners at Mine A. I was not forced to join U.M.W. I was tired of the strike that had happened at Mine B, and I did not want the same thing to happen at Mine A. I don't care which union I belong to; one is just as good as another.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., was interviewed at his home on September 3, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is able to express himself clearly without hesitation. He speaks English very well, and is able to understand any type of questioning. He advised that he is willing to testify in court. [REDACTED] claimed to have no criminal record.

The following is the signed statement of [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 3, 1943.

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I was born on [REDACTED] At present I working for the [REDACTED]

"I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, about [REDACTED] I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I rejoined the U.M.W. sometime early in 1941. I don't recall whether it was before or after the February election in 1941. [REDACTED]

"I began to work at Mine B about [REDACTED] When the P.M.A. was organized in 1932, I had no part in its formation. I merely went along with the majority when I joined P.M.A. I saw that the majority of the miners wanted the P.M.A. union so I went along with them. I always like to go along with the majority. It seems to me that there was some wrangling at Mine B, but I don't recall what it was about because I always tried to tend to me own business. I don't recall any big trouble at Mine B prior to the strike in 1937.

"After I joined P.M.A. I was always satisfied with that union. The officers were a good bunch of men, and treated the miners squarely. I did not go to many of the union meetings because I was not interested in union affairs. I always considered the P.M.A. a good clean union.

"I don't remember any agitating on the part of any men to turn the miners over to U.M.W. before the strike started in 1937.

"As I recall the men in the spring of 1937 knew that they were working without a permanent contract. All the men, so far as I know, thought

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

that the P.M.A. officials could get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. I don't remember much that happened in this matter because I did not want to have anything to do with it.

"I don't recall going to the P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike started, and I don't remember seeing any notice of the meeting. On the day the strike started in 1937, someone told me that the men were quitting. I heard that some of the miners were sending out cars loaded with short weights, but I don't know if there was any organized plan for the miners to load their cars short. I don't know what the trouble was, and I don't know the reasons for the strike. I later heard that some miners had been agitating for U.M.W., and that the agitators had loaded their cars with short weights. I don't know anything more about the strike.

"I don't remember signing a petition for P.M.A. in 1937, but I know that I did not sign a petition for U.M.W.

"After the strike began Cotton Ananias came to my home and asked me to join the U.M.W. I remember that he said something about Mine B reopening if the U.M.W. had the miners. I saw Ananias several times, but he only came to my home on one occasion. I saw him a couple of times in town. I think that Cotton Ananias told me that the Mine B officials would reopen the mine when U.M.W. had a majority of the miners, but would not open Mine B as long as P.M.A. had a majority of the miners. However, I am not certain that Ananias did say this. I do know that he did not threaten me. Nor did anyone else threaten me.

"I heard that Mine B was going to reopen in September 1939. I went to the P.M.A. union hall and found out that the mine was going to reopen. I also heard that the U.M.W. was going to come in and take some jobs away from P.M.A. men. As I recall there were about 8 or 10 U.M.W. men that were going into the mine. The P.M.A. decided to picket the mine to keep out the U.M.W. men. I don't know when the P.M.A. decided to picket the mine. I went out to the picket line because I wanted to. I stayed with the rest of the men. I saw only Mine B men there.

"It is my opinion that Elshoff got the Federal injunction to keep the P.M.A. men away from the mine so that the mine could get U.M.W. men into the mine.

"I voted in the election in December 1937 at the State Armory, and voted for the P.M.A. I was satisfied with that union, and wanted to keep it. I don't know anything about the details of the election.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I don't remember getting a notice of reopening of the mine in 1939. I don't recall how I learned that the mine was to reopen.

"After I went back to work at Mine B after the reopening in November 1939, Cudde Baumgardner spoke to me about joining U.M.W. He said that the U.M.W. would win the next election, and I inferred from what he said that I would lose my job if I did not sign up. Cotton Ananias also spoke to me several times about joining U.M.W. Bohannon, who was my driver, did not insist too strongly that I join the U.M.W. I remember that [redacted] told me that I had better come to the U.M.W. meeting because the mine was going U.M.W., and there would be no job for me if I did not sign up with U.M.W. Frank Austin also talked to me about joining U.M.W. Tony Plotch told me that Mine B was going U.M.W., but I don't remember that Plotch ever asked me to join the U.M.W. Jimmie Hale spoke to me several times about joining U.M.W. a couple of times. [redacted] also talked to me several times about joining U.M.W. He did not have much to say. None of these men ever threatened me or abused me.

"I recall that [redacted] was an air checker at Mine B. There was no such position at the mine before the strike started in 1937. [redacted] spent most of his time talking to the miners.

"I heard a lot of rumors about U.M.W. activities going on in Mine B, but I can't remember exactly what these rumors were. One morning in the wash house at Mine B, I saw [redacted] beaten up by two or three fellows. These three fellows at the same time beat up [redacted]. The fellows who did the beating were [redacted] a man known as [redacted] and the son of [redacted]. I did not see anyone else beat any of the miners. It is my opinion that these men were beat up because they would not join the U.M.W. As I recall [redacted] and [redacted] both told me this. But, even if they did not tell me, I am sure in my own mind that that is the reason why these men were beaten up. I also recall that a fellow named [redacted] was beaten up. The sheriff was at the mine when these beatings were going on, but he did not do anything.

"In my opinion the management seemed to do everything they could do for the U.M.W. men, and everything they could do to harm the P.M.A. men. The U.M.W. men were very friendly with the management, and seemed to be running the show themselves, not Elshoff.

"About a week after [redacted] was beaten up, I signed up with U.M.W. I heard that there were only 16 men left in the P.M.A. when I left them to sign up with U.M.W. I heard that everyone was signing up with U.M.W., and I had an idea that if I did not join the U.M.W. soon, someone would try to give me a beating.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I saw [REDACTED] down in Mine B after he had been beaten up. Everyone thought that Bohannon did it, but Bohannon could not have done it because I was with Bohannon when [REDACTED] was brought out. Bohannon could not have beaten [REDACTED] in the short time that he was away from me that day. [REDACTED] was very active in P.M.A., and I think Baumgardner beat him.

"I was dissatisfied with the mine and the union fights. I became fed up with the mine as a whole and decided to quit.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois on September 5, 1943.

At his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he has never been in any trouble nor has he ever been arrested. He appeared to be fairly cooperative and it is believed that he would ^{now} make a very good witness unless his testimony was necessary. He appeared to understand questions and gave answers to them, but cannot read the English language very well. He indicated he did not know much about the trouble and this may be true, because he was working nights and never attended union meetings. The following signed statement was obtained from him.

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

"I, [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Spec. Agts. of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made to to procure this statement and I give it of my own free will. I started at mine 'B' in Feb. 1937 as a timberman. I have worked there ever since working from 9:00 PM to 4:30 AM. I was born in [redacted] I came to the U.S. in [redacted] and became a citizen in [redacted] at Springfield. I first joined a mine union in [redacted] this was a U.M.W. union. I have never been a union officer. I dropped U.M.W. and became P.M.A. when I went to work at Mine 'B'. I joined P.M.A. because at that time I had to to work at mine 'B'. During the few months I was at mine 'B' the P.M.A. and Elshoff got along alright so far as I know. I was working nights and knew nothing of what happened in the day time. So far as I know the P.M.A. men got on alright with their officials. I did not attend meetings as I worked nights. I just did my job and paid my dues. Before the mine closed the P.M.A. seemed to be taking more dues than they should I dont know what this was for but they would take from \$1.50 to \$3.00 when they were only supposed to take \$1.50. The only special assessments were death benefits. I never saw the U.M.W. picket mine 'B' prior to the strike. I no nothing of any efforts of any kind to switch the men from P.M.A. to U.M.W.

"I never heard anything about any parties being given by Elshoff to U.M.W.

"When the union contract ran out in 1937 I saw in the papers that there was to be a temporary agreement until final settlement could be reached. We felt settlement could be reached. We felt that any contract gotten by either U.M.W. or P.M.A. would be the same. There were no disputes at the mine on paydays just prior to the strike nor were

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

there any slowdowns or stoppages. I never heard anything about the management saying anything about the wage question. I don't know or bother about such things. I just attend to my own business.

"I did not go to work the night of May 12, 1937. I went to the mine but someone from the union called out to the mine and told us not to go down that they were on strike. [redacted] the engineer told me we were on strike he did not tell me why. I still don't why the strike started. I don't remember signing any petition for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. the summer of 1937. I heard that summer that U.M.W. had formed a local in Springfield but no one asked me to join. I remember nothing of interest happening during the summer of 1937. When the Co. attempted to open the mine in Sept. 1937, I read it was to open. Several of us went out but did not go on the mine property. The sit-down started either that same day or the next one. I used to go out once in a while during the sit down strike. I stayed out there 5 or 6 days in all. I went out of my own free will when I did go. The P.M.A. men were there to protect the mine. There were no outsiders there and everything was peaceful. I was not there when the marshall came.

"I heard through the papers that they were going to open the mine on Dec. 13, 1937. I did not go out.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election, this was by secret ballot and I still do not care to tell which way I voted. I know P.M.A. won and feel this ~~was~~ the way most of the men felt.

"I was not at the mine when they tried to open it in 1938 in Jan.

"As far as I know the reason the mine was closed so long was because Elshoff wouldn't open it with a Progressive union and the men said that if he wouldn't open it as Progressive they wouldnt open it at all.

"I heard that Falsetti was operating the Jefferson mine while Mine "B" was closed. this was just talk so far as I know.

"When the mine opened in 1939, I got a letter telling me to come back within a certain no. of days. I went & saw Falsetti and he told me to come to work that night. Nothing was said at this time as to the wage scale. After the mine opened I continued to pay my dues to P.M.A. I did not join U.M.W. till after the 2nd election when I turned over in order to keep my job.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"From the time the mine opened till after the 2nd N.L.R.B. election nobody ever came to me at home or at the mine to join the U.M.W. After U.M.W. won the election I heard you had to join U.M.W. to keep your job so I joined up. I never heard any statement by the management as to which union they would prefer. I knew nothing of any acts of favortism. I dont know whether there were a lot of new men in the mine as I never saw the men.

"I voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election, this was an honest election as far as I know. No one told me how to vote and I never saw anybody with leaflets or anything. This was by secret ballot and I still dont care to state how I voted. I paid P.M.A. dues to the month before the lection.

"The mine was in bad shape when it opened, lots of cave-ins and lots of slate. I dont know how much it cost to put it back in shape but it was 3 weeks before it could open.

"I know nothing of any fire at the mine in 1939.

"I know nothing of any meeting where Jack Flascow was kicked out.

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

Signed: [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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

Springfield, Ill
Sept. 5, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 7, 1943.

At the residence of [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, which is the address of [REDACTED] he was interviewed and advised that he has never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that [REDACTED] appeared to be more intelligent than the ordinary miner and he readily understood the questions asked him. He was very cooperative and he will make a good witness if he is called upon to testify. He furnished Agents with the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943

"I [REDACTED] hereby give the following statement to [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Spec. Agts. of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement.

"I was born [REDACTED] I came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] I am now waiting for my final papers. I first started at mine "B" in [REDACTED] I am a coal-digger. I first joined a mine union about [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] this was U.M.W. I have never held a union office.

"From the time I went to mine "B" till 1932 I know nothing of the relation between Elshoff and the U.M.W. I joined the P.M.A. in 1932 because everyone else at mine "B" joined.

"There was no trouble between Elshoff and the P.M.A. from 1932 to 1937. I no nothing about Elshoff or Falsetti making any statement opposed to P.M.A. or favoring U.M.W. during this time. I believe they got along alright.

"From 1932 to 1937 the P.M.A. men got along alright with their union officials. In this period the men were given their say in union affairs when they wanted. I attended union meetings at this period when I felt like it. I never felt the union officers were spending union money wrong. They made regular reports to the union members on the money. We had no unusual assessments during this time, there was a 10% assessment to help other miners.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"Before the strike in 1937, I never saw the U.M.W. picket mine B and never got any literature or pamphlets from them. There were five men in P.M.A. who wanted to get the P.M.A. men to join U.M.W. Some of those I remember are "Sammie" Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelivous, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, & Chas. Bohanon. Most of them never bothered me before the mine closed. But I heard that they were around contacting others. I knew nothing about any "Parties" being given by Elshoff for U.M.W. officials or U.M.W. for him.

"When the union contract ran out in 1937, we were told by P.M.A. officials that there was a temporary agreement under which we were to get back pay for any increase we might get. We all felt at this time that the P.M.A. would get the same contract as U.M.W. The men seemed satisfied with the way the contract was being handled and there was no fussing about pay on pay day. I don't know any thing about what the so-called U.M.W. spics had to say at this time. The management said nothing about the wage question. I did not go to any meeting the day before the strike and did not know anything about it. The morning of the strike I heard that the Company would not fire five men who were for the U.M.W., there was nothing said about wages that morning. The miners felt these men should have been fired. I knew nothing about any cars being loaded short on the day of the strike. I knew nothing about any strike until quitting time. I was in box [REDACTED] When we came on top I heard a strike was called because the Co. would not fire the 5 U.M.W. agitators. For a couple of weeks after this we had a picket line at Mine "B" this was on the road away from the mine and was entirely peaceful and voluntary. We were just there to protect our jobs.

"I remember signing a petition on the road while out on the road picketing. I signed this of my own free will. This was to show that the most of the men were P.M.A., they wanted to see how many were P.M.A. & how many U.M.W.

"I don't remember anyone saying any thing to me about signing any U.M.W. petition.

"I don't remember signing any other petition for P.M.A. I would have been willing to however.

"I saw in the summer of 1937, by the papers, that U.M.W. was forming a local in Springfield. I remember nothing else happening during this summer.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I went to the mine the first day that the mine opened in 1937, I read it was to open in the paper. I went to the mine to work. When I got there the U.M.W. officials were in the mine office and told me if I would join I could go to work. I refused to do this. I saw some of the men previously mentioned go down into the mine. I remember "Sammie" went down with clean clothing on. I went home and heard that night the P.M.A. was going to picket so I went to help. We went to protect our job. We were there of our own will, to protect our job and guard the property. There was no trouble during this, all of the men there were from our own local. We were allowed to go and come as we pleased. A few U.M.W. men came out but they said nothing they were just there to look. I was at the mine the evening the marshall came out, he read something to us & told us we had to leave. We were heartbroken over this feeling we had lost our job.

"I did not go out when they tried to open the mine a few days later. I did hear about it.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election. I went right from home to the Armory. I voted for P.M.A. because that was the way I wanted to vote. This was an honest and good election, by secret ballot. I did not see any U.M.W. men or anyone else giving out literature at that time.

"I heard on the radio that Mine B was open in Jan. 1938 and that some men had gone to work, but I did not go out.

"I know nothing about how Elshoff was able to keep the mine closed so long. I heard that Tony Plotch was working at the Jefferson mine, his uncle "Tony" told me. I knew nothing of Falsetti going to work there.

"I got a registered letter telling me when the mine was to open in 1939. I went out on Nov. 10, 1939 at that time I saw Falsetti who asked me my check number and put me back to work at once in my own room. Nothing was said about wages or unions at the time. I figured we would get the Ill. union wages.

"We knew Elshoff would not deal with the P.M.A. but had no idea why.

"I paid P.M.A. dues after we went back and up until 2nd N.L.R.B. election when I joined U.M.W. Tony Plotch, John "Cotton" Ananais, and a third man came and saw [REDACTED] and myself at [REDACTED] home, to get us to sign up for U.M.W. I believe this was in August 1940. I told them I would not join until the P.M.A. local did, they did not threaten me but they told me I would have no job if I did not join. A short time later

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

"Sammie" Joe Albanese came to get us to join the U.M.W. two other men were with him who stayed in the car. He wanted to know when we were going to join up with U.M.W. but he made no threats. [REDACTED] told "Sammie" that if her husband joined up with the scabs she was going to divorce him. Still later [REDACTED] talked to me in the mine asking me to join U.M.W. I again refused to join and he told me I better join before the time was up or I would have no job. The F.M.A. never did any thing to keep their men or get new ones. I saw plenty of new faces at the mine a couple or so months after the mine opened. Many of these men left after the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. The mine management did nothing at this time to show that they favored the U.M.W. over the F.M.A. I got lots of docks after I went back but I can't say whose fault it was. I don't remember signing any cards for either U.M.W. or F.M.A. in the summer of 1940.

"I never saw anyone get heat up at the mine. I saw lots of them go away with black eyes, but I never saw the fights though I heard about plenty.

"When we went back to work the mine was in bad condition. I do not know any thing about any fire in 1939 or while the mine was closed.

"I voted at the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. I voted for P.M.A. I had already joined the U.M.W., because I felt I had to. I think the election was honest, it was by secret ballot just like the first one. I was not forced to vote.

"I joined about a month before the election. I was initiated into it with the last group.

"I don't remember any meeting where Jack Glasgow was kicked out.

"I have had Spec. Agt. [REDACTED] read this 10 page statement to me as I have difficulty reading & to the best of my knowledge and belief the information therein is all true and correct. I am therefor signing it of my own free will."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

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

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

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 7, 1943"

RE:
JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that in view of the fact he has a great deal of difficulty in speaking the English language, he had never paid much attention to Union activities at the mine. [REDACTED] stated also that his memory is vague as to the chronological order of events that took place in 1937.

It is believed that [REDACTED] would only make a fair witness.

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

"9/3/43

[REDACTED], Ill.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in [REDACTED]. I became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED] and presently reside on [REDACTED].

"I started work as a Miner in [REDACTED] and joined the U. M. W. at that time. I have never held any office in any union. I go to about half the union meetings. I started working at Mine B in March of [REDACTED]. When I started work at Mine B I was already a member of the P. M. A. union.

"I remember that our contract with the Mine expired on March 31, 1937 and our union was trying to get a new contract with better wages. [REDACTED] told us to go ahead and work and when the contract was signed he would see to it that we would get back pay. We worked about a month and still we didn't get any back pay and we didn't know what the terms of the new contract were to be.

"At about this same time I heard that some of the Progressive men were trying to organize for the U. M. W. These men were telling us that Progressive wouldn't be able to get us a good contract. I remember [REDACTED] was one of the men who was talking about the contract. I never heard that any of these men were ever expelled from the union. I did not attend any meeting when the men were kicked out of the union.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

"I remember that I went to work as usual on the day of the strike. I was a digger in box [REDACTED] and our union man, [REDACTED]

told us not to load the cars full until the company kicked the men out who were supposed to be members of United. I loaded cars short just like the rest were doing and I think it was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon when we were told to leave the pit. I came on top and washed up and then came home. I didn't talk to anybody, and didn't realize the mine was on strike when I came home. I can't remember whether I went back to work the next day or not.

"I don't remember ever signing a petition for Progressive in the spring or summer of 1937. I went out to the mine in Sept. of 1937 because I heard the mine was going to open again. When we heard that the Company was going to let the U. M. W. men work with us we decided we wouldn't work and that all of us would sit down at the mine. I stayed on the picket line for about 7 weeks. Our union officers told us we had to stay on picket duty if we wanted to hold our job. I came home during the time I was on picket duty to look over my house in [REDACTED] and clean up. The men didn't want me to come home, but I came home anyway. Nobody ever threatened me or hit me for leaving the picket line. I wasn't on picket duty when the picket line was stopped by the injunction in Dec. of 1937.

"I voted in the N L R B election of Dec. 1937 and as far as I was concerned everything went along fine. There wasn't any fighting and the men voted the way they wanted to.

"In November of 1939 I got a letter from the Company telling me to come back to work. I went to the mine on Saturday and was told to come back to work on Monday. I went back to work the next Monday and started in at my old section.

"I kept up my dues in P M A for some time after I started back at the mine. I kept telling Bohannon and others who wanted me to join United, that I wouldn't join until the majority joined. Nobody ever threatened me to join any union. I joined the United because there wasn't any difference in either union as far as I could see. They both make you pay dues and I'll go whichever way the rest go. Nobody has ever bothered me at the mine and as far as I'm concerned I can't say much as to what the union has done. I am still employed at Mine B.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
(continued)

"This entire statement of 4 pages has been read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

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RE: JOHN L. LEVIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 5, 1943 at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks English with difficulty but is able to understand it fairly well. Throughout the interview [REDACTED] stated that he has always considered the U.M.W. to be a better union than the P.M.A. He claimed to have no criminal record. Following is a signed statement obtained from [REDACTED].

"Springfield, Ill.
September 5, 1943.

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

"I live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and work at Mine B. I was born [REDACTED], and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized in Springfield in [REDACTED]. I joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] at Auburn, Ill, and remained a member until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. In 1941 I rejoined the U.M.W. I began work at Mine B around 1928. I have never been an officer in any union. In 1932, I became a member of the P.M.A., when the miners split up with U.M.W. I took no part in re-organizing the P.M.A., and don't know the reason it started. I always have liked the U.M.W. better than the P.M.A., because I feel we had better conditions under that union. I went to some of the P.M.A. meetings, mostly because we were fined 50¢ if we didn't go.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike. On the day of the strike, some of the men were loading their cars short, however, I loaded mine full.

"Around quitting time [REDACTED] told me the mine was shutting down. I don't know why the strike was called, and don't even remember hearing any reasons for the strike. I don't remember signing any petitions in 1937.

"In September of 1937 a picket line was thrown around the mine. I didn't want to go out to picket the mine, because I was sick, but the P.M.A. officials made me go. I was on the picket line for two days. We were picketing to keep the U.M.W. men from working in the mine. All the men in the picket line were from Mine B. When the company got the injunction to get the men off the premises, [REDACTED] told the men to get off the property.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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G. D.
New York

RE: INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]

(Continued)

"In the election of December 1937, I voted for P.M.A. at the Arsenal. I was a member of the P.M.A. at that time, and was working at Panther Creek Number 5. I favored the U.M.W. but voted for P.M.A. because they had the majority.

"From 1938 to 1940, I was working at Panther Creek Number 5, and don't remember getting any notices that Mine B was going to open up. I don't remember getting any notices before the mine opened in 1939. I don't remember that anyone came to me during that time to get me to join the U.M.W.

"I got a notice that Mine B would reopen, and that I could have my old job back. I didn't go back to work until December 1940, because there was no room for me before that time. In the election of February, 1941, I voted for the U.M.W. because I thought it was a better union, and liked it better. No one made me vote that way. I joined the U.M.W. just after the election. I never heard the management of Mine B say anything that would show they liked U.M.W. better than P.M.A., or vice versa. I have always thought that the U.M.W. was a better union than the P.M.A., and would rather be a member of U.M.W.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of approximately two and a half pages, read to me, and state that it is the truth to the best of knowledge.

[REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

[REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He does not understand English well, and the interview was conducted with difficulty. He appears friendly and cooperative, but due to his poor understanding of English, together with [REDACTED] it is not felt that he would make a satisfactory witness. The statement which was secured from him is set forth as follows:

Ill.

9-6-43

"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 presently reside at [REDACTED] and have been a U.S. citizen a long time. I am presently employed at Mine A. I started mining in [REDACTED] and joined the U.M.W. in that year. I have never held any office in any union.

"I was working at Panther Creek #1 in 1932 when I joined the Progressives. I started working at Mine B in about 1935 and was working there at the time of the strike in 1937. In the Spring of 1937 I recall that the union contract with the company had expired & the union was trying to get a new contract. I also recall that at about this same time some men were trying to organize for United. I know that everyone seemed to be satisfied with Progressive except for about 14 men who were trying to organize for United. As far as I know everyone was satisfied at the mine except those men. Some of the men who were trying to organize were Tony Plotch, Bohannon, Albanese, Pasquale, Andy and others. I remember that these men were trying to tell the other men to join up with United. I always told these men that I would sign up with United when the rest did. I said if everybody joined I would. I believe Tony Plotch asked me to join United before the strike.

"I went to work as usual in box [REDACTED] on the day of the strike and I remember that there was some argument as to whether the Progressive men were going to let those United men work. There were some men in the company office and they said they didn't want the men to work. We all started on our jobs & lot of the men loaded short cars, but I loaded my cars as usual.

"As I remember it we worked until about 2 O'clock in the afternoon when we were told to come out of the mine. At about that time I saw some of the cars that were loaded short. When I came on top I was told

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] that there was a strike on. I think [REDACTED] told our men that a strike had been called.

(continued)

"I don't remember signing any petitions in the summer of 1937 - either Progressive or United. As I remember it, the company tried to open the mine in Sept. of 1937. I went out there and stayed on the picket line off and on until the Marshal came with an injunction in Dec. of 1937. I came home once in a while to clean up and nobody ever told me I couldn't go home. The men all said we had to go on the picket line or we would be called scabs and maybe we would lose our job.

"I voted in the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937 at the Armory in Springfield. I heard a few of the men arguing, but I didn't see any fighting or trouble.

"I went back to work at the mine in November of 1939 when the mine reopened. I worked at the mine for about 5 or 6 months [REDACTED]. I think I went back to my same place in box [REDACTED] when I went back to work in Mine B in 1939. I was out of work for about 5 or 6 months [REDACTED]. I went back to Mine B and asked them for a job. Everybody said the company had a contract with United and a man had to be a member of United before they would hire you. This might have been in the early part of 1941. When they told me they wouldn't have a job for me right away, I went and got a job with Mine A and still work for Mine A.

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

Signed [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois on 9-3-43. At his residence on [redacted] Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he has never been arrested in his life. It was noted that he had great difficulty in understanding the questions and he speaks English very poorly and is of extremely low mentality. It is believed that he would make a very poor witness unless his testimony were absolutely necessary. Agents obtained the following signed statement from him:

"Sept. 3, 1943

[redacted] Ill.

"I, [redacted] hereby give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be spec. agts. of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement. I was born [redacted] I came to the U.S. about [redacted] and became a citizen of the U.S. [redacted] ago at Springfield, Ill. I have not been working for the last [redacted] I first joined a union over [redacted] years ago. I have never been a union officer. When I first went to Mine "B" there was a U.M.W. union there I dont remember how long ago that was. I worked there up until Christmas time about [redacted]

"When I first went to work at Mine "B" the U.M.W. union they had there was alright so far as I know. I dont know anything about the relation between this union and Mr. ELSHOFF or FALSETTI.

"I joined the P.M.A. union when they came in because it was the union there and you had to belong to keep your job. I took no part in forming this union.

"During most of the time we had a Progressive Union at Mine "B" everything was alright as I remember. I heard something about Mr. ELSHOFF wanting to change from P.M.A. back to U.M.W. but I knew nothing of this myself. So far as I know Mr. FALSETTI or Mr. ELSHOFF never said anything to discredit the P.M.A. leaders. While we had the Progressive Union everything was alright. I did not know anything about any trouble between the P.M.A. members and their leaders. The P.M.A. was a good union and fed lots of poor miners. I know nothing about the finances of the Progressives, I went down to meetings lots of times but didnt attend regular because it was too far from here. When there was any question as to what the union should do it was voted on our leaders did not tell us what to do.

RE: JOHN L. LEVY, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

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"Before the strike in 1937 the U.M.W. never bothered us at Mine "B" in any way that I know. Nobody ever tried to get me to join U.M.W. then.

"I never heard of Mr. ELSHOFF giving any parties for U.M.W. men or officials.

"I never heard anything about the temporary wage agreement between [redacted] and Mr. ELSHOFF. I always thought the P.M.A. was a better union and could do as much for the men as any other. I dont remember any fuss over pay at the mine prior to the strike as I recall everything was alright!

"I dont remember whether or not there was a meeting of the Progressives the night before the mine closed if there was such a meeting I did not go to it.

"I dont remember anything about the men being expelled from the Progressives just before the strike. I dont know the reason this strike was called.

"I heard that some of the cars were loaded short on the day of the strike I didn't see any of this however and did not do it myself. I think it was JOHN SCHNIEDER who told the men to load the cars short. I heard no talk in the territory where I was about going on strike. When we came up on top I think [redacted] told us we were not going back into the mine any more, I dont remember the reason for this or whether he gave us any reason or not.

"I dont remember signing any petitions after the strike started for either the Progressives or the United Mine Workers. I dont remember any body trying to get me to sign anything after the strike started.

"I dont remember any thing about the U.M.W. forming a local the summer of 1937.

"There may have been U.M.W. spies in the P.M.A. but I dont know any of them or who they were. I dont recall anything about what these men might have done at the time of the strike or from then until the mine reopened.

"I dont remember any thing about the attempt to open the mine in Sept. 1937. I do remember the picketing there and I took part in it. I was there most of the time except to come home and change clothes once in a while. The men who took part in the picketing were just the local P.M.A. men. I dont recall any union meeting where the P.M.A. decided what to do when the mine tried to open under U.M.W. I just heard that the

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] P.M.A. was picketing out at the mine so my buddy and [REDACTED] (Ph.) went over to help.
(continued)

"Nobody threatened me if I didn't go to help with the picketing. I went of my own will. The first day there were about 10 U.M.W. men over by the Co. office the sheriff sent these men home, because if he hadn't maybe there would have been some fights. After this the U.M.W. men did not come back. The picketing was peaceful and nobody was hurt or bothered. We were just at the mine to protect our jobs.

"I remember when we left some-body came over and read something and we all came away, that was all there was too it no fights no fuss nor anything. Some of the men were glad to leave but some were mad. We all knew that the man who read the paper was just tending to his business so we came on home.

"I dont remember anything about the attempt to open the mine on Dec. 13, 1937. I think I heard about it but I did not go back and dont remember the details now.

"I dont remember anything about the N.L.R.B. election of Dec. 15, 1937. I dont remember ever going to the Armory in Springfield to vote for which union I wanted.

"I dont remember anything about the attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938 under the U.M.W. I can not recall anything outstanding happening between Jan 1938 and Nov. 1939.

"I dont remember how I found out the mine was going to open in Nov. 1939, I dont recall getting any letter I guess I read it in the paper. I dont think I went back to the mine at once I think my buddy went back and he told me when my room was ready. When I went back to work nobody bothered me or tried to get me to join the U.M.W. I did not see anybody get beat up over at the mine but I heard that some fellows did. I dont know of anything the management did to show they favored the U.M.W. Maybe they did but I dont know.

"After we went back to work I saw more U.M.W. men come in until they were about half and half. I got scared maybe there would be trouble so I joined up too. I saw the other men going over so I went over myself.

"I dont remember signing any card for U.M.W. or P.M.A. during the summer of 1940.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
(continued)

"I have had Spec. Agt. [REDACTED] read the forgoing statement of 8 longhand pages to me as I can not read the English language. As I remember it is all true and correct. I am therefore signing the

same.

[REDACTED]

"Witness:

[REDACTED]
Special Agent, F.B.I. (Milw., Wis.)

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

[REDACTED] Ill.
Sept. 3, 1943."

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 6, 1943.

At his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] and he advised he has never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that [REDACTED] is a very intelligent individual and he seemed to recall the dates of different occurrences very quickly. He appeared to know what was going on during the period under investigation. It is felt that he would make a very good witness if his testimony is desired in Court.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a citizen at [REDACTED]. I first joined a mine union in Ill. when I first came to the U.S. I have been working at Mine A as a coal digger since Feb. 1938. I have never held any union office. I started work at Mine "B" in 1936. I was then a member of the P.M.A. I am now a member of U.M.W., as when Elshoff took over Mine "A" he was going to bring in a different crew and in order to keep our job we all went over.

"During the year I was at Mine "B" under the Progressives everything was getting along fine. Things went along well right up to the time of the strike. I never heard Elshoff or Falsetti saw that they disliked the P.M.A. and wanted to get U.M.W. back.

"The P.M.A. men seemed to get along alright right up until the strike. The business of the local was fair and square and the miners could say what they wanted. I attended most of the P.M.A. union meetings. The officials issued reports regular as to where the money was going. There were some special assessments but these were always legitimate union expenses. I never felt the money was being mishandled. I remember when some of the P.M.A. men were sent to prison for bombings and as far

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(continued)

as I know those men were all steady workers. I knew nothing about any of the bombings or other violence.

"From 1936 to 1937 I never saw the U.M.W. men set up any picket line at Mine "B". I never any U.M.W. literature or leaflets distributed at Mine "B", but there were such pamphlets distributed all over the business district one Sunday morning. I knew that there were some U.M.W. men at the mine trying to get the men to leave P.M.A. Some that I recognize are "Sammy" (Joe Albanese), Andy Schrelevious, Domonic Pasquale, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, "Cotton" Ananias, and Charles Bohannon (Bowling Green). None of these men came to my home before the mine closed. I had heard that they went to other mens homes however. I heard they were getting \$35.00 per week as organizers this is all I know about it however.

"I heard that Elshoff was giving some parties. I never went to any however. I had an invitation to attend one party this was supposed to be given by the Republican Party but we heard before the party that U.M.W. organizers were going to be there and anybody who went would have to join U.M.W. This was held at the home of LOUIE CASPER, now dead, the address was on the 1700 Bl. of Peoria Rd. Andy Schrelevious invited me to this party.

"When the contract ran out in the spring of 1937, we heard that there was going to be a 10% raise which would be retroactive. This was told us by the P.M.A. officials. The U.M.W. organizers who were in P.M.A. had been suspended at different meetings over a period of time. There was no feeling that the P.M.A. would not get as good a contract as U.M.W. During April and early May there was no dissatisfaction among the miners over the wage matter.

"On the night of May 11, 1937, a Special Meeting was held. I saw a notice on the bulletin board at the mine. I believe there was pretty good attendance at the meeting. These men had been considered by the trial board and found guilty, they then called for a rising vote and the men voted 90 to 4 to confirm the decision of the trial board. We were told the board had already found they were guilty and that we should vote whether to support that or not. Joe Albanese sat next to me and neither he or anyone else had anything to say in defense of the alleged spies. Albanese himself voted to support the decision of the trial board suspending himself. I believe the next day the company was asked to discharge those men and they said they didn't care who worked there and let them go down. This meeting was held only to consider the suspension of these men. The next morning when we went to work I did not know we were going to strike. So far as I know the men in general did not know of the suspension of the alleged spies. Cars were loaded short that day, the word being

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(continued)

passed along that the cars should be loaded short as a protest against the Co. not firing these men. This was the only day this was ever done. The men were called out that afternoon, we were just told to quite. When I got on top the engineer said we were going on strike as the Co. refused to fire these men. The next day the men started to picket the mine and continued till about the last of May when the officials said the mine was closed. The picketing was entirely peaceful, they only picketed in the morning and no one went to work. I signed a P.M.A. on the road by the mine while we were on picket, no one forced me to sign and I don't think anyone was forced. It was to show the Company how many men the P.M.A. had. I heard of a petition gotten up by the U.M.W. but nobody asked me to sign such petition. I signed a petition in the fall of 1937 for the P.M.A. to send to the N.L.R.B. I signed this of my own free will and no one else was forced to sign as far as I know.

"I heard of the forming of a U.M.W. local in Springfield in the summer of 1937. I don't recall anything else of interest prior to the sit-down strike. When the mine opened in Sept. 1937, I read of it in the papers. It was stated the mine would be opened under U.M.W. All the P.M.A. mostly showed up for this. The P.M.A. officials were at the mine and went to see Elshoff, they later told us they had talked to Falsetti and he had said the U.M.W. had a charter there and P.M.A. men could not go down. FALSETTI to 12 U.M.W. men over to the shaft & let them down. There was no violence. That afternoon we held a meeting and decided to not let anyone go down in the mine this was held at 6th & Washington.

"I was out at the mine most of the time of the sit-down strike. The other men and I were there of our free will. The men who picketed were all local 54 men. Everything was very peaceful and no U.M.W. men came to the mine during this time. I was at the mine the evening the Marshall came out about 8 o'clock. Most of the men could not understand why this was done when P.M.A. was majority union and were ready to go to work.

"When the Co. tried to open the mine in Dec. 1937, I knew it was to open but don't know how. We just went to the mine and drove by.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election, this was by secret ballot. We met at the Hall and talked to us for a short time. He explained about how the voting would work. I voted "Progressive" and believe this was an honest election. When we went to the Armory to vote there were some men there with pamphlets for U.M.W. but I did not get any. These men were on the streets near the Armory.

"I heard something about an attempt to reopen the mine in Jan. 1938 but I did not go near there then. I heard that the reason the mine was not opened as a P.M.A. mine was because Elshoff had an agreement with

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(continued)

U.M.W. not to have anything to do with P.M.A. I heard something about Elshoff taking over the Jefferson Mine but know no more about this.

"When the mine opened in 1939 I got a registered telling me to come back within a certain time. I was already working at Mine A so I saw Falsetti I was just going down and get my tools and the loose coal up. I did this working about 2 days. Nobody said anything to me about Union during those 2 days. Where I was working in Box the mine was in just the same shape as when I left it. I never heard of any fire at Mine "B" in 1939. I did not vote in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. I remember one meeting when [redacted] was drunk and they threw him out for creating a disturbance nothing was said about money at that meeting.

"I have read this 10 page hand-written statement and to the best of my belief it is all true. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

(s) [redacted]

Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw).
Special Agent, FBI, St. Paul, Minn.

Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943.

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[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 6, 1943. It was noted that [REDACTED] understood the questions asked him and that he responded very well with his answers and it appeared that he knew what was going on at Mine B during the period in question while he was there. It is felt that [REDACTED] would make a good witness if his testimony is needed. The following signed statement was executed by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 6, 1943

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

"I have been a coal-digger at Panther Creek Mine #2 since Mine "B" closed in 1937. I worked at mine "B" for about [REDACTED] years prior to the strike. I was born in [REDACTED]. I came to U. S. in [REDACTED] & became a U. S. citizen a short time after [REDACTED] in Springfield. I was a Union member [REDACTED]. I first joined a U.M.W. Union in Springfield in [REDACTED]. I have never held a union office.

"From the time I started at mine "B" until 1932, I knew nothing of the relation between the U.M.W. and the mine management. I felt the miners did right in 1932 to leave the U.M.W. and form the Progressives. I took no active part in this however. From 1932 to 1937 Elshoff got along just fine with the P.M.A. I heard that there were 2 or 3 men around who wanted to swing the men from P.M.A. to U.M.W. Falsetti told a group of us a short time before the strike that if we wanted to be Progressives we should go over to Peabody Mine and go to work. This was when the U.M.W. was trying to first get back into the mine. The P.M.A. miners always got along well with our officials. There was no feeling that the union was run as a racket. The miners themselves ran the union and not a picked group. From 1932 to 1937 I attended most of the Union meetings. There was no feeling that the money of the P.M.A. was being mishandled, reports were made on this at each meeting.

"I don't know whether the P.M.A. men who were sent up for property bombing were guilty or not but talk at the time was that they had been framed

"From 1932 to 1937 there was no trouble at mine "B" between U.M.W. & P.M.A. that I know of. I never saw any U.M.W. literature at the mine.

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(continued)

"A few days before the mine closed I heard of about 10 P.M.A. men who were for the U.M.W. I dont recall any of these men being expelled at any meetings I attended.

"I heard that Sammy (Joe Albanese), Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, Geo. & Emory Jacaway, Chas. Bohanon and James Hale were the ones trying to get the miners to go back to U.M.W. None of these men ever bothered me. I dont know who did it but someone was paying these men as they had a lot of money & some even bought new cars at this period.

"I knew nothing about any parties given by Elshoff for U.M.W. officials or U.M.W. officials for Elshoff.

"When the contract expired in 1937, it was understood from the P.M.A. officials that Elshoff had agreed that if we would go ahead and work we would get back pay when a contract was signed. The Progressive officials told us all about this and the men were satisfied. The feeling was that the P.M.A. men could get just as good a contract as U.M.W. In April of 1937 and early May there was no commotion on paydays, everybody seemed satisfied. I heard nothing regarding how the management felt in regards to the wage question.

"On the night before the mine "B" closed I dont recall for sure whether the meeting held was regular or special. I attended this meeting and know there was discussion concerning the expelled miners and the fact that the Co. would not fire them.

"On the morning of the last day we worked, I was not sure whether there would be a strike or not. I believe that the men were mad about the Co. not firing the expelled miners and not over the wage question. I remember we were called out of the mine that afternoon, I came out & went home. I saw a few cars loaded short, I did none of this and dont know why it was. It is my understanding that the strike was called because of the expelled miners and not because of money. I dont think there was any picketing that spring. I dont recalling signing any petitions the summer the mine closed for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. About July of 1937 I left here and went to Florida, for about 8 weeks.

"I heard of the forming of the U.M.W. local in Springfield in the summer of 1937 and that men went from house to house getting people to sign up for the U.M.W. They did not approach me. I am still a P.M.A. member.

"I was back in Springfield, when they started the Mine "B" in Sept. 1937. I was working at Panther Creek when this started. I took no part

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] in the strike or picketing.

(continued)

"I was allowed to vote in the 1st N.L.R.B. election though I was working at Panther Creek. I went down and voted all by myself. Nobody bothered me or tried to make me vote one way or another. I saw some U.M.W. men around but they did not bother me. This election was by secret ballot and I believe it was honest.

"I heard of some Mine "B" men going to work at the Jefferson Mine I understood Falsetti was the boss and that the mine was never run by Elshoff; this was in 1938.

"I heard that Elshoff was paid either by John Lewis or the U.M.W. to keep Mine "B" closed. I heard this back when the strike was on.

"When the mine reopened in 1939 I received a registered letter to come back. I saw Falsetti and he told me that there was no place for me at that time and there was a list waiting for places to be opened up to go to work. I told him I was working at Panther Creek and I would go back there and come back later, he agreed to this and the next summer when Panther Creek shut down I went and asked for the job and he said he had no job for me, this was about April or May of 1940. I heard at that same time that Mine "B" was hiring U.M.W. men. Nothing was said about wages or as to which union I was a member of. I have not been back to Mine "B" since.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this seven page statement to me and to the best of my knowledge it is all true and correct. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

Signed: [REDACTED]

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

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

Springfield, Ill_

Sept. 6, 1943"

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his residence by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 3, 1943. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and presently is employed at Mine "B". He is a member of UMW, [REDACTED] understands and speaks English well and he claimed no knowledge which would be of aid to successful prosecuting. He would not be a good government witness. [REDACTED] stated he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
Sept. 3, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I started working in the Mine "B" in Springfield, Ill., in 1924, and I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union in 1924. In 1932, most of our UMW local went over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union, and so in 1932 I joined the PMA to keep my job.

"During the time from 1932 until about May, 1937, I was satisfied with the PMA union. I thought it was an honest union and I did not think any of the officials were crooked. I noticed no unusual assessments during this time excepting when I first joined our PMA local had a ten percent assessment for helping other miners out of work, and I thought that was rather high.

"I was not active in the organization of the PMA local, and I have never held an office in any union.

"During the period from 1932 to May of 1937, I do not recall that there were any strikes, except that at one time, it may have been in about 1934, our first contract expired with the company, that is the PMA contract, and I believe we were out on strike just a very short while until the contract was signed. But during this time I do not remember that there were any close downs because of labor trouble and I do not recall that any of the company men or officials in any way tried to discredit PMA or influence me to join UMW. The company did not seem to show any partiality to either the UMW or the PMA.

"I remember that there were some bombing cases back at that time, but I took little interest in them and I did not and I do not know anything about them.

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(continued)

"During this time from 1932 to 1937, I did not notice that UMW ever set up a picket line at mine "B" and I do not remember ever seeing any literature for UMW at mine "B". No one at any time during this period ever tried to get me to join UMW. But I did notice that there was some kind of movement out there on the part of UMW and I could tell there was some contention on the part of the men out at Mine "B", but I can not tell just what it was. During this time I did not notice that there were any UMW spies in PMA, and I did not notice the UMW activities of some PMA men who were expelled from PMA for working for UMW, excepting that these men who were expelled were the same men who I noticed were in those little groups of men who were in that movement I mentioned and who were having some sort of contention. By contention, I mean that there was some sort of dissatisfaction, and that everything was not satisfactory.

"The men who seemed dissatisfied were: Charlie Bohannon, Jimmie Hale, Frank Austin, and a few more. I would see them talking together all the time, but none of them ever tried to talk me into joining UMW. I never notice any of these men with any of the company men or officials, and I never saw them together socially.

"I think the reason there was a strike at the Mine "B" on May 12, 1937, was because the PMA union had expelled some of the men I have mentioned above and the company refused to fire them. I do not remember anything about a wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937 except when the PMA contract expired about that time. But I never thought that was the reason for the strike.

"I did not attend a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the night before the strike. On May 12, 1937, I went to work as usual and went down into the mine. There was no indication to me of any strike pending. I did not notice any cars being loaded short during the day and no one told me to load my cars short. I worked the entire day and no one told me to stop. I came to the top of the mine after work and altho I heard some of the men say we were going to strike and I noticed some cars had been loaded short, still I did not know we were on strike until the next day.

"On May 13, 1937, I went to work, but everyone said no work and we were on strike, so I came right back home, and in the afternoon I started working on a farm.

"During the time after the strike, I do not remember signing any petitions, either for PMA or for UMW. But I may have signed one for PMA and have forgotten. I am certain I did not sign one for UMW.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I believe I heard in the summer of 1937 that a new UMW local was organized, but I do not know anything about that. I do not remember attending any meetings of any kind during the summer of 1937, and I was busy working on the farm and didn't have much time for meetings.

"I do not remember being called by the company to come to work any time after May 12, 1937, until Nov. of 1939. I never did go back to work during that time. I do remember a picket line was set up at Mine "B" by the PMA in about Sept. of 1937, but I do not believe I was at the mine the first day the picket line was set up. I do not believe I was told by any PMA men in Sept., 1937 that Mine "B" was going to open. But after the picket line was set up for about two months, I believe I went out to mine "B" to picket just on one Sunday. I was busy at the farm. I was not there when the picket line broke up and I do not know why the picket line broke up.

"I remember the National Labor Relations Board held an election in about Dec. of 1937 at which time the PMA beat the UMW. I voted in this election and I think it was a fair election and no one forced or threatened me in any way.

"I do not know of any attempts on the part of the company to open Mine "B" before Nov. of 1939.

"In Nov. of 1939, I might have got a letter from the company to come back to work, or maybe Bumgarner told me, and I reported for work. But the part of Mine "B" where I had been working in 1937 was shut down from cave ins, and so the company put my name on the waiting list and I did not go back to work until Jan. of 1940. When I went back to work I was still a member of PMA.

"From the time I went back to work in Jan. of 1940 until I joined the UMW in the fall of 1940, no one at any time tried to talk me into joining the UMW and no one at any time threatened me or tried to force me to join UMW. I joined UMW, I believe about the first of August, 1940, because it looked like if I wanted to keep my job I would have to join UMW and it looked like most of the men were joining UMW. I do not know of any attempts on the part of UMW to organize mine B during this time. But at the same time I noticed there was a lot of talking going on around the mine and I saw a lot of strangers working in the mine, and so a thought there was some organizing going on, so when I say I do not know of any attempts on the part of UMW to organize Mine "B", I mean that I did not see any specific attempts by them like forcing a man to sign or fighting or the like.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
(continued)

"I remember voting in a MLRB election in about Feb. of 1941. I thought it was a fair election and no one forced or threatened me in any way.

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

[REDACTED] (signed)

Witness:

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

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed
[REDACTED] by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on
September 7, 1943. He willingly answered the questions propounded to him.
His knowledge of pertinent facts in the case are limited. He would make
a favorable witness. He executed the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois
September 7, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary state-
ment 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]
[REDACTED] I was born on [REDACTED]

"The first union I joined was the United Mine Workers of
America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, in [REDACTED] at Spaulding,
Illinois and worked at the Spaulding Mines. From [REDACTED] I
worked in mine in the Spaulding and Springfield - Illinois area
as a member of the UMW.

"I worked at Mine B during the following periods; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] from [REDACTED] until it closed on May 12,
1937, and from November 1939 to February 6, 1941.

"I voluntarily joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America,
referred to hereinafter as the PMA, in September, 1932 when Mine B
went over to PMA. I remained a member of the PMA the whole time I
worked at Mine B. I helped the PMA to picket for a few weeks in
1937 but I never went back to get a job there the three times it
tried to open.

"Elshoff got along alright with the UMW prior to 1932 and also
with the PMA from 1932 to May 1937. I felt that he favored the
UMW, but I have no facts to base it on.

"I attended most of the union meetings when I was a miner. I
never held an office. I attended the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937
which I learned of by word of mouth at the mine. Several UMW

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

organizers were expelled for their organizing, but I do not recall their names. I do not know what evidence was presented at this meet-

ing, against these UMW organizers.

"On May 12, 1937, Elshoff would not discharge these UMW organizers that had been expelled from Local 54, PMA, so the PMA miners loaded some of the coal cars short to get Elshoff to discharge these men.

"I was not familiar with the wage scale controversy in 1937. I voluntarily signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member.

"I felt the NLRB election held on December 15, 1937 was fair in every respect. Sometime in 1940 the following UMW organizers approached me and asked me to join the UMW; Cotton Ananias, Andrew Schrelevious and Charles Bohannon. They did not threaten me, but told me I'd have to join the UMW if I wanted to work there, because the mine was going UMW.

"From November, 1939 to February, 1941 the UMW organizers in Mine B signed the men up with UMW. I heard they contacted the men in the mine and at their homes. Therefore I do not believe the second NLRB election was fair in expressing the true feelings of the men as they had already signed with UMW to hold their jobs.

"I felt that Elshoff favored UMW and that he was on friendly terms with the UMW organizers, but I have no specific fact to establish that point.

"I have carefully read and fully understood the two pages of this statement and it is true to the best of my knowledge.

S/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 6, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is mentally alert, he makes a good appearance, and he seems sincere. He was an eye witness to beatings inflicted by UMW organizers on PMA members at the mine and quit working at Mine "B" from fear of being beaten. He is presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #2, Springfield, Illinois, which is under a PMA contract, and he executed the following written statement:

*Admitted
11/2/44*

[REDACTED] Illinois
September 6, 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] Illinois. I am presently employed at the Panther Creek Mine #2, Springfield, Illinois [REDACTED]. The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at [REDACTED] Illinois in [REDACTED]. At this time, I went to work at Riverton Mine #2. I worked in local mines near Spaulding, Illinois from [REDACTED] as a member of UMW. In [REDACTED] I started working at Mine B and worked there continuously until May 12, 1937, the day that mine closed down. I again worked at this mine when it re-opened in November, 1939 on open shop basis. I worked there until the first part of February, 1941 and never did work at that mine after that date. As I mentioned before, I joined the UMW in [REDACTED] and remained a member of that union until September, 1932. I voluntarily joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, in 1932 when the miners at Mine B joined that union. I did not take an active part in the formation of the PMA.

"I felt that the rank and file of the PMA and the officials of that union got along fine, and there was no trouble in the PMA. I believe that union was free fraud on the part of its leaders. I never held an office in a mine union with the exception of [REDACTED]

"As far as I know, the relations between Elshoff and UMW prior to 1932 were satisfactory and he seemed to get along alright with the PMA from 1932 to the latter part of 1936. However, from the latter part of 1936 to May 12, 1937, Elshoff seemed to be dissatisfied. I never heard the Company officials make any statements but felt the relations were strained.

"The following men held PMA cards and worked at Mine B in the Spring

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of 1937. These men were UMW organizers and were trying to get the miners to join the UMW; Joe Albanese, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, James Hale, Charles Bohannon, Cudge Bumgarner, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Flotch.

The UMW passed out UMW literature at the mine prior to the strike on May 12, 1937. This was found in automobiles and also the road leading to the mine. These UMW organizers were talking up the UMW. Neither Elshoff or Falcetti did anything to discourage this. I observed that from 1932 to May 1937, the PMA and the Company Operators did not appear to be on especially friendly terms. As to the wage scale agreement in 1937, I was of the impression, gained from the PMA officials, that we, as PMA miners were working on a retroactive contract dating back to April 1, 1937. However, this point was disputed by Elshoff and we never got our money. I only went to about one fourth of the mine meetings. I knew that some of the UMW agitators were expelled from the PMA for disloyalty and organizing for UMW. I recall I attended the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the day before the mine closed. I got a notice of this special meeting by a notice on the bulletin board at the mine. On the night the following men were expelled from the PMA as best as I can recall: Joe Albanese, Cotton Ananias, Andrew Schrelevious, Pete Carter, and Dominic Pasquale, and Charles Bohannon.

"None of these expelled men were present. I do not recall what evidence was presented. On May 12, 1937, the other miners learned of the expulsion by word of mouth. Elshoff would not prevent these expelled men from working and the PMA members did not want to work under these circumstances.

"I did not know that coal cars were being loaded short on May 12, 1937 and later when I found out about it I did not determine the reason for it. The PMA miners did not want to go back to work as long as these expelled miners worked there.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of that union. I do not recall signing any other petition that summer.

"After the mine closed in May, 1937, I worked in the PMA picket line for a week or so. I do not recall going to the mine to get a job at any time the Operators attempted to reopen the mine before November, 1939.

"The NLRB election of December 15, 1937 held at Springfield, Illinois, was one of the most honest elections I have ever taken part in. As far as I know, no fraud attended this election, and as far as I know it was entirely voluntary. No strong arm tactics were used by either union.

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(continued)

"I went back to Mine B in November 1939 when it opened on an open shop basis. I went back as a PMA member. At this time, the UMW brought in a lot of strangers to work in Mine B. I do not know where they were from. Members of the UMW were given preference in getting a job over a PMA man. I knew this was true, because PMA men went out to the mine and could not get work there and later UMW members came out to the mine and were given work there immediately. I recall that a miner named [redacted] of Illinois, a PMA man went out to the mine when it re-opened in November, 1939, and Falcetti told him that he could not work at mine B until such time as he left the PMA and joined the UMW.

"The UMW organizers talked to the PMA members, the ones they thought they could persuade, both at the mine and in their homes. They told them that the mine would work better under the UMW and also threatened them to make them sign up with the UMW.

"In the early part of January, 1941 I was in the wash house at Mine B when the following UMW organizers came in: [redacted] (phonetic), [redacted] and a man named [redacted].

"These organizers beat up [redacted] PMA at that time, [redacted] and [redacted]. These victims were dressing at this time, and were all in the wash house. The organizers mentioned above took these men one at a time and beat them up. I saw the whole thing. There were more UMW men in the wash house at that time and no one attempted to help these men.

"On this same morning, [redacted] miner named [redacted] a PMA member, was also beaten up by the UMW organizers in a hall way at the entrance to the wash house. I did not see this beating. This beating was due to the fact that this man would not sign up with the UMW. When I saw that the PMA men were getting this kind of treatment I left and went to the office. As far as I knew, I might have been next on the list of victims. I quit work that day. I went back to get my tools, but I was afraid of being beaten so I left the tools in the mine and never went back after them.

"Elshoff knew what was going on and did not do a thing about it. I knew Elshoff favored the UMW. I think Elshoff was being paid off by UMW, but I have no evidence to establish it. I heard a rumor at the mine that Mrs. Oude Sargner, the wife of one of the UMW organizers, had said that she did not know where all the money was coming from that [redacted] was bringing home.