

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness inasmuch as he is a habitual drunkard by his own admission and had to be contacted twice before he was in a condition to talk to the Agents. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

" Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., do voluntarily give the following statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind were made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [REDACTED] emigrating to America in [REDACTED]. I claim citizenship through my [REDACTED] who was naturalized at [REDACTED].

"I started working in Mine B about [REDACTED] years ago, joining U.M.W. at that time. I never held an office in any union. I was working at Mine B when the Union split up and Progressives started. I don't know the cause of the split and didn't have anything to do with starting PMA. I joined PMA along with all the other miners. I don't favor any union.

"I don't know what caused the strike at Mine B in 1937 and can't remember whether I worked there the day the strike started or not.

"I don't recall signing any petitions for either PMA or UMWA.

"I don't know how the picketing started at Mine B and I only went over there to get something to eat.

"I recall voting in one NLRB election and remember that I voted for my sympathy the UMWA.

"During the period that Mine B was closed on strike I was on WPA for 13 months. I got a letter from Mr. ELSHOFF to come back to work and when I went back I didn't pay dues to either union, but later I joined UMWA.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(CONTINUED)

"I was never threatened or beat at Mine B after I went back to work and I never saw or heard of any of the men getting beat up.

"I have read the above statement consisting of 1½ pages and the same is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois,  
was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

He is a [REDACTED] naturalized citizen of the United States and speaks English well but it is not believed he would make a good witness due to his lack of knowledge of the occurrences at Mine "B" incident to this case, inasmuch as he was not present at the mine during the controversial period.

He was cooperative and submitted the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 9, 1943

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

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

"I began working at Old North Mine near Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED] and joined U.M.W. in [REDACTED] I have never held an office in any union.

"As far as I know, relations were good at Mine 'B' prior to the formation of P.M.A. It was my understanding that LEWIS had bargained for a lower wage scale and the miners voted for an increase and then the ballots were stolen. This caused the men to form a new union called P.M.A. Mine 'B' was idle at that time and Mr. ELSHOFF signed an agreement with P.M.A. so he could open the mine. I had joined P.M.A. because the majority of the men changed over from U.M.W. to P.M.A. and I could go back to work.

"I know of no strikes or closed doors or any attempts by ELSHOFF or the Mine officials to discredit P.M.A. or show any partiality toward U.M.W.

"I thought the officers of P.M.A. were honest and did a good job. I had no difficulty while I was a member of P.M.A. while I worked at Mine 'B'. No one attempted to get me to join U.M.W. at that time and I did not know of any spies at Mine 'B'.  
[REDACTED]

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Interview with [REDACTED]

(continued)

I have not returned to Mine 'B' since I quit in 1937. I lost all my tools at Mine 'B' because I never went back for them.

"I am now working at [REDACTED] in Springfield but do not belong to any union. I have no preference for any union, and if I had my own free will and choice I would not choose any union.

"I have had this 2 page statement read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(signed) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was  
cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because  
of his inability to speak English and his lack of knowledge of pertinent  
facts in the Mine B situation. [REDACTED] has no criminal record.  
He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September, 15, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. do  
voluntarily give the following statement to Special Agents [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investi-  
gation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to cause me to  
make this statement.

"I was born in [REDACTED] emigrating to America in  
[REDACTED] I was naturalized in [REDACTED] I started working in the mines as  
soon as I came to America joining the UMWA at that time. I have never  
held an office in any union. I now work at [REDACTED]

"I started at Mine B in [REDACTED] belonging to UMWA at that time. I  
was satisfied with UMWA at that time. In 1932 the miners revolted  
against John L. Lewis and started the PMA. I joined the PMA and liked  
it better than UMWA, because you couldn't vote under John L. Lewis.

"I don't know what caused the strike at Mine B in 1937. I just  
worked and minded my own business. I never attended any meetings because  
I don't understand English very well.

"I took part in the picketing and sit down strike out at Mine B  
and was there off and on all the time it was going on.

"I voted in the 1st NLRB election which the Progressives won.

"During the time that Mine B was closed down by strike I didn't  
work.

"In 1939 I got a letter from Mr. Elshoff to go back to work. I  
went back to Mine B and did company work. I still belonged to PMA at  
that time. I hurt my leg and asked Oscar Falcetti to give me a room.  
After I got a room and was digging coal a Big Fellow who was UMWA came  
into my room and wanted me to take a UMWA Button, but I told him no and  
threw it away. Shortly after that I couldn't breathe and I found out  
that someone had shut off my air. Later I saw two or three men beat  
up in the wash house. I'm not good on names and can't tell the names

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] of these men or the ones who beat them up, except that "Bowling Green" was one of the men who beat up on one PMA miner.  
(continued)

"When I finally joined UMWA there were only about 10 PMA men left at Mine B and I was afraid of getting beat up. I didn't join UMWA by choice but because I was scared being an old man.

"I voted in the 2nd NLRB election and again I voted for PMA again. I wouldn't ever vote for UMWA. I could have a free and voluntary choice of unions I would choose Progressives.

"I have had the above 2 1/4 pages of voluntary statements made by me read to me, in the presence of my daughter, by Agent [REDACTED]. The same is true and correct.

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:  
[REDACTED]

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

Re. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL .

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

opened in 1939 and was in a position to have a good knowledge of the situation, but he had a very poor memory and was unable to recall many pertinent facts. For this reason it is not believed that he would make a good witness. [REDACTED] denied having any criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 10, 1943.

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

"I was born a [REDACTED] I am presently employed out at [REDACTED]. I first started working in the mines around Springfield, Ill. about [REDACTED] joining United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started working at Mine B about [REDACTED] continuing my UMW membership. Between [REDACTED] and 1932 UMW and the Mine B Officials got along alright.

"John L. Lewis was the cause of the split in 1932. He went against our vote and made us take a reduction in wages. I was a delegate to the convention at Gillespie in September 1932 when we decided to form the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I never held any offices in this union until [REDACTED]. After the formation of PMA I joined it as a body with all the other men at Mine B. At first the PMA got along fine with the Mine B officials, but about a year before the strike Oscar Falcetti came to me on two separate occassions and asked me if I didn't think the PMA was slipping. I just walked away.

"In the Spring of 1937 our contract ran out on March 31, and a temporary agreement was signed. There was an argument between PMA and Elshoff as to whether this contract contained a retroactive clause. There were a number of men at Mine B who made an issue out of this, and wanted to form a new UMW local. These men as I can recall were: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George & Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Falc, and Cudge Baumgarner. The PMA then held trials for these men and suspended some and expelled others. There were at least two meetings where these men were tried. I attended these meetings and recall that we suspended the men by a rising vote. I recall that written charges were made

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(continued)

to our Trial Board, who made a recommendation to the local and we voted as stated above. Some of the organizers refused to come to the meetings unless they were suspended or expelled. There was a rumor that each one of these organizers got \$2,000.00 apiece for their work. The Co. was notified that the suspended men were no longer PMA members and asked to dismiss the expelled members. This the Co. refused to do.

"The men were dissatisfied because the Co. wouldn't fire the expelled members, and because of the back pay situation on the day of the strike May 12, 1937 lots of the men loaded short cars of coal. I was down in the mine digging and the first I knew of the strike was when we were called out on top about 2 p m by the PMA Board Member. No orders were given to load coal short, the men just did that by themselves.

"I recall going to the Board Members Office about two weeks after the strike and signing a slip showing that I wanted PMA as my bargaining agent.

"I don't recall when the picketing or set down strike started but I participated in both for most of the time that they went on. I was at the mine when we were put off by the injunction. I didn't like it and figured that we were whipped then.

"Soon after the set down strike I voted in the NLRB election which the Progressives won 404-25. This election was fair and square. I recall a pamphlet being passed out but don't recall what it said or who passed it out.

"I have no knowledge of anyone trying to reopen the mine either before or after the NLRB election.

"During the period we were out on strike I worked on WPA and was working there when I got a letter to come back to Mine B. The letter gave us 10 days to go back to work or lose our jobs.

"When I returned to Mine B in 1939 I still retained my PMA membership. At the time I was elected I believe that about 300 miners were paying dues. About August 1940 Charles Bohannon came to my home at [redacted] and asked me to join UMWA. When I wouldn't he said that I'd get my head knocked off if I didn't [redacted] he said that he would feel sorry for my wife and children one of these nights when my house was bombed. All of this occurred after I was fired in June of 1940 for asking [redacted], "What do you mean by sitting by that scab son-of-a-bitch referring to an outside check weighman who had been brought in by UMWA.

"I never witnessed any violence or beatings out at Mine B as most of it occurred after I was fired.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I remember voting in the second NLRB election but my vote was contested because I was on WPA again.

"I recall that early in 1937 [redacted] came to my house at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. and began to talk against PMA. [redacted] was a regular UMWA organizer and not working at Mine B at the time. [redacted] said that UMWA was going to take Mine B over and already had a lot of the men signed up. He promised me the job of check weighman if I'd go along with UMWA. I asked him how he could promise me that when the men have to vote on it and he said if you don't believe me I'll take you to Roy Edmundson who will see to it that you get it. Shortly after that I met [redacted] again on the street downtown and he asked me if I'd made up my mind yet. I told him no. This was all before the strike in May of 1937.

"If I had a free and voluntary choice of unions I would choose Progressives.

"I have read the above statement consisting of five pages. The same if true and correct and I do hereby sign my name.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed) Special Agent - F.B.I.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

██████████, Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 13, 1943 by Special Agents ██████████ and ██████████. ██████████ is presently employed at Mine B. He was cooperative and willingly answered all questions asked. He is alert but was unable to express himself well. He stated he was forced to join the UMW to keep his job. He executed the following statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 13, 1943

"I, ██████████ and ██████████ whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice.

"I was born in ██████████ entered the United States in ██████████ naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in ██████████ live at ██████████, Springfield, Ill., and I am presently employed as a digger at Mine B.

"The first union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union in ██████████

"I worked at two mines, both at Springfield, Ill., before I started working in Mine B in ██████████ as a member of the UMW.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"As far as I know relations between Elshoff and the UMW were satisfactory before 1932.

"I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, voluntarily in September, 1932 when they organized at Mine B. I took no active part in the formation of this union, but wanted to join because I thought it would be a better union to work under than the UMW.

"It was my idea that Elshoff favored the UMW over the PMA. I cannot say what it was, but everyone felt that there was something secret between the UMW and Elshoff to try to get rid of the PMA at Mine B.

"I liked the PMA and I think everyone was satisfied with that union and its' leaders.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"I know the following men: Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Cotton, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, James Hale and Bowlinggreen. Prior to May, 1937 I did not know if the above mentioned men were U.M. organizers at Mine B.

"I returned to Mine B on November, 1939 as a PMA member. Sometime after I had returned to work Andrew Schrelevious came to my house which at that time was [redacted], Springfield, Ill. and asked me to join U.M. I told him I would not. He said if I did not, I would lose my job at the mine. A week later, Tony Plotch and John Cotton came to my house on [redacted] and Plotch said if I did not join the U.M. it would be very bad for me. I knew that he meant I would be beaten up or something like that would happen to me if I did not join. That same night Tony Plotch gave me a membership card and I signed up with the U.M. because I was afraid what might happen to me if I did not sign up with the U.M.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, but I know there was going to be a meeting from talking with the other miners. I heard the next day by word of mouth from the other miners that some miners included in the list of names set out in this statement were expelled from the PMA at that meeting.

"The only thing I know about the wage scale trouble in the Spring of 1937 was that Elshoff did not recognize the retroactive clause in the contract which meant I was supposed to get back pay, dating back to April 1, 1937. I never got this back pay.

"The day of the strike, in May, 1937, I was digging coal in Box the South section of the mine. On this day I loaded my coal cars short because the PMA Pit Committee told me to. I understand that trouble had started on that morning with Elshoff because he would not discharge the miners who had been thrown out of the PMA.

"I went out to the mine to help picket about about three months in the PMA picket line after the strike started.

"I always wanted to keep on working under the PMA. I never wanted to go back again under the U.M. I was forced to return to the U.M. by Plotch and John Cotton or lose my job.

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

"In September, 1937 I went out to the mine when the mine tried to open. The PMA leaders told us we would not be able to go down into the mine to work that day because we were Progressives and because the Mine B

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

operators would not let the PMA work. Only the UM men could work. I did not go to the mine again until the mine opened-up in 1939.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election. It was a fair election.

"At the time of the second N.L.R.B. election everyone I talked to knew the UM had a majority and the UM fined us if we did not vote. The PMA men also were fined if they did not vote. The men who still wanted to work under the PMA, but who were forced to join UM, were tired of being out of work and that's why so many voted for the United Mine Workers.

"I can speak the English language and so can my wife, but we can not read English. This statement consisting of three and one half pages was read to me by [REDACTED] in the presence of [REDACTED] and it is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent, F.B.I.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED]. He is [REDACTED] years of age and is a naturalized citizen of the United States with [REDACTED] heritage. It is not believed he will make a good witness due to his lack of pertinent details of the facts incident to this case.

[REDACTED] has no known criminal record except his admission of arrests for drunkenness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 9, 1943.

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

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

"I began working at Mine "B" in [REDACTED] and have worked there practically ever since except when the mine was shut down. I joined U.M.W., when I began working in Mine "B". I know of no difficulty between U.M.W. and Mine "B" officials while I worked there.

"In 1932 P.M.A. was formed and obtained a contract at Mine "B". I joined P.M.A. then because I wanted to work at Mine "B". I didn't notice any difference in the way P.M.A. or U.M.W. got along with the Mine "B" officials until the trouble in 1937.

"I remember I was driving entry on May 12, 1937 and I was called out shortly before quitting time along with all the other men. I went to the wash house and changed clothes and came home.

"I think one of the men told me there was no work the next day so I did not go back to work. I went out to the Mine the next day to get \$5 I had left in a pocket of my clothes in the wash house. I had to go through a picket line to get it and when I got it I did not go back to the mine for about 5 years.

"Before the shutdown I did not see any labor spies and I don't know why the strike was called. I don't like trouble so I didn't go back until

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

after it was settled. I did not picket the mine at anytime and don't believe in picketing.

"I voted in the Government held election at the Arsenal around Dec. 1937. P.M.A. won the election by a large majority.

"I went back to work at Mine "B" in Dec. 1942 and worked until June 1943. I joined U.M.W. when I went back to work. I never saw anyone get beat up while I worked at Mine "B".

"I did odd jobs during the 5 yrs. I was not at Mine "B" and the reason I did not go back until last year is [REDACTED] and I was undecided what to do.

"I think that U.M.W. is a better Union than P.M.A. but I would join whichever one was working at the mine.

"I am now working at [REDACTED] having started three days ago.

"I have had this three page statement read to me by [REDACTED] 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

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 14, 1943:

At the Springfield Field Division, agents interviewed [REDACTED] who lives [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. He advised he has never been arrested in his life.

[REDACTED] readily understood the questions asked him and gave intelligent replies indicating that he is not illiterate, and it is felt that he would make a fair witness if his testimony were necessary.

Agents obtained from [REDACTED] the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 14, 1943

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

"I am now working as a digger at Panther Creek #5 I will have been there [REDACTED] I worked at Mine "B" about 9 years up to the strike in 1937, I never went back there after that time. I was born [REDACTED] I came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a citizen in Springfield in [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] I first joined a union in [REDACTED] this was U.M.W. I have never been a union officer.

"From the time I went to work at Mine B up until 1932 there was no trouble between Elshoff and the U.M.W. union. When they had the union split I liked the Progressives and went along to that Union with the rest at Mine "B", I did no organizing for them. From 1932 until the strike Elshoff got along fine with P.M.A. there was no trouble of any kind. I never heard Elshoff or Falsetti say they had any preference for U.M.W. over P.M.A. I was always satisfied with the P.M.A. local there was no trouble there at all. I attended a few P.M.A. meetings at that time. At every meeting they told us how much money had been spent and how much taken in, I never felt any money was being stolen from the union. It was my opinion that the P.M.A. men sent to prison for bombings had been framed up. I dont know who did it. From 1932 until the mine closed I never saw any U.M.W. men picket Mine "B" or give out any literature there. I did not know of any group in the P.M.A. that was U.M.W. though belonging to P.M.A. I never heard of any parties given by Elshoff for U.M.W. officials or they for him.

"I remember when the contract ran out in 1937 we kept on working under a temporary agreement, I may have only heard this through the other

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

miners or through the P.M.A. officers. No one was mad over this and we all thought that P.M.A. would get a contract. I did not go to and dont remember any meeting the night before the mine closed down. I worked the last day the mine operated and went home that night, the next day I went to go to work and some of the men met me on the road and told me the mine was not going to operate. I did not know there had been any trouble until then. I heard that the strike was called because someone over in the Mine office said if we did not go over to U.M.W. the mine was not going to operate. On the last day the mine worked I heard something about cars being loaded short, but nobody said anything to me and I did not load any cars that way. I was working in Box at that time. After the mine closed I helped picket the mine a couple of days. I signed a petition on the road by the mine, no one made me sign and it was just to show I was for the P.M.A. I did not sign any other petitions that summer for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. I heard the U.M.W. had a petition but I dont know anything else about it. I also heard about the U.M.W. forming a new local, I heard this from the men and also from the papers. No one contacted me to join this union. I know of no other troubles happening this summer 1937.

"I remember the sit-down strike at Mine "B". I went out to it for about 3 weeks and then got sick. I was not there the first day the strike started. I went out because the other men men did no one told me to go. There was no trouble, we were there to protect our job and guard the property. There were no outsiders brought in, just local 54 men. I was not there when the U. S. Marshall came and chased the men out.

"After the sit-down strike I only went to mine "B" once that was to get a slip showing my expenses while working there, this was for income tax purposes.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election, I voted the way I wanted and no one told me how to vote, I voted P.M.A. I saw some U.M.W. men there but they did not bother me or give me anything. I guess they just went there to vote. I went direct to the Armory from my home.

"I dont know why Elshoff would not sign a contract with P.M.A. after they won the election. I heard something about some mine B men and Falsetti being over at the Jefferson Mine but I dont know anything about it.

"When the mine reopened in Sept. 1939, I got a letter telling me to come back. I was working at Taylor Mine #12 and did not go back as I did not like the way things were there. I am still a member of P.M.A. I did not vote in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read to me this statement, written on this page and four others so far as I can recall it is all true and correct and is as I have told it to the F.B.I. agents. I am signing this of my own will as it is all true.

"SIGNED: [REDACTED] (signed) -----

"Witnesses:

[REDACTED] (signed)

Special Agent, F.B.I.

St. Paul, Minn.

[REDACTED] (signed)

Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)

Springfield, Ill.

Sept. 14, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

*to talk*

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 12, 1943. As he noted in his statement he had been told about the Federal agents making instant investigation but he said he wanted to tell his story anyway and he appeared very cooperative. He really is not illiterate but has difficulty in understanding and answering some questions. However, it is felt he would make a fair witness if his testimony is needed.

The following is the unsigned statement obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ill.,  
Sept. 12, 1943.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] & I came in U.S. in [REDACTED] & became a citizen [REDACTED] years ago. I first joined U.M.W. in [REDACTED] in Ill. & I never have held any union office. I started at Mine B in 1936 as digger & extra driver and I was member of P.M.A. before then. Till Mine B closed P.M.A. was good union & they were same as all others as they give you nothing & you have to work for everything. There was no trouble there before Mine B closed. There were some men there before Mine B closed who wanted to form new U.M.W. local but I kept on working. We were satisfied before mine closed with P.M.A. local #54. I go once in awhile to meetings as I lived so far from Springfield, Ill. P.M.A. charged just about same dues as other & U.M.W. there now charges more. There was just check-off & no special assessments. I was pleased with P.M.A. officials & I never nosed around much but Committee protected our rights then O.K. Before Mine B closed U.M.W. never picketed us but there were some men who favored U.M.W. & I never got any literature from them. I never heard of any parties given by Elshoff or Falcetti for U.M.W. Before Mine B closed we worked without a contract & Falcetti told us at Mine B with the Committee at the timber pile he told us that we should go to work & that they would fix up the contract & we would get back pay if contract was fixed that way. Some of the men didn't like working without a contract & it was about time contract ran out. About 100 men stayed in washhouse then but [REDACTED] told us to go to work & next day all went to work again. I believed what Falcetti said then to us & kept on working. Falcetti said that the company would stand good on the contract. After this we all went to work & no trouble started over the pay. A few were saying we would not get a contract but I heard it but didn't believe them as I felt company would keep their word. I don't remember if P.M.A. had a meeting or not before

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH Mine B closed. I did not know there was to be a strike  
[REDACTED] on \_\_\_ day \_\_\_ mine closed in \_\_\_ spring of 1937 &  
(continued) I worked till just before quitting time that day. I  
did not load any short cars that day & no one said a thing  
to me about it. When I came out on top some men said in \_\_\_ wash house \_\_\_  
mine was on strike & I went home. I loaded 5 or 6 cars that day. The \_\_\_  
men said we would not work till they got an agreement. I did not hear then  
about any men getting expelled from P.M.A. For a week or so we picketed  
Mine B on Jacksonville Road so no U.M.W. men could get it. I never signed  
any Petition for P.M.A. or U.M.W. in \_\_\_ summer of 1937. I heard that a  
few Mine B men worked at Jefferson Mine. One was Tony, an uncle of Tony  
Plotch. I was at \_\_\_ sit down strike every day but two days so I stayed  
there & watched that no one would damage the property. No one forced us to  
go but while there the P.M.A. men told us to stay there but it was all  
quiet & peaceful. About 10 men were supposed to go to work on \_\_\_ first  
day but I don't know if they went down or not. No outsiders were brot  
in, just the local men. We had visitors there too. I was there when  
Marshall came & he told us to leave & we all went home & no trouble was  
there. He said no one else would come in & work & we were all glad to go  
home then. I never went back to Mine B until it re-opened for good. I  
never heard if they tried to reopen it later or not after \_\_\_ sit-down strike  
& before Mine B re-opened for good I was in a saloon in Auburn, Ill. &  
Frank Austin & Bowling Green came to me & asked me when I was going to join  
up with U.M.W. & they said all were going over to U.M.W. & I told them I  
would sign over when the rest did. They did not threaten me at all &  
no one bothered me later on. I voted at N.L.R.B. election in Armory in  
Springfield, Ill. & I voted P.M.A. both times. No one forced me to vote  
& it was a secret ballot. It was an honest election. We went to union  
P.M.A. hall first & went over to \_\_\_ Armory in groups, of 25 or 50 at a  
time. I don't know why Elshoff did not sign a contract with P.M.A. I got  
a letter from Elshoff telling me to return to work in \_\_\_ fall of 1939  
& I think I had to go back in 10 days. I went out & returned to work same  
day in box & it is now shut down. I paid dues to P.M.A. myself as  
there was no check-off. Some men talked to me at Mine B of going over  
to U.M.W. but I never was threatened or beaten up. I heard some were  
beaten up & threatened. I think I joined over to U.M.W. after \_\_\_ second  
N.L.R.B. election. They knew I was P.M.A. when Mine B reopened. I never  
signed any cards for U.M.W. or P.M.A. in \_\_\_ summer of 1940. The other day  
at Mine B Tony Plotch & several Committee men asked a bunch of us who  
had been seen by Federal men & some put up their hands. Some man who I  
don't know was with them & he was fat & had gray hair & he said to us  
that the Federal men had no business to talk to us but I still want to talk  
to you men as I have nothing to be afraid of. Second N.L.R.B. election  
was just same as before. I think U.M.W. men won because they got more men  
there. I didn't see new men at Mine B as I was at first cage & did not see  
all \_\_\_ men there. There was some falls in the mine but it wasn't so bad  
when Mine B re-opened. I never heard about a fire at Mine B in 1939. I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] did, I think, attend a meeting when [REDACTED] was kicked out but I don't recall much about it.  
(continued)

"I have had agent [REDACTED] read this five (5) page statement to me & it is true & correct & I have given this information because I want too & it is true as far as I know. If I don't have to sign it I won't but it is true and all correct but I want to tell \_\_\_ whole truth.

Witnesses:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.  
[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI (Milw.)  
Ill.  
Sept. 12, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 11, 1943:

At his residence, [redacted] Springfield, agents interviewed [redacted] who advised he never has been arrested. He is somewhat illiterate but understood the questions asked and his answers were not readily understandable at times and it is felt he would make a poor witness unless his testimony is necessary. However, he was very cooperative and wished to cooperate in all ways possible.

[redacted] advised [redacted] would be unable to understand the statement if it was read to him in English. [redacted] confirmed this and also stated that he could not sign his name but that he would be willing to swear that everything he had told agents was true.

He furnished the following unsigned statement:

[redacted]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 11, 1943.

"I, [redacted], give this free & voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted], who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No force or threats have been used against me to give this statement.

"I was born [redacted] & came to U.S. in [redacted] & became a citizen in [redacted]. At one time I worked at the [redacted] as a digger. I first joined U.M.W. in [redacted] in Illinois & I never held a union office. I went to work at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. in [redacted] & am still there. Between [redacted] & 1932 U.M.W. was alright as far as I know. I joined over to F.M.A. in 1932 because of trouble with John Lewis as he stole the ballots I think. I helped organize over to P.M.A. then. Between 1932 & the time Mine B closed F.M.A. never had any trouble with Carl Elshoff & things went along fine. We P.M.A. miners felt it was a good union & we were happy to be under them & I attended most of their meetings. Regarding those F.M.A. sent to jail for bombings I never that the F.M.A. men did it & others felt like I did about it. Dues were cheaper under F.M.A. & once in a while there were special assessments, just the check-off. U.M.W. had some men out at Mine B before it closed & who would talk for U.M.W. but they never picketed the Mine B & never gave out literature to me. I don't know of any parties Elshoff gave for U.M.W. but I did hear something of it once. When contract ran out in Spring of 1937 there was some agreement made about getting back pay but we never got it. We that F.M.A. would get a contract

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] with Elshoff and we were satisfied. The Miners never complained of their wages -- except a few now & then. (continued) I attended a meeting the night before Mine B closed down & they kicked out 'Bowling Green' and some one else I guess. The P.M.A. decided they would not work with some certain men I believe. I did not know Mine B was going to close down when I did & some one told us to load small cars & some one said that management would not fire some men. I did not load any short cars then. The Mine B shut down because of those men who kept on working. Just before quitting time we were told to shut down & I left my tools there. I never got all of them back. I guess I signed some paper for P.M.A. & no one forced me to sign it & I signed it at the mine. I also signed another one later on & no one forced me to sign it. I never signed a U.M.W. petition. Tony Flotch; Andy Schevelvius; Dominic Pasquale; Peter Carter; Frank Austin; 'Cotton Ananias; John & Geo. Sirtout; Geo. & Emory Jacaway; Chas. Bohannon & Jim Hale & Bill Sirtout were the ones who formed a new U.M.W. local in summer of 1937. Fellow named ----- came to see me at home about joining up with U.M.W. & I told him I would do what the rest did. I heard that Oscar Falcetti & others went to work at Jefferson Mine. I went to Mine B in fall of 1937 & they would not let us go to work unless we signed up with U.M.W. & I would not sign up. Some did go down I believe that morning. I was out at sit-down strike most of the time & no outsiders were brot in -- just local 54 men. We did not want U.M.W. to take our jobs away & we were watching our jobs. No fights or trouble went on & it was quiet & peaceful. No one forced me to go out. I was there when U. S. Marshall came out & we all left & no trouble was made at all. I don't remember if the reopened Mine B short time later on. I voted at Armory twice in town. It was a good election & P.M.A. won. No one made me vote - it was by secret ballot too. I voted P.M.A. I heard Mine B tried to reopen later too but I didn't go out. I heard Elshoff did not want P.M.A. out there even tho P.M.A. won the election. I got a letter in fall of 1939 telling me to come out to work & I went to work 2 days later in a good place but it wasn't my old box. One morning old man named [REDACTED] was changing shoes in wash room & he was asked by 3 men when he was going to join over to U.M.W. & these 3 beat him up in my presence. [REDACTED] were two of the 3 men. I also was asked in Mines when I was going to join up & I was told if I didn't join up I would not get any cars & I told them I didn't care. I also had some tools stolen too. I heard of others getting beat up & once saw 3 P.M.A. with bloody noses there. I saw a lot of new men then but now they are all gone from Mine B. I joined U.M.W. before the second N.L.R.B. election took place. I never signed any cards for U.M.W. or P.M.A. I got to sign with U.M.W. otherwise I felt I would get beat up & I did not join them because I liked them as I still like P.M.A. better than U.M.W. For 18 months too I got bad rooms there at Mine B. I heard of men getting 'docks' but I never got any myself. A fellow named [REDACTED] got beat up at a U.M.W. meeting because he would not buy some bonds. [REDACTED] also worked at Mine B for a couple of

Re: JOHN I. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

months in 1939 as a P.M.A. but never joined over to U.M.W. & nobody ever threatened him or beat him up. I voted at second N.L.R.B. election & it was just like the first one & I voted the same way I felt & no one forced me to vote. It was by secret ballot. Mine B had lot of cave-ins when it reopened & I never heard of any fire there in 1939. I did not attend a meeting where [REDACTED] got kicked out. What I have told is true & correct to the best of my knowledge. I can't read English very well and can't write so won't sign this but it is all true.

"Witnesses:

[REDACTED] (signed) Special Agent, F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.  
[REDACTED] (signed) Spec. Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 11, 1943"

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 9, 1943.

At his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] and he advised that the day before yesterday he was going down into the mine with many other miners and that some unknown man told all of them that they did not have to talk to the FBI men if they did not want to. However, he said he was in the rear and did not hear all what this man said but he advised Agents he would nevertheless answer the questions asked him.

He said he never has been arrested in his life and it was noted that he is more intelligent than the average miner. He understood the questions and readily answered them. It is felt he would make a good witness if his testimony were necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 9, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] give this free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the F.B.I. and no force or threats have been made me to give this statement. I was told by a man not to talk to you men but I don't know who he was. He told me at Mine B day before yesterday. He just said I don't have to talk but I want to tell you men the truth.

"I am employed at Mine B as a coal digger and have been there about [REDACTED] years or more. I was born [REDACTED] and I came to U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a citizen about [REDACTED] years ago. I belonged to union in [REDACTED] and brot my card along and it was with U.M.W. Before 1932 there was no trouble between Elshoff and U.M.W. that I know of and things got along ok. I never held a union office. In 1932 I went over to P.M.A. as majority went over and I never helped organize it. P.M.A. union was about same as the U.M.W. I don't reall of any trouble between Elshoff and P.M.A. before Mine B closed and I never heard of anyone wanting to change back to U.M.W. and no one came to me about it. P.M.A. was just an ordinary union like others. I did not attend many P.M.A. meetings at all and was not very active. While P.M.A. union was there it seemed just like the old U.M.W. There was no difference to me. Regarding the local of the P.M.A. men for the bombings I don't know how the miners felt about it.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

P.M.A. raised the dues a little more than before but I think they used the money for good purposes and never was suspicious of anyone taking money. Before Mine B closed U.M.W. never picketed the mine and I did not see any literature and no one talked to me about going back to U.M.W. Before the mine closed I heard there were some men at Mine B who favored U.M.W. but they never spoke to me. Some I recall were Sammy, the committeeman, and others. I don't know of any parties given by Elshoff or U.M.W. I don't know why we worked after contract ran out - I can't remember that. There was no trouble at Mine B because of this contract in 1937 and I thot P.M.A. could get as good a contract as U.M.W. could. No one talked to me of it at all. Night before Mine B closed down I don't know if I went to a meeting or not. When Mine B closed in 1937 that morning there was talk on top about these men who were for U.M.W. but I don't know anything more about it. We were told to load our cars light and I loaded one good one and some one stole the check on it so I never got paid for it. One man talking to another started this gossip about the cars. I think I worked till quitting time and came on top and don't remember of being told mine was closed. I don't know for sure if I went to work next day and then came home or what as I don't recall just what took place then. I forget what the reason was why Mine B closed. I never signed any petitions for P.M.A. or U.M.W. in summer or fall of 1937. I don't heard a thing about U.M.W. forming a new local. In summer of 1937 no one bothered me at all. I heard that some Mine B men and Falcetti were at Jefferson Mine too. I was at Mine B in fall of 1937 and heard P.M.A. men could not go back to work but I heard that some U.M.W. men went down and I went home again. Saw in the papers it was going to open I think. I was at sit down strike for a few days and nights only. Just local 54 men were there but no outsiders. No one forced me to go out and I went out of my own free will. All things were nice there and there was no trouble and we were protecting our jobs. I was not there when U.S. Marshall came out. In Dec. 1937 I don't know for sure if I heard of Mine B reopening but I did not go out I know. I remember of voting once at Armory and I think the P.M.A. won that. We went to vote from P.M.A. hall. I voted for P.M.A. and it was by secret ballot and no one forced me to vote and it was a good election as far as I know. I think I went out to Mine B. later on but did not go to work and I think I read of it in the papers. I don't know why Elshoff would not sign a contract with P.M.A. In fall of 1939 I got a registered letter telling me to go to work in certain time and I went out and saw Falcetti I think. No one asked me what union I belonged to. I went to work at once. I think we got same wages as under old contract but nothing was said about it to me. Later on I heard men at Mine B talking that they were signing over and I worked as P.M.A. for some time before I joined U.M.W. I paid dues to P.M.A. Some asked me at

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

Mine B to join over and finally I did sign up with Tony Plotz. No one forced me to join and I joined as others were going to U.M.W. In summer of 1940 I don't recall of signing any cards for P.M.A. or U.M.W. There were a lot of new men at Mine B but there was talk some were from outside and I don't know if they were U.M.W. or not. I saw [REDACTED] get beat up in the coal mine and heard of others too and I don't know why [REDACTED] got beat up. I can't remember if I voted second time at Armory or not and I just can't recall that one. In fall of 1939 Mine had some falls but Box [REDACTED] was in pretty good shape and I loaded coal the first day back. I never heard of a fire at Mine B while it was closed. I attend some meetings of U.M.W. now but I was not there when Glasco got kicked out.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this (six) 6 page statement to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I have signed it of my own free will.

Witnesses:      Signed: [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

[REDACTED] (Special Agt. FBI (Illw.)  
[REDACTED], Special Agents, F.B.I. (St. Paul)  
Springfield, Ill  
Sept. 9, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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

[REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
on September 8, 1943. [REDACTED] speaks broken English and it is  
difficult to follow his conversation. He appears to be definite in  
his statements and would make a willing witness. He [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] retains facial marks of the beating he re-  
ceived at Mine "B". He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 8, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] entered the United  
States at [REDACTED] was  
naturalized at [REDACTED] At the pre-  
sent time I live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois  
and I am employed as a miner at [REDACTED] Mine, Springfield  
Illinois as a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America  
that will be referred to hereinafter as PMA.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers  
of America that will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined  
this union about [REDACTED] at a small mine near [REDACTED] Illinois. I  
worked at four other mines before I started working at Mine B in  
[REDACTED] I voluntarily joined PMA in 1930 or 1931. I volun-  
tarily joined PMA in September, 1932.

"I never held a union office at any time.

"Before September, 1932 Carl Elshoff got along alright with  
UMW miners.

"When the PMA first organized in Mine B. Carl Elshoff  
seemed to get along with the miners, but later he seemed to favor  
the UMW.

"My job in Mine B was a coal digger.

"The PMA leaders were good. All of the miners liked to work  
under the PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"I do not know anything about the PMA taking assessments out of my wages when it was first organized, and I was always satisfied working under the PMA.

"I knew the following men were U.M. agitators and organizers at Mine B before the strike in 1937: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Bowlinggreen, and James Hale.

"On two days after working hours between 1932 and April, 1937 I saw Carl Elshoff and Oscar Falcetti go into a saloon with four or five of these above mentioned men. I remember that Bowlinggreen and Heckelbeck were in this group. This saloon is located on the East side of Sixth Street, between Jefferson and Washington Streets in Springfield, Ill. I think it was called Logans Bar.

"I remember seeing some of these U.M. agitators whose names I mentioned, in Elshoff's office. They seemed to be friendly with Elshoff.

"I know nothing about the wage scale troubles between Elshoff and the PMA. I was satisfied with my wages and I never talked to anyone about getting more money.

"I went to some of the U.M. meeting before 1932 and some of the PMA meetings later. I took no interest in the union business, either U.M. or PMA.

"I did not know about the miners who were thrown out of the PMA, at the PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937. I did not know that some miners were thrown out of the union at this meeting.

"I did not load any coal cars short at anytime. I saw some cars loaded short on May 12, 1937, but I did not know why they were loaded short. I figured the miners did not have time to load full cars.

"I found out about the strike the next day which was May 13, 1937 when I was told by the men I road to work with that there was a strike at Mine B.

"I helped picket at Mine B for about three months after the strike started.

"I never signed any petitions in 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"When the operator tried to open the mine in September, 1937 I went out to the mine but the PMA miners would not work because the UMW miners, about twenty five in all, went down in the mine to work. I know the mine was going to try to open that day from the notice in the newspapers.

"When the mine did open in November, 1939 I went back to work at Mine B. A week or two after I started working [redacted] came to my room in the mine where I was digging coal. He asked me if I wanted to join the UMW. I said no. I was working on the open shop basis and I did not have to pay dues and I did not want to pay dues to any union. [redacted] said I had to pay dues to one of the unions. He said that when there was a vote I had better sign for UMW and not the PMA because the UMW has a lot of money.

"A day or two later, Big George, whose name I do not know, came to my room in the mine and asked me if I wanted to join UMW. I said no. Big George said I'd better join UMW or some day I would 'get something good.'

"On January 16, 1941, Big George came to me and asked me again if I wanted to join UMW. I said no. He said, 'suit yourself, some of these days you will get it.'

"The next morning I went to the mine wash house to put on my work clothes. [redacted] and Bowlinggreen were hiding in a small hallway in connection with the wash house and when I went into this hallway [redacted] was on one side and Bowlinggreen was on the other. When I went in between them they both hit me with their fists I think they had brass knuckles on their hands as it felt like that, but I did not see the brass knuckles. I started yelling and a deputy sheriff who was the step-brother of the man who was sheriff at that time stopped these men and I believe he put them in jail under a bond.

"Falcetti told me to go to the company doctor whose name was Deal and the company would pay the bill. After three days the doctor told me the company would not pay the bill so I did not go again. The doctor sent me three bills.

[redacted] and Bowlinggreen had cut my lip, and had kicked me. The doctor put four stitches in my lip.

"About a month after I was beaten I went back to the mine to get my tools. [redacted] told me I could not go down into the mine unless I signed with the UMW. I did not tell him I was

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

going down in the mine just to get my tools. I signed a U.M. card and went into the mine, but could not find my tools. I then went to see Falcetti about going back to work and he told the boss to show me where I would work and I was taken to a room where there was about a hundred cars of slate due to a cave in. I do not know the name of the boss. Someone else was working in my old room.

"The company men had to clean out the slate and I would have to wait until the slate was cleaned out.

"Falcetti said the company would call me when the slate was cleaned out so I could go back to work, but I never got the call and I know they did not want me to work there anymore.

"I voted in both N.L.R.B. elections though at the time of the second N.L.R.B. election I was not working at the mine. No one tried to get me to vote one way or the other at either election.

"I am able to speak English, but I can not read English well so I have had [redacted] read this statement to me which consists of five and one quarter pages and it is true and correct.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [redacted]

/s/ [redacted]

Special Agent F.B.I.

/s/ [redacted]

Special Agent F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 11, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has little understanding of the matter under inquiry. He joined the UMW in order to retain his job at the mine. He was hesitant to talk to Agents as he stated he had been advised it was necessary for him to have a counsel before talking to government investigators. He executed the following statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 11, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] entered the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized in Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America hereinafter referred to as the UMW. I joined this union about [REDACTED] at the Peabody Mine #6 near Springfield, Ill. I worked at six mines before 1932 when I started working at mine B under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I joined the PMA in 1933, voluntarily. I liked the PMA and the PMA leaders. The miners felt they were being treated fairly by the PMA.

"I have worked at Mine B as a digger continuously from 1933 until the present time except during the strike period from 1937 to 1939.

"I have never held a union office. I only attended a few UMW and PMA meetings. I do not attend many UMW meetings now.

"Elshoff got along well with the PMA as far as I know to 1937.

"I know the following miners: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Flotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, Charles Bohannon and James Hale.

"I was satisfied with the PMA dues and assessments and I never complained because of dues taken from my wages by the PMA.

"In November, 1939, after the strike, I went back to work at Mine B, and two or three months later Joe Albanese of the UMW Pit Committee came up to me and asked me to join the UMW. I refused, but the next day I talked to other miners and observed that most of them had joined and I knew I would have to join or get out of the mine. It was my idea that if I did not join the UMW I would not be able to work there.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"I did not attend the P.M.A. meeting of May 11, 1937 and I know nothing about any miners who were expelled from the P.M.A.

"I helped picket Mine B for about thirty days.

"I believe I signed the P.M.A. petition of May 26, 1937. I do not remember exactly what it was meant for.

"Relative to the mine trying to re-open; I remember going to Mine B on one occasion when only a handful of men went down into the mine. I did not go to work. I was a P.M.A. member. The men that I named in this statement were included in the few men that did go to work on this occasion. There were not enough men to work the mine at this time. I believe that was in September, 1937.

"I do not remember the mine trying to open on any other occasion.

"I returned to work in 1939 at Mine B as a member of P.M.A. I received a registered letter from Elshoff giving me ten days to report for work.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in December, 1937. As far as I know it was a fair election. It presented a true picture of how the miner felt at that mine.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in February, 1941. It was also fair.

"At Mine B. during the past week I have been approached by some miners who told me that I would have to have a council present before I could talk to any F.B.I. or Government Investigators. I am permitting this interview because I want to speak my mind and this statement has been given of my own free will.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent, F.B.I.

Special Agent F.B.I."

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 9, 1943.

At the residence of [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, agents interviewed him and he said he never has been arrested in his life. He also advised that he had not been told by anyone not to talk to agents of the FBI and he said he was willing to answer any questions asked him.

It was noted that [REDACTED] is rather illiterate and he said he could not read the English language. He could understand questions alright and answered them in good English. However, it is felt he would make a poor witness unless his testimony is absolutely necessary.

Agents obtained from him a statement and it was read over to him and he said it was true and correct as he had given it to agents but that he would not sign it as he could not sign his name anyway.

This unsigned statement is as follows:

\*Springfield, Ill  
Sept. 9, 1943  
[REDACTED]

"I [REDACTED] give the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Spec. Agts. of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me at any time to procure this statement and I give it of my own free will.

"I started at Mine B in the Summer of 1936 and I am still there. I was born [REDACTED] I came to U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a citizen in 1937. I first joined a mine union in [REDACTED] in Spring., Ill. this was U.M.W. I have never been a union officer. I joined the Progressives in 1932 at [REDACTED]

"During the year I was at Mine B before the strike I never saw any trouble or heard that anyone wanted us to go back to U.M.W. I dont even know Elshoff.

"As far as I know the progressives got along ok with their officials, the men ran the local not just a few. I went to meetings about once a month. I was always satisfied with the way the P.M.A. men handled the money, I never favored either P.M.A. or U.M.W. I heard of the P.M.A. men being sent to jail for bombing, I dont know whether they were guilty or not. I never saw any U.M.W. men picket Mine B,

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

distribute literature there or attempt to organize at the mine before the strike. I know nothing about any parties given by Elshoff or U.M.W.

"I knew the contract ran out in the spring of 1937 but I did not know about any agreement that had been made regarding it. I am satisfied whether we have P.M.A. or U.M.W. so long as I work. I dont know how the men felt about working without a contract I cant read peoples minds. Even though they had no contract they kept on working. I did not attend or know anything about a meeting the night before the mine closed.

"I want to work the day of the strike and knew nothing about any strike. When I came out at quitting time I heard there was a strike. I later heard that they called a strike because they had no contract. I never loaded any cars short when I went home I saw some on the parting that were loaded short I dont know why they were loaded this way. About two weeks after mine B closed I went to [REDACTED] and worked for a couple of months. I never signed any petitions for U.M.W. or P.M.A. I dont know anything about any attempt to form a U.M.W. local in Spring., Ill. I was still at [REDACTED] when the sit down strike started. I went out to the sit down after it started I had to eat. I was there over a month. I went on my own free will. I dont know why they were there. Everything was quiet and peaceful, as far as I know all the men were local 54 men. I was there when the Marshall came and told us to leave, nothing was said, we just left, you cant talk back to the U. S. Marshall when he's got the warrant.

"I didnt hear anything about the attempts to open the mine in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election. I went right from my home to the Armory and voted the way I wanted. As far as I know it was a honest election, it was held by secret ballot. I was not forced to vote.

"I dont know why Elshoff would not sign with P.M.A. after they won the election, I dont know how he was able to afford to keep the mine closed so long either.

"I never heard anything about Falsetti or any men from Mine B. working at Jefferson Mine. After the Marshall made us leave Mine B I got a job on W.P.A. and took no interest in the mine.

"When the mine opened in 1939 I got a letter telling me to come back to work. I went out and saw Falsetti, who put my name on the list, I was last on the list, -I- a couple of months they sent me

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 12, 1943. [REDACTED] stated that no one had told him at Mine B not to talk to Federal agents and that he was glad to cooperate in any way. He understood questions readily and answered them in understandable language and it is felt that he would make a fair witness if his testimony were necessary. He advised he has no criminal record.

[REDACTED] executed the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Sept. 12, 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 started at Mine B in the summer of 1935 as a digger and I am still there. I was born [REDACTED] I came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a citizen in [REDACTED] I first joined a mine union in [REDACTED] was U.M.W. I have never held a union office. During the 2 years I worked at Mine B before 1937 I was a Progressive. I had been one before I came there. During this time everything was all right between Elshoff and P.M.A. I never heard anything said by either Falsatti or Elshoff to indicate they favored UM or PMA. Before the mine closed down there were a few men at Mine "B" tryint to swing the men at mine "B" back to the U.M.W. All they did was talk saying they didn't think P.M.A. was a good union. I remember Pasquale, and Bowling Green as being two of these. During this time the mine and Mine "B" got along all right. I couldn't say anything against it. It was the miner's union & they ran it. I did not attend many meetings because I lived so far from Springfield, went about once every six months. The dues were not too high because before we split from the UM he paid them more than we did the Progressives.

"I read in the paper about the men who were sent to the jail for bombing. I couldn't judge whether they were guilty or not.

"Before the strike I never saw any U.M.W. men come to Mine B to picket or distribute literature. I never heard nothing about any parties given by Elshoff or the U.M.W.

"When the union contract ran out in 1937, we keep on working at Mine B. I don't know whether they had any temporary agreement or not. There was some talk about the wage question at this time. some wanted to work and some didn't want to work. There was no strikes or trouble, just some talking.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I don't remember anything about a meeting the night before the mine shut down. When I went to work on May 12, 1937 I did not know there was to be any strike. I did not know anything about it until they called us out just before quitting time. I can't say what the strike was for. I did not load any cars short but I did not load any that way and no one told me to load any short. I don't remember whether P.M.A. picketed the mine at this time or not. I recall signing a petition for P.M.A. \_\_\_\_\_ night after the mine closed. No one forced me to sign. I did it of my own free will because I was for the Progressives. I did not sign any petition for U.M.W. and I don't remember any P.M.A. petition in the fall of 1937.

"During the summer of 1937 I read in the paper that U.M.W. was forming a local in Springfield, no one contacted me to join.

"I don't recall anything else unusual happening during the summer & Fall of 1937. When they reopened the mine in the fall of 1937, I did not go out the first day I think I went the 2nd day. During the sit-down I was there part of the time. I was there of my own free will no one forced me to go. The strike was peaceful and the men there were all local men. We were there to protect our jobs and the property. I don't think I was at the mine the night the Marshall came over and ordered us off. After this I never went back to Mine B until it opened for good. I did not go there in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election I voted the way I wanted, no one forced me to vote. I voted for the Progressives because I was with them. It looked to me like it was a straight election. The P.M.A. won this election. I don't know why Elshoff would not make a contract with us. I don't know where Elshoff got the money to keep the mine closed. I never heard a thing about Elshoff owning or anyone from Mine B going to work at the Jefferson Mine.

"When the Mine opened in the fall of 1939 I got a letter telling me to come back to work. I went there the next day and they put my name on the list as my section was not ready. In a few days they called me back. I understood at the time the miners were to get the regular Progressive wage scale. When we went back to the mine to work it was in bad shape - lots of cave ins. I had not heard of any fire there while it was closed. When I went back I paid dues to P.M.A. From the time I went to work until I joined the U.M.W. some fellow asked me what I thought about 2 unions at the mine. I told him I did not think it was right, it should be one way or the other. He did not ask me to join U.M.W. No one ever came to my home or bothered me to join U.M.W. When I saw most of the men were joining the U.M.W. I joined to. I think I joined before the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. I joined

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] of my own free will because I saw all the rest join. I  
(continued) figured I might just as well go back too. They hired  
quite a few new men when the mine opened I don't know whether  
they were P.M.A. or U.M.W. I never signed any cards for  
U.M.W. or P.M.A. so far as I remember in \_\_\_ summer \_\_\_ 1940.

"I voted at the 2nd N.L.R.B. election at the Armory. This election was just like the other one we voted by secret ballot so far as I know it was a good honest election. No force was used to get me to vote. I do not know anything about the meeting at which Jack Glasgow was kicked out.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this statement to me as I just read a little english. To the best of my knowledge and belief it is all the truth and just as I have told it to the Agents. The statement is written on this and four other pages. I am signing this statement of my own free will as it is all true.

Signed [REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, F.B.I.  
St. Paul, Minn.  
[REDACTED] Ill.  
Sept. 12, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 13, 1943, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] at his home, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. During the course of this interview it was observed that [REDACTED] is a very intelligent person who is possessed with a very good memory. It should be noted that he admitted freely that he does not care for [REDACTED] the man who succeeded him as board member for this district. It is further to be noted that he claims to have no personal knowledge whatever of any violence at Mine B after that mine was opened although he was working at the mine at that time and has a very good knowledge of most things pertaining to the union. It is believed that if called as a witness he will make a very good impression. He expressed his willingness to cooperate with the Government in every way. He advises that he has no criminal record.

The following signed statement was procured from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill  
Sept. 13, 1943

"I [REDACTED] give the following statement to [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me and I give this statement willingly. I have been employed [REDACTED] Prior to that I was employed as a digger at Mine "B" since [REDACTED] I was born [REDACTED] The first time I joined a mine union was in about [REDACTED] this was U.M.W. I went in as a charter member. In 1932 I became a member of [REDACTED] F.M.A., I held this until 1933 when I was succeeded by [REDACTED] I was at Mine B [REDACTED] before they changed to the Progressive Union. During that time as far as I know U.M.W. at that time got along alright as far as I know.

"When the change was made from U.M.W. to F.M.A. I just went over automatically with the rest. It did not make any difference to me whether we were F.M.A. or U.M.W. and in fact I did not want the job as board member, but when I took it I went out and signed up every mine in this District that went F.M.A. When I contacted ELSHOFF to sign up for the F.M.A. it was at his request. He seemed pleased that they had gone F.M.A. at his mine.

"From 1932 to 1937, there was a lot of rumpus between ELSHOFF and the F.M.A. officials from what I have heard. One difficulty was caused by ELSHOFF wanting to operate on a 6 day week and the F.M.A. wouldn't let him. I never heard of ELSHOFF or FALSETTI doing anything to discredit the F.M.A. officials nor do I know of their having expressed any desire to have U.M.W. back. From 1932 to 1937 local 54 F.M.A., was being run in a way to satisfy most of the men in all respects there were some men who felt that some of the money was not being spent properly but this is usual in all labor unions. I attended all F.M.A. meetings during this period. The F.M.A. officials made regular

MS: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

reports on money matters. When the P.M.A. started it was hard pressed financially, I know that they didn't pay me all they promised as a board member. This was due to their financial circumstances. I don't know of anything to indicate dishonest handling of union funds. I recall the P.M.A. men who were sentenced for property bombings, I have no opinion as to their guilt or innocence. While the P.M.A. was the union at Mine B, it was never to my knowledge picketed by the U.M.W. nor was any literature distributed by them. I did not know of any group in P.M.A. who were actually U.M.W. men. No one ever contacted me to get me to join U.M.W. at this time. I heard nothing about any parties being given by ELSHCFF for U.M.W. or by U.M.W. for him.

"When the contract expired on 3-31-37, [REDACTED] told us we were working on a temporary agreement and that our pay would be retro-active to Apr. 1. I figured at this time that P.M.A. would be able to get us as good a contract as the U.M.W. In April and early May of 1937, there were no show-downs or stoppages at the mine or any other demonstrations so far as I know, over the wage issue. I have no idea as to the managements position in the wage matter. I did not attend the 5/11 meeting, where I believe two P.M.A. members were expelled. I don't remember the names of those expelled. At previous meetings I know that some members were expelled. I went to work 5/12/37 this was just like any other day to me. I don't remember any commotion at the mine that day over either the wage question or the men who had been expelled from P.M.A. On 5/12/37 there were some cars loaded short, I did not purposefully load any short and no one told me to load cars in that manner. I had a couple come out short because the driver came & got them too soon. On the last day we worked I was called out of the mine and went over to one of the men & asked where orders came from to strike the mine, he said from district headquarters. I then saw [REDACTED] and he told me he had ordered the mine closed, he did not at the time tell me why he had called the strike. I did not feel at the time that a strike should have been called at Mine B. I never heard that the reason for closing the mine was because the Co. had refused to fire men expelled from P.M.A. There was a picket line at Mine B for a few days, this was on the road not the mine property.

"I signed the first P.M.A. petition on the road near the mine. I was not forced to sign and did it of my own free will.

"I signed a later Petition which was to be submitted to the labor-board. I signed this also of my own free will.

"I did not sign any petition for U.M.W. during the summer of 1937 and don't recall being asked to sign such.

"I read of a new U.M.W. local being formed in Springfield the summer of 1937. I was not approached concerning it however. No one contacted me during the summer of 1937 to join U.M.W.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"When the mine opened the summer of 1937 I read of it in the papers. I did not go out the first day. I did go out the 2nd day on this day some men tried to go to work they walked up to the cage but were blocked. I think either the 3rd or 4th day the sit-down started. I was there most of the time it was on. This strike was carried on by our own local so far as I know. There were no imported hoodlums or thugs. No one forced me to take part in this and I did it figuring I was protecting my job. There was no violence at this strike so far as I know. I was there when the U. S. Marshall came out and read the injunction. He came out and told who he was, read the law to us and told us to leave. Some of the men asked us what to do & I told them, that men was the law & we had to go. There was no trouble. I heard of the attempt to open the mine in Dec. 1937 but I did not go out.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election. I voted the way I wanted and of my own free will. I went to the local hall first and we went over in 10's. [REDACTED] explained the purpose of the voting and why we were going to go in groups. he did not tell me how to vote. I did not see any U.M.W. men on the way to or at the Armory. I think this was an honest election. I remember the attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938, but I did not go.

"I did not hear why ELSHOFF would not make a contract with P.M.A. from the time of the election till the mine opened nor do I have any knowledge as to where he got the money to keep it closed from.

"I did not hear of FALSETTI or any of the Mine B men working at Jefferson mine while Mine B was shut down.

"When the mine opened I got a registered letter from the company telling me to report in 5 days. I went out, saw FALSETTI who gave me my check and put me to work at once. I don't recall what the wage scale arrangement at this time was. When I went back to work I kept on paying dues to the Progressives. When we went back to work there were many falls in the mine. Two boxes never did open. I did not hear of any fire in the mine while it was closed down. After I went to work I was not contacted in regard to joining the U.M.W. I was not threatened in any way. I joined up with the U.M.W. the first working day in Jan. of 1941. I signed then because so many had already signed. [REDACTED] and I just decided we might just as well join. I signed of my own free will. I did not care about my job there as I know I could get a job somewhere else. I only heard of one man being beaten and I didn't see this and don't know whether there was anything to it or not. So far as I know the Progressives did nothing to keep the men with them. I don't think there was any particular reason why they did not bother me except that they knew I would be my own judge. During the summer of 1940 I signed a membership card for P.M.A. but not for U.M.W. During this time the management did nothing to

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

indicate preference for one union over the other. I did not see many new men at the mine when it was first opened.

"I voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election, I was not forced to vote and voted the way I wanted, voting U.M.W.A. As far as I can say this was an honest election.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read this 6 page statement to me and it is all true and correct so far as I can recall, and is as I have told it to Agents. I am signing this of my own free will."

"Signed [redacted]"

"WITNESSED:

[redacted], Spec. Agt.,  
F.B.I. St. Paul, Minn.

[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI (Milw)  
Springfield, Ill\_ 9-13-43"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of the pertinent facts in this case and his inability to speak English well. He admitted no criminal record.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 7, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to America in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized at [REDACTED]. I am presently residing at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

"I have worked in the Coal Mines in Lincoln and Springfield, Ill. since [REDACTED] starting at Mine B in [REDACTED]. I joined the United Mine Workers of America when I first started working in the mines at [REDACTED] and stayed with this union until 1932. Between [REDACTED] and 1932 the UMWA had no trouble with the Mine B officials.

"The theft of the ballots on the wage scale was the reason for the start of the Progressive Mine Workers of America so far as I know. I had no part in the formation of PMA but I did attend a meeting at Reservoir Park when the men were talking about a new union. I never held an office in either PMA or UMWA. I joined PMA along with all the other miners at Mine B in 1932, and so far as I know this union got along well with Mr. Elshoff and Oscar Falcetti, and I never heard either of them talk against P.M.A.

"I thought the PMA was a good union, well run and I liked the officers. I attended most of the meetings and had a right to talk and vote for whom I pleased. The dues and Special assessments were about the same in PMA as in UMWA.

"About two weeks before the strike in May of 1937 James Hale came into my room where I was loading coal and asked me to sign up with UMWA, saying that everyone was signing up. I was scared and signed up. I was surprised and couldn't think, and signed up to save my job. I was afraid to tell anyone about this. [REDACTED] also signed up

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

the same way, according to Jim Hale. Mr. Hale also claimed that [REDACTED] had joined UMWA.

"I knew Andre Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout George Jacaway, & Charles Bohannon but I never knew that any of them were UMWA spies or know that any of them were suspended until I joined UMWA.

"So far as I know the strike in May of 1937 was caused by an argument about back pay. I was working the day of the strike, but I don't remember how it started. I do remember seeing Coal Cars being loaded short that day but I didn't load any short myself. After the strike both PMA and UMWA came around with petitions, but I don't remember signing either one, because I had decided to quit. However, during the summer of 1937 the UMWA started a new local. I believe it was #7469. I was asked to come over to John Ananias house to pay my dues. The only other person I ever saw over there was Tony Plotch. I remember paying dues there a couple of times.

"During the time the PMA was picketing the Mine B I went out there only one night. None of the PMA men knew that I was paying dues to UMWA.

"I recall that in Dec. 1937 "Cotton" Ananias told me to come out to Mine B as it was going to open UMWA. I went out to the mine but there was only about a dozen men there--mostly the men whose names have been set out above. I remember that there were some PMA men on the road in cars watching who went to work. We only worked one day and quit because we didn't have enough men. I was scared because I saw that the UMWA didn't have a majority like James Hale had told me when he got me to sign up with UMWA.

"I remember voting in the 1st NLRB election, but I don't remember how I voted. I believe the Progressives won.

"After the strike I went back to work at Mine B in 1939. I got a letter from Mr. Elshoff saying that the mine was going to open. I had been on WPA for 14 months when the mine opened. When I returned to work I was paying dues to UMWA. No one bothered me or tried to get me to join UMWA as I was already a member. I never tried to get anyone to join UMWA. I never saw anyone beat up, but one morning I saw an old man named [REDACTED] lying on the floor in the wash house and I heard the men talking, and I heard that John Sirtout beat him up. I also heard about a man being beat up down in the mines. I think the reasons for these beatings was because the UMWA was trying to squeeze out the PMA.

"I recall voting in the Second NLRB election which UMWA won. I voted for UMWA this time.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I quit out at Mine B about the end of May 1941, because I never went back to Mine B again."

"If I had a free and voluntary choice of Unions I would choose the Progressives."

"I have had the above statement consisting of four and one quarter pages (4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ) read to me by Agent [REDACTED] and have initialed the changes I wanted to me. The above statements are true and I do hereby sign my name."

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

He was very cooperative and it is believed he will make a good witness. He speaks English well and was Pit Committeeman at Mine "B" when it reopened. He appeared intelligent and familiar with the pertinent facts of this case. He has no known criminal record other than an admitted traffic violation.

He submitted the following signed statement and an addendum thereto:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 6, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made by them to get me to make a statement.

"I was born [REDACTED] I first joined U.M.W. about [REDACTED] when I began to work at Spring Creek Mine near Springfield. I began working at Mine "B" about [REDACTED]

"In 1932 when P.M.A. was formed, I attended several of the meetings but was never an officer until 1937 when I was on the Pit Committee. I wanted to join P.M.A. because I didn't like the cut in wages which U.M.W. proposed on the wage contract.

"For the first 3 or 4 years P.M.A. had the contract at Mine "B" everything seemed to go along smoothly. There were no strikes or closedowns and only some minor arguments took place in the office over settling grievances.

"Prior to the strike in 1937, there were some pamphlets were placed on windshields of the cars urging us to join U.M.W. There was a group of men who were agitating and acting as spies and some of these were expelled just before the strike. They Joe Albanese who was also known as Sam Catalino, and Andrew Skrelivicus, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Geo. Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and Jame Hale. These men were frequently seen at parties of a social nature at various homes including Falsetti.

"At the time when the wage contract held by P.M.A. ran out in 1937, [REDACTED] read a temporary agreement to the miners at the mine explaining that they would get retroactive pay if the new contract was higher. Soon after this U.M.W. obtained a wage scale which was higher than the P.M.A. contract:

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

U.M.W. could not get a contract at Mine "B" though, because they did not have bargaining rights at the mine. At this time the agitators named above began talking to the miners explaining that the miners would get this raise and be better off if they joined U.M.W. These men were always around the mine company offices, even after hours and on Sunday mornings, which indicated to me that the company was behind it all. These men were also seen going to U.M.W. headquarters so P.M.A. expelled about 5 of them for spying activities, but the company refused to fire them and this was the cause of the strike.

"I signed a petition to have these spies tried before the Union body and to be dismissed for their spying activities.

"The day of the strike I was loading coal and I saw some cars being partly loaded and I knew the men were doing this in an effort to force the company to dismiss the spies. I began loading cars short also at that time. About two o'clock that afternoon we were called out on strike. When we came up the shaft Frank Austin made some slurring remark and this caused a slight commotion but no violence occurred. The spies went immediately to the office of the company and after a short time of milling around we came on home.

"About two weeks after the strike P.M.A. circulated a petition to show that P.M.A. had a majority. John Schneider and others made a house to house canvas of the miners to get signatures. They made no threats of any kind to get these signatures, and each man was required to sign in his own handwriting.

"I heard U.M.W. also circulated a petition that summer but no one asked me to sign it.

"In September, 1937, I saw in the paper that Mine "B" was to re-open so the next morning I called the mine to see if there was work because I could not hear the whistle from my home. They said there was work so I went to the mine to work but I saw that the expelled spies were there to go to work too and I refused. That morning we all went to the office and the company gave each man a paper supposed to explain why no P.M.A. had no contract. Falsetti led the spies to the shaft and when I saw this I refused to work with them as did the rest of the P.M.A. members. We began picketing in a day or so and this continued for about two months until we were served with a court injunction.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Dec. 1937 and in my estimation it was a fair election. No threats or violence occurred that I know of. There were some pamphlets distributed at the election but I refused to take

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] one and I don't recall what was in them.

(continued)

"I received a letter that the mine would reopen in November, 1939, on an open shop basis. I went to work as a member of P.M.A.

"Shortly after the mine opened a fight occurred when a man named [REDACTED] who had secured a job at the mine, hit [REDACTED] who was a P.M.A. member. I don't know what started this fight. From this time on there were several fights and the spies mentioned above were always going around in the mine attempting to get them to join U.M.W. and when the men refused they would beat them up.

"In the winter of 1940, after most of the men had gone down the shaft, a bunch of the spies began beating several dues paying members of P.M.A. I saw them beat up on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 and when it went U.M.W., I quit the mine and went to work [REDACTED]

"During the time most of the fights occurred I was Pit Committeeman and I settled all grievances whether the men belonged to P.M.A. or U.M.W.

"When the mine reopened, I suggested several P.M.A. men be hired but Falsetti said he would hire the men he wanted and he refused to hire any P.M.A. men. He refused to hire [REDACTED] was a P.M.A. member.

"I have read this 5 page statement and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 9, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary addition to the statement which I gave to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

make this additional statement. I wish to add the following:

"On the day [REDACTED] was beaten up [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and myself were driving entry in the section of the mine where [REDACTED] was working. All three of us who were driving entry were members of the Pit Committee. About 10:30 a.m. we got a call to go up on top and when we went to the company office Falsetti told us our district office had called and wanted us down at the district office right away. We got in [REDACTED] car and came down to the District Headquarters but when we reached there we were told that no call had been placed for us and that we weren't wanted. While we were at the District Office a call came in from the mine advising that [REDACTED] had been beaten up.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and one other page which is a statement in addition to the statement I have given previously. It is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of the pertinent facts at Mine B. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 14, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and emigrated to America in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized in [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. I first started working in the mines in [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. I have never been an officer in any union. I began to work in Mine B about [REDACTED]. I was a UMWA member at that time and we got along alright with the Mine B Co.

"The Progressives were started in 1932 because the UMWA stole the wage scale notes. I never had anything to do with the formation of PMA and never attended any of the meetings when it was being organized. I joined PMA along with all the other men at Mine B and we got along fine with Mr. Elshoff until the time of the strike in 1937. I thought that the Progressives were alright.

"The strike started in 1937 because a bunch of guys wanted to put UMWA in Mine B. Some of the men who were causing this trouble and acting as spies for UMWA were: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevisus, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtcut, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon (Bowling Green), and James Hale. I know that Jim Hale was kicked out of PMA for 99 years for talking for UMWA. I never heard about any of the other men being expelled.

"I don't recall any argument about a contract or wages but I do know that I had some back pay coming that I never got.

"I was at the mine on the day of the strike but I never loaded any cars light, although I saw some come by only half loaded. [REDACTED] called us out on strike at 2:45 pm because the mine wouldn't pay the scale.

"I don't remember signing any petition showing that I favored PMA.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I remember going out to Mine B one morning when 13 UMWA, who had formed a new local, tried to open the Mine. These 13 men were composed mostly of the men named above. The PMA started a sitdown strike out there to protect their jobs. I was only at the mine for a couple of days during the sit down strike.

"I voted in the 1st N.L.R.B. election which PMA won by a big majority.

"While the mine was closed on strike I raised a garden and sold vegetables and went one year on W.P.A. I was on WPA when I got a letter from Mr. Elshoff to come back to work.

"When I went back to Mine B it was "open shop." I was still a Progressive. Two or three months after I was back at work [REDACTED] came around and asked me to sign up UMWA. I told him that I was going to wait a little. I was never threatened or beaten, but I saw [REDACTED] in the office after he got beat up because he wouldn't join UMWA. I finally joined UMWA because I saw that most of the men were joining up, and I was afraid of getting beat up if I didn't.

"I also voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election which UMWA won.

"I don't favor either union, both of them treated me about the same.

"I am presently employed at Mine B as a digger.

"I have had the above statement consisting of 2 3/4 pages read to me by Agent [REDACTED]. It is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative but it is not believed that he would make a good witness because he seems hazy on the facts and events which occurred at Mine B during the period under investigation. [REDACTED] admitted no criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 10, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and came to America [REDACTED]. I claim citizenship through my father who got his papers in [REDACTED].

"I started working in the mines around Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED]. I joined up with United Mine Workers of America in the latter part of that year. I started at Mine B in [REDACTED]. Between [REDACTED] and 1932 the U.M.W. got along fair out at Mine B.

"The split in 1932 was caused on account of John L. Lewis mostly he wanted us to take a reduction on a 'Yellow Dog' contract. I took no part in the formation of the Progressive Mine Workers of America but joined them along with all the other men at Mine B. The P.M.A. got along alright with the Mine B. officials. I figured that the P.M.A. was a whole lot better than the U.M.W.

"The trouble in 1937 was caused by a temporary contract about retroactive back pay. Elshoff backed down on this contract and we went out on strike. I know that he owed me \$11.00 back pay. At this time there was a bunch of men who favored U.M.W. at Mine B and they were starting trouble. These men were: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale.

"The strike was caused because [REDACTED] told us not to go down because Elshoff wouldn't give us our back pay. We came out about the middle of the afternoon. I recall seeing some cars come out with short loads on the day of the strike. This was because the men were mad about the Co. trying to switch back to U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I remember signing a petition after the strike showing that I favored P.M.A.

"I picketed out at Mine B for about a month, two or three days at a time, but I wasn't out there when it started, and I wasn't there when the men were ordered off by the injunction.

"Right after the injunction some of the U.M.W. men mentioned above went out to the mine and brought up all the coal that was down close to the pardon. I don't know how long they were there as I didn't go out to the mine.

"I remember voting in the first N.L. R.B. election which the Progressives won by a big majority.

"Between 1937 and 1939 I was on relief and later W.P.A. I was on W.P.A. when I got a letter to come back to work at Mine B.

"When I returned to Mine B in 1939 I was still Progressive and paid dues to that union. I stayed P.M.A. until about the last one. I never saw anyone beaten up at the mine and no one ever bothered me but shortly before I joined U.M.W. the man I rode with was beaten up and 'Cudge' Baumgarner told me that I had better join up with U.M.W. I joined because I had to or be out of luck. My tools weren't stolen and I only had a few docks.

"Just a day or two after I had signed U.M.W. I quit because the top of room was working and when I came back the next morning [REDACTED] said that he was going to give me a two day layoff. I told him that if he gave me two I take two. He said that I was fired. I went in the wash-house to change and I got mad and went back and asked [REDACTED] whats the idea are you going nuts. [REDACTED] said that I had been laying off too much. [REDACTED] then asked the clerk how many days I'd lost and if I'd signed up. The clerk said only 1 day and that I'd joined up. [REDACTED] then told me to put my clothes on and go on down to work.

"I remember voting in the second NLRB election. The U.M.W. won this election. I was surprised when U.M.W. won because I thought the men would still vote P.M.A. anyway.

"I am still out at Mine B digging coal in Box [REDACTED]

"If I could have a free and voluntary choice of unions I would choose P.M.A.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(Continued)

"When Mine B reopened in 1939 they closed off Box and [REDACTED] because of squeezes & caveins. I don't imagine that it cost them over \$10,000.00 to start operations again. I have read the above and it is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent, F.B.I.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] at Mine B and as such disclaims any knowledge of union activities. It is not felt that [REDACTED] would make a good witness because he was reluctant to talk to the Agents and advised that he was a friend of Mr. Elshoff's. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily make the following statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to cause me to make this statement and I know that anything I may say can be presented in a Court of law.

"I was born in [REDACTED] I started working in mines about [REDACTED] and have been [REDACTED] I joined UMWA in [REDACTED] when the [REDACTED] I started at Mine B [REDACTED] All of that time I have been working nights and out of touch with union activities. So far as I knew the UMWA got along fine with Mine B officials before 1932. I don't know the reason for the beginning of PMA and didn't take any part in its formation. I never even attended any union meetings under PMA. When Mine B changed its union affiliations I joined PMA with the other engineers.

"I knew Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, and Charles Bohannon out at Mine B at the time of the strike in 1937, but I never heard about any of them favoring UMWA or stirring up trouble, and I never heard about them or any others being expelled from PMA. On my job I didn't have much contact with the miners and I have no knowledge of any contract or wage difficulties at the time of the strike in 1937. [REDACTED] and I wouldn't have any knowledge of coal being hoisted short at the time of the strike.

[REDACTED] so I couldn't say anything about conditions below during the strike period.

"I don't recall signing any petition for PMA or UMWA after the strike started.

"I returned to Mine B in 1939 as a PMA member. No one ever

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

approached me to threaten me or beat me up. I just joined up with UMWA along with the majority. When I returned to Mine B the fans, hoisting equipment, and boilers were in working condition. I have no knowledge of the condition of Mine B down below when we went back to work.

"I never discussed the strike or union situation with Mr. Elshoff or Oscar Falcetti either during the strike or after I returned to work.

"I have read the above 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  pages of voluntary statements made by me. The same are true and correct.

/s/

"Witnessed:

/s/  
/s/

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Illinois, was jointly interviewed at the FBI Office, Springfield, Illinois, on September 10, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He was beaten by the UMW prior to leaving Mine "B", and is anti-UMW. From interview, it was the agents' impression he is of questionable reliability. He executed the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 10, 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.

[REDACTED]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union about [REDACTED]. I worked in some nine or ten mines before I started working at Mine B in [REDACTED]. I worked in all of these mines as a member of UMW.

"I have never held an office in a union office. However, I was a check weighman at Mine B. from [REDACTED] until January, 1940.

"I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, following the action taken by the other miners at mine B in September, 1932. I took no active part in the formation of PMA.

"As far as I know the relations between Carl Elshoff and the UMW prior to 1932 were satisfactory.

"I believe it was in 1936 when Carl Elshoff was reported to be interested in the operation of the Jefferson Mine at Springfield, Illinois. At this time I recall that Falcetti, under Elshoff's orders took eight or ten men from Mine B out to the Jefferson Mine and worked them out there. I also recall that the Jefferson Mine at that time was operating under an open shop and it later appeared that other men who were UMW members were brought to Mine B to work when that mine opened under the open shop in November, 1939. It appears possible that the eight or ten men put in the Jefferson Mine were UMW agitators. I think that therefore from the start there was some working agreement between Elshoff and the UMW to have a UMW

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

majority in these two mines, Mine B and Jefferson. Between 1932 and 1937 Elshoff would never try to get along with the PMA.

"As far as I knew the PMA miners got along well with, and liked, and trusted the PMA officials.

"In 1936 the UMW tried to obtain UMW sympathizers in the union offices in the PMA.

"I knew the following men were UMW organizers both before 1937 and after the mine opened in 1939: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"Sometime in December, 1936, just before the regular PMA local election, handbills appeared in the Mine B wash house. The bills read, 'vote for Tony Plotch for check weighman and you will be voting for the UMW.' I do not know who put out these bills. I did not put them out.

"It was my understanding that the PMA District Board members had a clause in their contract with Elshoff by which the miners were to get retroactive pay dating back to April 1, 1937. This was not paid to the miners. It was expected that PMA would get as good a wage scale as the UMW would obtain.

"In April, 1937 at the mine offices there was some amongst the miners who expressed dissatisfaction about what wages they were getting and that they were not being paid what had been agreed upon in the contract.

"The whole group of men whose names are mention above in this statement took advantage of this feeling and were active in telling the miners they would never get their retroactive pay.

"About 1934 or 1935 the top boss told me that Falchetti had instructed him to go to the men who work on top of the mine and get them to accept a lower wage scale. That is, a scale lower than we were then receiving. The Top boss, whose name I do not remember refused and he was fired. He was a company man.

"I do not remember if I attended the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937. I did hear that some UMW agitators had been thrown out of the PMA at that meeting.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I remember that on the next day which was May 12, 1937 the coal cars were shorted. I think the cars were shorted in the West part of the mine because it was in that section that most of the UMW agitators including the men listed in this statement were working, and the PMA miners in that section did not want to work with them. I assume the other miners knew about the expulsion of these UMW agitators from the PMA. I could notice unrest among the miners on May 12, 1937.

"I helped picket Mine B after the strike started. I do recall signing the PMA petition of May 26, 1937.

"I think the attempted opening of Mine B in September, 1937 was just a test to see how many men would go to work under the UMW. Elshoff would not let PMA members work there and and he and the UMW felt that the miners by this time after being out of work all summer would be willing to go back to work under the UMW. I think the same reasoning applies to the two other attempts to open the mine. I heard that during this period the majority of the foreign element working in the mine were contacted at their homes and told that the mine would re-open if they joined the UMW.

"In the late Fall of 1939 after the mine had opened under the open-shop, [REDACTED] told me that he had just seen a check in the amount of \$50,000.00 on Elshoff's desk. From the way [REDACTED] described it I understood this check was made payable to Elshoff. He also told me once that Elshoff would not live up to his contract with the PMA.

"I returned to work at Mine B on November 6, 1939, the day it opened under the open-shop. I returned as a PMA member. I never joined the UMW after I joined the PMA in 1932.

"Charles Bohannon, [REDACTED] came to me in the summer of 1940 at my home and asked me to help them get the PMA miners to sign over with the UMW. They said I would have my job as long as I wanted it. They made another trip to my house and on one occasion Cudge Bungarner came by himself. These men wanted me to help organize the balance of the men. They implied that I would get money for my trouble. They were trying to get me to sign up at the same time. They figured that if I, as check weighman, signed with the UMW the rest of the men would. Many of the miners came to me for general advise about mining affairs. They had confidence in me. These agitators knew I could influence the men. They showed me a list of the miners who had signed up with UMW by that time and referred to some of the names of the miners they had persuaded to join the UMW. I heard that practically all of the Lithuanian and Italian miners had been contacted at their homes by Falcetti in an effort to get them to join the UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"Because of my job at the mine the N.L.R.B. likened my job to that of a company clerk or weighman and therefore I was not permitted to vote in either N.L.R.B. election.

"In the last part of 1941 I was still a PMA member. At this time about 2:30 PM. one afternoon I was in Falcetti's office checking sheets and Falcetti ignored me. This was unusual and I thought something was wrong. About a half hour later I was standing in front of the blacksmith's shop and a man, whom I knew to be [redacted], came directly from the mine office and mumbled something as he passed me. He stopped and when I turned my head he hit me over the head with a weapon and I fell. He hit me several times. As he walked away from me he said, 'I would not come back to the mine to work anymore.'

"A few days before this happened I was working up in the coal tippie and a company man came up to where I was working and someone called him [redacted]. That is how I know the name of the man that hit me as this was the same man. He was a strong UMW man. I figured he got instructions to beat me from Falcetti. This was the last day I ever worked at Mine B. //

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

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

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

RE:  
JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 9, 1943. [redacted] and [redacted] willingly answered the questions put to him, and was definite in his answers. He can read and write English, but his reading glasses were not available when the following statement was taken.

Springfield, Illinois  
September 9, 1943

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

"I reside at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois. I was born [redacted] at New York City. I became a naturalized citizen in [redacted] Illinois. I am presently employed at the Panther Creek Mine #4, under the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America in [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois. I then worked at two other mines under the United Mine Workers, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, before I started working at Mine B in [redacted] under the UMW.

"The last day I ever worked at Mine B was on May 12, 1937. I have never held an office in any union.

"Prior to 1932 the relations between ELSHOFF and UMW appeared to be satisfactory and I believe the same applies to the relations between ELSHOFF and PMA from 1932 to April 1937 as far as I know. I do not know that ELSHOFF favored either union at this time. I was just interested in working and although I went to most union meetings, both UMW and PMA, when I joined that union, I paid little attention to the relations between the union and the operator.

"I voluntarily joined PMA in 1932 when ELSHOFF signed a contract with PMA. I took no part in the formation of PMA.

"The following men were UMW organizers working in Mine B before May 12, 1937: JOE ALBANESE, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN COTTON, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEORGE JACAWAY, EMORY JACAWAY, CHARLES BOHANNON and JAMES HALE.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH ██████████ "About a month before the strike in 1937, and before he was thrown out of PMA, FRANK AUSTIN came to my room in the mine, (Continued) I was a digger. He told me if all of us would sign up with the UMW ELSHOFF would sign a contract. He said he did not know what I was working for because PMA did not have a contract with ELSHOFF. He wanted me to sign a UMW card. I would not. I saw some of these agitators talking loudly with PMA members and heard they tried to get these PMA men to sign up with the UMW. There was a lot of talk before the strike at the mine to sign up the miners with UMW.

"I heard each one of these agitators were getting ten dollars for each PMA man they signed up with the UMW. They all looked like they were making more money than they had before when they worked as regular mine workers. TONY PLOTCH, FRANK AUSTIN, and ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS bought new automobiles about this time. I saw the new cars.

"I am not familiar with the wage scale trouble, except I know I was supposed to get some back pay which I never received.

"I do not remember if I went to the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937. I knew some UMW agitators had been thrown out of the PMA at this meeting. I heard about this the next morning from miners at the mine. I worked in Box on the south side. I did not know coal cars were being loaded short. When I came out of the mine that day I heard that cars from the west side had been loaded short. I did not hear why they were loaded short.

"At 3:00 p.m. on May 12, 1937 the company men came down to my room and told me to come out of the mine. I usually quit work at 3:15 p.m.

"I went back the next morning but the strike had started and no one went to work.

"I helped picket Mine B for more than three weeks.

"I never worked at Mine B again.

"After the mine opened in November 1939 I went to the mine and saw FALCETTI and told him I was sick. He told me to bring a doctor's certificate. I took him a doctor's certificate and he kept it. About eleven months later I was able to work again and got another certificate to show I could work. I took this to FALCETTI and the PMA Pit committee went with me. I was still a PMA member. I showed the certificate to him and he refused to let me work.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH "He said I was too late. I am sure he would not let me work  
[REDACTED] because I was still a member of PMA. There could be no other  
(Continued) reason.

"I never had trouble with anyone. Also at that time, while  
FALCETTI was turning me down there were fifteen or twenty other miners standing  
around me in FALCETTI'S office. Some from the State of Penna. They all  
signed up for work while I was standing there. I heard some of them talking  
about having worked in mines in Penna.

"There was a miner named [REDACTED] who is older than I am who  
showed FALCETTI a sick certificate the same day I did. I know this man re-  
turned to work at Mine B a short time after I had been turned down by  
FALCETTI, who said I was too late.

"I know that [REDACTED] signed up with UMW before he went back  
to work. Before the strike, I had refused to sign up with the UMW. This  
showed me that FALCETTI, who takes orders from ELSHOFF, favored the UMW.

"I have had this statement consisting of three and one half  
pages read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, FBI

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, FBI"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

*175-115-115*  
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 9, 1943. He appeared cooperative and alert.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 9, 1943.

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

"I am presently residing at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I am employed at the Panther Creek Mine #2, Springfield. I was born on [REDACTED]

"The first mine union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, in [REDACTED] at Mine B. This was the first time I ever worked in a mine. I worked there continuously from that date until May 12, 1937 when it closed on strike. I returned to mine B in November, 1939, worked there two days and then quit and never went back to mine B.

"The only office I ever held with either union was as a member of the Trial Committee of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, about 1936. I attended very few UMW and PMA meetings. I took no active part in the formation of the PMA in 1932, but merely went along with the rest of the miners when they joined the PMA. As far as I knew, the officials of PMA were good leaders and treated the rank and file miners fairly. The PMA was run right as far as I knew. I believe the other miners felt the same way.

"The relations between Elshoff and the UMW at Mine B prior to September, 1932 seemed to be satisfactory but from April, 1937 until the mine closed on May 12, 1937, Elshoff was not getting along well with the PMA due to the negotiations on the contract. Neither Elshoff or Falcetti made any remarks to my knowledge indicating they favored the UMW at this time, but he was definitely dissatisfied with the negotiations on a new contract with PMA and I was told on May 12, 1937 that he refused to sign a new contract.

"To my knowledge, the UMW never had a picket line and never distributed literature at Mine B prior to May, 1937.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I knew the following men who were members of the P.M.A., but who were sympathetic for the UMW and who were agitators for the UMW at Mine B in the spring of 1937; Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale.

"I feel that Oscar Falcetti knew the agitating was going on and I heard that he was informed of it, but he did not take any action. Prior to May 11, 1937, the PMA trial Board tried several of the above mentioned men, charging them with disloyalty to the union and several were expelled a short time before May 11, 1937. I do not know how Falcetti was informed that these men were agitating for UMW. I do not recall attending the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937, and did not hear about additional men being expelled.

"I knew that coal cars were being shorted on May 12, 1937, but I do not know why. I was a digger at Mine B. I never received any instructions to load cars short in my room, which was Box in the West side of the mine. Sometime in the late afternoon on May 12, 1937, I was notified it was quitting time by the driver. I knew it was early, but thought sometime had broken down. When I got to the top, I was told there was a strike as Elshoff would not sign a contract.

"I did not know the details of the wage scale trouble in 1937 with the exception that the PMA officials advised un that Elshoff had signed a retroactive contract that would pay back pay as of April 1, 1937. I never heard the UMW would be able to get a better wage scale arrangement than the PMA.

"I helped picket at Mine B off and on for several weeks in 1937. I only went back to Mine B one time during the shut down to go to work, which I believe was in September, 1937. I heard the mine was going to open by the end of the month. When I got to the mine the UMW organizers were in the company office. I heard that only UMW men were going to work. The mine did not open.

"When the mine opened in November 1939, I went back for two days, got my tools and quit. I quit because I thought there was going to be trouble at the mine. No one at any time asked me to join the UMW, but I knew UMW men were trying to sign up miners.

"I never heard there was a fire at the mine from 1937 to 1939. I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of that union. I do not recall any other petitions. I voted in the first NLRB election on December 15, 1937 and as far as I know it was fair. I did not

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

vote in the second election.

(continued)

my knowledge.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the three pages of this statement and it is true to the best of

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on September 9, 1943. He willingly answered the questions put to him, and appeared to be alert and intelligent. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 9, 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.

[REDACTED] I arrived in the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED] I am presently unemployed and live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be hereinafter be referred to as the UMW. I joined this union in [REDACTED] Illinois and worked in the [REDACTED]

"In [REDACTED] I started working in Mine B under the UMW and worked there until that mine closed down on May 12, 1937. My job in Mine B was coal digging. I never held an office in a mine union.

"I worked at Mine B as a member of the UMW from [REDACTED] until 1932. At that time the PMA was organized at Mine B due to the fact that the miners had voted against a lower wage scale and JOHN L. LEWIS claimed the ballots were stolen and tried to push the new wage scale through regardless of the wishes of the rank and file.

"I did not help to organize the Progressive Mine Workers of America which is being referred to as the PMA, but I willingly joined that union because I was being cheated by the UMW.

"It seemed to me that ELSHOFF never did go out of his way to get along with PMA officials. I remember that when little grievances were taken to him he would not cooperate with the PMA committees.

"I was always satisfied with the PMA and its leaders and I believe the other miners felt the same way. At least I never heard any complaints from the miners.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

"I attended most of the UMW and PMA meetings while I worked under these unions.

"I do not recall the details or circumstances of the wage scale controversy, but generally speaking I was interested in the PMA because I liked the union. I felt the miners were being treated fairly under the PMA.

"I think ELSHOFF'S attitude toward the PMA was clearly indicated when he was finally shown by the first N.L.R.B. election that the PMA had the vast majority and he still would not open the mine and let the PMA miners work.

"After the mine had been closed down on trike for sometime, it became common talk amongst the miners that ELSHOFF must be getting paid by someone to keep his mine closed.

"I never saw a UMW picket line at the mine. I never saw any UMW literature distributed at the mine while I worked at Mine B.

"It was the general opinion at the mine the following men who were working as members of the PMA at Mine B were bought over by UMW to agitate for that union at that mine: JOE ALBANESE, ANDREI SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN (COTTON) ANNALS, JOHN SIMTOUT, GEORGE JACKLEY, EMORY JACKLEY, CHARLES BOHANNON, and JAMES HALE.

"I observed that CHARLES BOHANNON and ANDREI SCHRELEVIOUS spent a lot of money in bars and saloons in downtown Springfield, about two years before the strike. They seemed to have a lot of money all of a sudden. It looked like these men whose names are mentioned above were more prosperous during the period between 1935 and 1937. No one has ever talked to me about joining the UMW. However, many of the miners were approached for this purpose, but I guess they thought I was too strong from the PMA.

"I attended the PMA Special meeting on May 11, 1937 when some miners, about five I think, were thrown out of the PMA union. I voted to have them thrown out because there was evidence that they were double-crossing the PMA. I can not remember the testimony against them, but I remember that it was strongly against them. I do remember that ANDREI SCHRELEVIOUS, TONY PLOTCH, PETER CARTER, and DOMINIC PASQUALE were included in this group who were thrown out of PMA.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued) "I helped picket Mine B for two or three months. I went out to the mine each of the three times it tried to open, but did not go to work because the UMW men were allowed to go down in the mine. None of us PMA members would work there at this time for that reason.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of the PMA.

"I think the first N.L.R.B. election in December, 1937 was fair and I never heard any complaints from anyone who said it was not fair.

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

Witnessed: [REDACTED]

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 10, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks very broken English and had only a fair understanding of the activities at Mine B. He was repeatedly contacted by an UMW organizer, until he finally joined UMW to hold his job. He executed the following written statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 10, 1943

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

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, and I am presently unemployed. I was born in [REDACTED]. I arrived in the United States, entering at [REDACTED]. I became a naturalized U.S. citizen in [REDACTED], at Springfield, Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America at Mine A, Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED]. I only worked at Mine A for three or four months and then started working at Mine B about [REDACTED]. I worked at Mine B continuously from [REDACTED] until the mine closed on May 12, 1937. I went back to Mine B when it re-opened in November, 1939 and worked in this mine until May, 1943. I quit at this time as the work was too hard for me.

"I joined the United Mine Workers, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, in [REDACTED] and remained a member of that union until 1932 when the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, was organized at Mine B. I joined this union when Carl Elshoff signed a contract with this union at Mine B. I did not take any active part in the formation of this union. I never held an office in any union. It was my belief that the PMA fought more for the rights of the miners than the UMW did. I thought the PMA was a good union and had good leaders.

"Prior to 1932, Elshoff had trouble with the UMW in settling grievances, but from 1932 to 1937 he had more trouble with the PMA. I feel that Falcetti and Elshoff favored the UMW because that union did not cause him so much trouble. That union did not fight so hard for the miners' rights. I never heard either Elshoff or Falcetti

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

make any statements on this matter.

(continued)

"Before the mine closed down in May, 1937, Pete Carter and several other men working at Mine B were agitating for the UMW and said the PMA did not have a contract with Elshoff. No one ever asked me to join the UMW at this time. I had no knowledge of the wage scale trouble in 1937 and I went to only a few meetings. I was not at the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, and never heard about any miners that had been expelled from the PMA.

"On May 12, 1937 some coal cars were loaded short, but I did not know why. The mine closed on this day and I believe it closed because Elshoff wanted to sign up with the UMW. I did not hear Elshoff make any statement to this effect. I knew that Elshoff was friendly with the UMW and I also believe that the miners at Mine B were 95% PMA men.

"I signed the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member. I signed no other petitions.

"The first NLRB election on December 15, 1937 was fair. There was no doubt about that in my mind. I do not believe the second NLRB election on February 21, 1941 was fair as the men had already signed up with the UMW in order to get steady work. I helped picket for a few weeks in 1937, but did not go back to work until the mine opened in November, 1939. In November 1939, I went back to work as a PMA member but I joined the UMW in January, 1941.

"In January 1941 Pete Carter came to me in the mine and asked me to join the UMW. I told him no. Carter said, 'you will lose your job if you do not sign'. Carter was mad when he talked to me and he talked to me almost every day until I signed with the UMW. Some other UMW organizers from the UMW office building in Springfield came to me at the mine to get me to join that union. I do not know the names.

"I did not want to join the UMW but I did join to keep my job. I knew that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] got beatings because they would not join. On one occasion, [REDACTED] and Pete Carter came to my house and tried to get me to join the UMW. I did not join at this time, but later I signed a card at the mine and gave it to [REDACTED] who was a UMW organizer.

"I have had this statement read to me by [REDACTED] because I cannot read much English. All of these three pages have been read

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

to me and I understand all that is written  
on each page. It is all true.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was very cooperative, but it is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to speak English very well. [REDACTED] acted as interpreter during the interview. He also lacked detailed information about the controversial facts of this case. He has no known criminal record. [REDACTED] supplied the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill  
September 10, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to get me to make a statement and I know I do not have to make a statement and also that what I may say can be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [REDACTED] I came to U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a naturalized citizen of U.S. in [REDACTED] at Springfield, Ill. I first started to work in the mines near Springfield in [REDACTED] and joined U.M.W. at that time. I first began to work at Mine 'B' about [REDACTED]

"I joined P.M.A. when it was first formed and as far as I know there was some trouble with John L. Lewis and everybody changed to P.M.A. so I changed too. As far as I know there was no difference between P.M.A. and U.M.W. as far as Elshoff was concerned.

"I know Mine 'B' closed down in about 1937 because John L. Lewis was trying to get control of the union again.

"I did picket duty while the miners were on a sitdown strike. I stayed on the picket line until we were ordered off by an injunction and [REDACTED] said we should go home.

"I remember signing a petition for P.M.A. shortly after the strike occurred.

"I voted in the Government election in which the P.M.A. won by a large majority. I worked on W.P.A. while all the trouble was going on at the mine except the time I picketed.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

dues to P.M.A.

"I went back to the mine when it opened on an open shop basis and after working there for a while I saw that the majority was all joining U.M.W. so I joined too. I was a member of P.M.A. before that and paid

"I don't understand English very well and I talk mostly to my friends and when they changed from P.M.A. to U.M.W. I changed too.

"I have no choice of unions and think they are just to get money out of the miners.

"I have had this 2 page statement read to me in presence of [REDACTED] and it is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed: /s/ [REDACTED]

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

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on September 12, 1943. He appeared anxious to expound on his theories concerning conditions existing at Mine B during the pertinent period. It is not believed that his judgment is sound due to his inability to concentrate on a point for any length of time. He would not make a good witness generally.

He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 12, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] entered the United States in [REDACTED] and I was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois about [REDACTED] I am presently living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois and working at the Panther Creek Mine No. 2. I am presently a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"The first mine union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union in [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] The first mine I worked in within the boundary of the United States was at [REDACTED] under the UMW. I worked at two other mines located in Illinois before I started working at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED] under the UMW.

"The only union office I have ever held was as a member of the Pit Committee in a mine in [REDACTED]

"I think Elshoff was trying to fool the miners at Mine B prior to 1932 by attempting to sell the miners bonds which would be backed by stock which was admittedly low grade stock. The money was supposed to be taken out of the wages of the miners. The ownership of the bonds was to be transferred to the miners. Most of the miners would not stand for it. I remember that Tony Plotch agreed to take a bond, but the UMW local at Mine B discouraged it and the project fell through. Elshoff admitted to me that the stock backing the bonds was low grade stock and that this was in effect a cut in wages.

"I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932. The PMA was formed due to the high handed tactics of John L. Lewis in attempting to disregard the expressions of the miners as far as the wage scale matter was concerned.

RE: JOHN I. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"Conditions between Elshoff and PMA appeared to be normal from 1932 until about six months before the strike on May 12, 1937.

"I was always satisfied with the leadership of the PMA and I felt I was being treated fairly by the PMA leaders.

"I have not attended many UMW or PMA meetings.

"I think the PMA leaders were trustworthy.

"It is my opinion that although there was a certain amount of dissatisfaction over the wage scale question involving the existing contract between Elshoff and the PMA before the strike, yet the miners were whole hearted behind the PMA. They still remembered the methods used by the UMW leaders to gain their own ends and not actually representing the miners.

"I know that Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale were working at the mine the time the strike started.

"However, about a month before the strike George Sirtout talked to me about the contractual relations between Elshoff and the PMA and that we might never get the back pay. It appeared that Sirtout was sowing the seeds of discontent.

"It appeared that Elshoff, by not trying to get together with the UMW on the retroactive wage question, was trying to force a strike. He knew we would never be satisfied to work there under a lower wage scale than stipulated in the UMW contract.

"If the retroactive wage clause was not set forth in the PMA contract with Elshoff, then Elshoff deliberately misrepresented the meaning of the contract to PMA or put something over on the PMA keeping in mind the effects of this on the men and giving the UMW grounds to start organizing for that union.

"It was my understanding that we would get retroactive pay. There was no feeling that PMA would be unable to get as good a wage scale as the UMW.

"There was some talk at the mine on pay days in the Spring of 1937 about the wages. There was no disturbance as far as I know.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I think I attended the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 I remember that some UMW organizers were thrown out of PMA at that time.

"On May 12, 1937 there was generally an understanding at the mine that coal cars were to be shorted because of the wage scale, and generally because the company was trying to make trouble. This is vague in my mind and I do not remember exactly why short cars were loaded.

"I helped picket the mine until the Federal injunction.

"I do not remember signing any petition, but I may have signed any PMA petitions.

"I do not remember, but I think I went to the mine each time it tried to re-open to prevent the UMW from going down in the mine. I think the UMW only had a few men at the mine on these occasions.

"I was not in sympathy with the Federal injunction of December, 1937.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election. I remember that unsigned handbills were passed out on the corner near the arsenal before the election. which handbills gave the impression that we would be better off if we voted for UMW.

"No one talked to me about how I should vote. It was a fair election.

"The second N.L.R.B. election was fair except that many miners who voted for UMW were afraid the trouble at the mine would continue.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed: [REDACTED]

Special Agent F.B.I.  
Special Agent, F.B.I."



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

that any miners had been expelled from the PMA. I did not go to the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 and did not hear any men had been expelled from the PMA.

"It is my belief that Mine B closed because of the trouble over back pay. I think the miners loaded short coal cars on May 12, 1937 because they did not get their back pay. I do not remember signing any petition in 1937. I voted in the NLRB election on December 15, 1937 when the PMA won. I thought the election was fair. I do not remember voting in the second election.

"I have carefully read this statement consisting of two pages and it is true and correct. I understand all of it, and no threats or promises were made to get me to make this statement.

/s/

"Witnessed:

/s/

Special Agent F. B.I.

Special Agent F. B.I. "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Street, Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at [REDACTED] Illinois, on September 11, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] felt the PMA did not treat him fairly when he was employed at the Jefferson Mine. He was cooperative in answering all questions asked. He executed the following statement.

[REDACTED] Illinois  
September 11, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed at [REDACTED] Illinois, badge number [REDACTED]. I was born on [REDACTED]. I arrived in the United States about [REDACTED]. I was naturalized and became a U.S. citizen about [REDACTED] through my father, [REDACTED].

"The first Mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, about [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois when I started working at the Peabody Mine #8, near Springfield, Ill. I worked under the UMW in coal mines from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. From [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] worked for the [REDACTED]. From 1931 to about 1935 I had no regular employment, but worked off and on at the Jefferson Mine in Springfield.

"About the first part of 1936, I started working at Mine B as a company man on top and worked there until it closed on May 12, 1937. I was at the mine for about two days when the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, were picketing a short time after the mine closed. I never attempted to return to work at Mine B during the striking period, when the mine tried to re-open. I did return to work at Mine B in the early part of 1941, as a member of the UMW, for that union had the bargaining rights at the mine at that time. I worked for about four days and quit because [REDACTED]. I never returned to the mine to work.

"I joined the PMA at the Jefferson Mine, Springfield, Illinois, sometime between 1932 and 1935. I do not remember the exact date I joined the PMA because part of the time at the Jefferson Mine there was

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] no union, and later the P.M. got the contract and still later, the U.M. got the contract. I joined the P.M. at the Jefferson Mine when the P.M. had the contract. I do not recall the exact date of joining the P.M. as that mine for a time did not have a union. I recall that I was a member of the P.M. when I transferred from the Jefferson Mine to Mine B about 1936. I was instructed to report to work at Mine B by the Top boss at the Jefferson mine whose name was [REDACTED]. I continued to work at Mine B. as a P.M. member until it closed on May 12, 1937.

"From 1936 until Mine B closed in May, 1937 I was not familiar with the feelings of Falcetti or Elshoff regarding either union. The closing of the mine was a complete surprise to me. When I worked at the Jefferson mine under the P.M., that mine was in Receivership and the operator did not pay us 100% of our pay. However, the P.M. continued to take the full amount of dues and assessments out of my wages. I therefore did not like this and felt we were not being treated fairly. I continued to work just to make a living and not because I liked the P.M.. I got my full pay at Mine B and there was no unfair treatment. I can only say against the P.M., that at the Jefferson mine, prior to 1936, that union did not treat their members fairly because of the above reason.

"I went to very few U.M. or P.M. meetings. The only office I ever held in a union was [REDACTED] of the U.M. for about three months in [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED]. I knew the following men who worked at Mine B prior to the mine closing down in 1937; Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Charles Bohannon, James Hale.

"I did not know if these men or any other men were organizers or agitators for the U.M., at Mine B. No one contacted me on the matter of joining up with the U.M.

"I had no personal contact with Falcetti or Elshoff. I did not know the men they were friendly with or which union they favored if any. I just worked, paid my dues and nothing more.

"I did not attend the P.M. meeting of May 11, 1937, but I heard the next day that some of the P.M. members were expelled. I heard this by word of mouth at the mine.

"I knew some coal cars were loaded short, but I never knew why. I worked on top at the time, and did not have any knowledge of what was going on below. I signed the P.M. petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a P.M. member. I do not recall signing any other petitions.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"I believe the NLRB election in December, 1937 was fair. The PMA won by a large majority and I feel this election showed the miners true feelings at that time. I am not sure if I voted in the second NLR election in February, 1941.

"I am not a member of either union now. I merely joined the union that had the contract at the mines I worked at. One union is as good as another union as far as I am concerned.

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

/s/

Witnessed:

/s/

Special Agent, F.B.I.

Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on September 9, 1943. He appeared cooperative and willingly answered the questions put to him. He is mentally slow and his English is difficult to follow. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 9, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently unemployed. I was born on [REDACTED]. I arrived in the United States in [REDACTED]. I became a naturalized U.S. Citizen in [REDACTED] Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at [REDACTED] Illinois in October, [REDACTED]. I never held an office in any union. From [REDACTED] I worked in the [REDACTED] mine at [REDACTED] Illinois.

"In [REDACTED] I started working at Mine B and worked there until August 27, 1942, when I quit work.

"I joined the PMA, the Progressive Mine Workers of America, in 1932 when the miners at Mine B signed up with the PMA. I joined because everyone else joined. I liked the PMA.

"The relations between Elshoff and the UMW before 1932 were good. From 1932 to 1937 Elshoff did not like the PMA union. I do not believe he wanted to sign a contract with them. The PMA officials seemed to deal fairly with the members of the PMA. I went to most of the union meetings when I was working under the UMW and the PMA. All I know about the trouble in 1937 at Mine B was that Elshoff did not want the PMA men to work in that mine and he closed it down. Also, the PMA men did not want to work at the mine when the UMW members worked in the mine.

"I had no understanding of the wage scale trouble in 1937. Before the mine closed in May, 1937, UMW men came to my house three times to get men to join the UMW. I do not remember their

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

names. I told them that I would wait and see how the other miners joined, and when everybody joined, I would join.

"On the picket line, after the mine went on strike, I helped watch the mine for more than two weeks after it closed in 1937, to keep the UMW men from working. When the mine tried to re-open three different times, before November 1939, I did not try to go back to work but when the mine opened as an open shop in November, 1939, I went back to work as a PMA miner.

"When I went back to the Mine in November, 1939, many UMW organizers walked around in the different rooms in the mine and asked the men to join the UMW. I remember only the names of Frank Austin and Peter Carter who talked to me. These men promised better working conditions and everything good under the UMW, but they did not threaten me. More and more UMW men started working in this mine, so to keep my job I signed up with the UMW in January, 1940. I joined this union just to keep my job. I did not want to join the UMW. I was satisfied working under the PMA.

"I never saw anybody get a 'licking' because I was not around, but I heard some PMA men got 'lickings' because they would not join the UMW.

"I am not sure if I signed any petitions in 1937. I do not remember much about the NLRB elections, but I heard they were 'crooked' because the PMA won the first election and the UMW won the second election.

"I have carefully read this statement and I know what it means and I understand everything written on these pages. It is all true as best as I can remember.

/s/

" Witnessed:

/s/

Special Agent, F.B.I.

Special Agent, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 12, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was a member of the PMA Trial Board at Mine B at the time of the strike in 1937, but appears to have a very poor recollection of the business handled by the Board during the strike period and prior to that time. He was cooperative, seemed sincere, is still a member of the PMA, and presents a good appearance. He executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 12, 1943

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

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I am presently employed at the Panther Creek Mine #2, in Springfield, as a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I was born on [REDACTED]. The first union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMA, in [REDACTED]. From [REDACTED] until about [REDACTED] I worked in coal mines in the state of Illinois. In approximately [REDACTED] I started working at Mine B as a digger. I worked there until May 12, 1937 when that mine closed down on strike. I helped the PMA picket for a short time at Mine B in 1937 but I never did return to work at Mine B after that time.

The only offices I have held in unions were as follows; [REDACTED]

"I was not familiar with the relations between Elshoff and the UMW prior to 1932. The same applies to the relations between Elshoff and the PMA from 1932 to 1937, with the exception that I believe the PMA had more grievances to settle. I voluntarily joined the PMA in 1932 when that union obtained the bargaining rights at Mine B. I took no active part in the formation of that union.

"It is my opinion, and I feel the other men felt the same way, that the PMA officials were honest, capable and gave the rank and file miners fair treatment. I believe the miners were satisfied with the PMA, and did not want to join any other mine union. Between 1932 and 1937 I gained the opinion that Elshoff favored the UMW, but I have nothing tangible to base this opinion on. About April, 1937, I was on the PMA Trial Board at Mine B. I know the following

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employees at Mine B to be organizers for the UMW, and at the same time were holding PMA membership cards; Charles Bohannon, Emory Jacaway, Tony Plotch, Frank Austin, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Andrew Schrelevious, Joe Albanese, James Hale, John Sirtout and John Ananias.

"These above mentioned men were attempting to persuade the miners to join the UMW by contacting them in the mine and at their homes. In the last part of April or the first part of May, 1937, the following men were expelled for disloyalty from the PMA. By this, I mean they were trying to swing the miners to the UMW; Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, and Dominic Pasquale. I am not sure if I attended the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 and do not recall having heard of the meeting. I do not know how Elshoff or Falcetti felt about either union at this time. I was not familiar with the details of the wage scale controversy in 1937, but I did expect some back pay which I have not received.

"On May 12, 1937 I worked in Box [redacted] South Section, and loaded my cars full. The men in that part of the mine were loading full cars. I did not know about the short cars until after quitting time that day. I never knew why the cars were loaded short.

"I recall signing the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member. I did not sign any other petitions and I heard of no others. I did not go back to the mine when it attempted to reopen. I voted in the NLRB election on December 15, 1937. The PMA won by a large majority and I felt the election indicated the true feelings of the men. I thought this was a fair election. Since I was not working at the mine in 1941, I did not vote in the second NLRB election.

"No one ever attempted to persuade me to join the UMW. I never heard any threats made to get miners to join the UMW. I have no information indicating that Elshoff wanted to sign up with the UMW.

"I have read and fully understand this statement of three pages and it is true and correct."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnessed:

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

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on September 12, 1943. He appeared to be strongly sympathetic for the UMW. He is intelligent, alert and decisive in his remarks. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 12, 1943"

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

"I was born [REDACTED] Illinois, I am presently unemployed, and living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. My last employment was with the [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill.

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

"I worked at other mines in Springfield under the UMW before I started working at Mine B which was about [REDACTED]

"When I started working in Mine B in [REDACTED] I was a track layer. I held this job about six or seven months. [REDACTED] I worked as a company man. [REDACTED] until about six months after the strike ended in 1939.

"I went back to work on the 9th of November, 1939 when the mine re-opened, [REDACTED] About June, 1940 I became a "Face Boss" and I then had charge of track men, timbermen, company men and diggers.

"In 1932, when the P.M.A. was formed, Elshoff first refused to sign a contract with P.M.A. at mine B. As I understood it, he claimed it was an illegal organization and also that he still held a contract with UMW. At this time most of the men at Mine B wanted to join the P.M.A.

"Shortly after the P.M.A. was organized and before the P.M.A. and Elshoff signed a contract, about fourteen of us who were still members of the UMW got together and tried to keep the local UMW charter. I wanted the UMW to remain at Mine B. I do not remember the name of these other men.

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(Continued)

"The PMA asked me to join that union, but I would not. Later on, about three months later, I did sign up with the PMA as a new member. At that time PMA had a closed shop agreement with Elshoff and I was compelled to join PMA or lose my job.

"I was never threatened by any PMA members to join the PMA. Because I did not sign up with PMA, some months before that, I was compelled to pay an initiation fee. I was one of seven who were made to pay this fee.

"In May, 1937 a PMA Board Member called the strike at Mine B and never produced a strike order from the President of the State District of PMA. It is my opinion that it was an illegal strike.

"As far as I know the PMA rent and file miner was satisfied working under the PMA. from 1932 until 1937.

"I never heard that the PMA leaders at Mine B were not trustworthy, but I heard some men complaining about high assessments, but they did this in the UMW and every other local where I have worked.

"I was satisfied working under the PMA. I had a good wage scale and had no fault to find generally. I knew the following men: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohamon, and James Hale. It was rumored that they were organizing for the UMW. They never contacted me.

"To my knowledge, Falcetti and Elshoff did not favor either PMA or UMW.

"I did not understand the wage scale controversy.

"I attended only a few UMW and later PMA meetings.

"I recall hearing that some UMW organizers were expelled from PMA and the next day the miners went on strike because Elshoff refused to discharge these men.

"I remember coal cars were shorted on the day of the strike, but I do not know why. I worked nights all of this time and I was not too well acquainted with what happened during the day.

"I did not help picket Mine B. I think I signed the PMA Petition of May 26, 1937. At this time I was no longer interested in the UMW.

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(Continued)

"I went to the mine in September, 1937 when the mine tried to re-open. I did not go to work because I was a PMA member. To my knowledge only UMW members went to work. It was just a few, possibly ten or twelve and included some of the men listed in this statement.

"I was out of the State of Illinois from December, 1938 until November, 1939.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election held in December, 1937. I thought it was a fair election. It was not a fraud, and no one tried to influence my vote. I never heard that anyone was influenced to vote one way or the other.

"Because of my job I was not permitted to vote in the second N.L.R.B. election.

"I have never heard of any threats made by any miner to another to get a miner to join a mine union.

"I joined the UMW in August, 1941. I could not join earlier because I was the "Face Boss" until that time.

"In January, 1942 I was made "Face Boss" again and so had to sever my connections with the UMW.

"The last day I worked at the mine was February 12, 1943. I was not a member of any union at that time for the above mentioned reason. I quit because I got tired of my job."

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was interviewed at his residence on September 14, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is not presently employed in the mines, he is not mentally alert, had little understanding of the union difficulties at Mine B, and was very vague in his statements. He can read and executed the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 14, 1943.

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

"I was born on [REDACTED] My residence is [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and I am presently employed at the [REDACTED]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union at the Spring Creek Coal Co., Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED] I worked at the Sangamon Mine #2 from [REDACTED] I went to work at Mine B in [REDACTED] as a digger. I was always a digger at Mine B. I left Mine B in May, 1942.

"I never held an office in any union. When I worked under the UMW and the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, I attended about one union meeting a month.

"I recall that the PMA was organized in 1932 because the miners did not want to work under John L. Lewis any longer.

"As far as I know Elshoff got along all right with the UMW, before 1932 and with the PMA after that date.

"I joined the PMA voluntarily in 1932. I took no active part in organizing the PMA.

"I was always satisfied with the PMA and its' leaders. As far as I know all the miners who I talked with at mine B were satisfied with the PMA.

"I knew the following men who worked at Mine B at sometime during the period I worked there: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias,

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"I do not remember the details of the wage scale controversy.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937. I did not know there was going to be a PMA meeting on that night.

"I did know the next morning by talking with men down in the mine that some miners had been expelled from the PMA.

"On the day of the strike I loaded my cars about half a ton shorter than usual. I worked in Box [REDACTED] on the west side of Mine B.

"Jim Schneider, a PMA member, came along the bottom of the mine that morning while we were still in our cars and before we had gone to our boxes to start working. He told us to load short cars that day. He did not say why. At that time I did not know the reason for this. Later on I heard that the cars were shorted because the miners who had been expelled from the PMA went to work that morning.

"I only helped to picket the mine for the first two days after the strike.

"I do not remember signing any petitions in 1937.

"I went out to the mine when it tried to open in December, 1937, and January, 1938. On the first occasion I went to work for one day and about seventeen men went down in the mine, so it closed again. I went back to the mine in January, 1938 and worked two or three days. About seventeen or twenty men went to work at this time, but there were not enough men to work the mine.

"In December, 1937, and January, 1938 when the mine tried to re-open the men who went down in the mine included the men named in this statement. Four or five Progressive men went down in the mine on these occasions. One of these PMA men was named [REDACTED]. I do not remember who the others were. I found out about the mine re-opening on these dates from notices in the newspapers.

"In the Summer of 1938, I went to work in the Jefferson Mine. I then joined the UMW.

"In November, 1938 I returned to work at Mine B as a member of the UMW. I left the Jefferson Mine in January, 1939. I was out of work from then until November, 1939.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I voted in both N.L.R.B. elections. They were fair to the best of my knowledge.

"I have read this statement consisting of three pages and it is correct.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] and Special Agent [REDACTED] on September 10, 1943.

[REDACTED] advised that he is presently working at Panther Creek Mine #5 and was born [REDACTED]. He entered the United States in [REDACTED] was naturalized in Springfield, Illinois on [REDACTED]. He advised that after the beginning of the strike DOMINIC PASQUALE, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS and CHARLES BOHANNON came to his home several times. [REDACTED] and the above three would come to the tavern and come to [REDACTED] home after having had several drinks. At one time, SCHRELEVIOUS took 25¢ from his pocket, turned to PASQUALE and said, "That's what he's worth," meaning he could buy bullets to get rid of [REDACTED]. One time in the tavern PASQUALE, SCHRELEVIOUS and BOHANNON began threatening [REDACTED] wife, [REDACTED] SCHRELEVIOUS saying, "You look healthy now, but you can get shot awful quick." PASQUALE told her that bullets would go through her very easily. BOHANNON told her, [REDACTED] you had better keep out of this or you will get in trouble."

Sometime in the late summer of 1937, the exact date not being remembered by [REDACTED] BOHANNON, PASQUALE and SCHRELEVIOUS came to the house and tried to get [REDACTED] to sign up with the United. He refused, and SCHRELEVIOUS said that they would come back later when his wife was there; that she was the one who was keeping him from joining, and they would see that she agreed to allow him to join. He advised that a number of people had told both him and his wife that the three men had been looking for her and threatening what they would do to her.

About three days after the above occurrence, SCHRELEVIOUS came to [REDACTED] home about 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon and just walked into the house. [REDACTED] was in the back yard working, and [REDACTED] was in the house. She told SCHRELEVIOUS to get out, and he started talking about Mine B, and told her that if she knew what was good for [REDACTED] she would let him join the United because he wouldn't have a job if he didn't. [REDACTED] tried to force SCHRELEVIOUS out of the house. He grabbed her, and tore her dress. She was pulling towards the back door yelling at him, and [REDACTED] came running from the back yard, grabbed SCHRELEVIOUS by the back of the coat and jerked him out of the house. As he fell, SCHRELEVIOUS pulled a revolver from a shoulder holster and shot [REDACTED]. He fired again but missed the second time. [REDACTED] tried to reach down for a board or club to beat SCHRELEVIOUS but couldn't find one, and SCHRELEVIOUS turned and shot him. [REDACTED] was in the hospital for three months and [REDACTED] was in the hospital for two months.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The above information was given by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in the presence of [REDACTED]

(continued)

At this time they both became very emotionally upset

and [REDACTED] requested that no further questioning

be conducted at that time. At this time [REDACTED] said that during the summer of 1937 in a talk with SCHRELEVIOUS he told [REDACTED] that he was being paid \$35.00 a week by the U.M.W. to organize it.

In view of the emotional instability of [REDACTED] the request of [REDACTED] was acceded to and no further questioning was conducted. [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] had been under the doctor's care for a period of four years, due to the nervous reaction of the shooting, and they were both in poor health. She also stated that [REDACTED] were also under the doctor's care and that they were all deathly in fear of their lives. She stated that she would not allow [REDACTED] to testify to any of the above information; that they would rather just forget about it and she did not believe that their testimony would be of any paramount importance in the Federal Courts, inasmuch as the matter was one entirely for the local authorities.