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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] b7c b7D

(Continued)

[REDACTED]
That is the only position I have held in this UMW local.

"In Spring of 1937 I remember there was some controversy between the PMA and the company over retroactive pay, and I think this might have been the reason for this strike. But I never heard the reason for the strike was because the company would not fire those men expelled from the PMA local.

"I have read this statement of four pages and believe it to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witness:

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

/s/ [REDACTED] Special Agent FBI"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at which time he executed a signed statement which is quoted below.

[REDACTED] was extremely cooperative and appeared eager to assist in this investigation. It is believed he will make a very good witness and appeared to have a thorough knowledge of the pertinent facts in this case. He voluntarily supplied agents with a copy of a 28 page petition dated Sept. 10, 1937 and entitled, "Designation of Representative For Collective Bargaining Under the National Labor Relations Act". The petition contains a list of approximately 431 names and reflects that the signers thereof wish to be represented by PMW in all negotiations. A receipt was given for this statement and it is being retained in the files of the Springfield Field Division.

[REDACTED] is presently unemployed and he has no known criminal record. He also exhibited his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army.

The following is the signed statement as obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 30, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the 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.

"I was born [REDACTED] I began to work in the mine at Peabody Mine #53 in [REDACTED] and I then joined U.M.W.A. I worked at several mines but remained a member of this union until 1932. I became dissatisfied with the way John L. Lewis was treating us and because they stole the ballots at the election in 1932, I joined PMW. I did not work at the mines then until [REDACTED] when I went to work at Mine B. I was a member of PMW at this time and was also on the mine committee the first year I worked at Mine B. In this capacity, I had the job of settling the grievances and I never had any difficulty in any way with Oscar Falsetti or any of the other officials.

"A short time before the PMW strike in 1937, I was aware that there were some labor spies who were attempting to persuade the miners to join the U.M.W.A. About three weeks before the strike I came to work at about 6:30 A.M. and saw that some yellow pamphlets had been distributed.

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(continued)

Those pamphlets as near as I can recall had to do with the fact that we would not get any retroactive pay. I was "digging" and when I saw these I knew that the spies were behind it. In fact, I took a handful of them from Dominic Pasquale who was one of the spies.

"I never saw any of the officials of the mine and the officers of UMWA together but I did see this group of spies on several occasions come out of PMW meetings and go over and meet the UMWA officials. I know the spies personally and they were Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale. On April 27, 1937, these spies were agitating. This was payday and the first one for work done after the old contract ran out. They were going around talking to the fellows that they weren't getting any back pay and would not as long as we belonged to PMW and told us we would if we belonged to UMWA. The yellow pamphlets I mentioned before were distributed on statement day which was three days before payday.

"The PMW officials told us we would get retroactive pay but that the Mine Company said they did not have any contract to force them to do so. Then the PMW called a meeting for May 11, 1937 and I was called on to testify at this meeting on my knowledge of these spies. At this meeting I believe there were 5 of them expelled from the union. In my estimation they were given as fair a trial as they could have gotten in any court trial.

"On the morning of May 12, an order was given out to start a slow-down. We were loading cars with only 5 or 6 hundred pounds in them. The slow-down order did not come from any of the union officials but was more or less made up among the men, because the Mine B Coal Company refused to discharge the spies who had been expelled from the PMW and the men refused to work with them. Later in the day the driver told me there was a strike and there would be no more work there so I went up to the surface with the rest of the men.

"On May 26, 1937, I think it was we were picketing out in the road and there was a card table set up and we all signed a petition that we wanted to be represented by PMW. This petition was got up to see how many of the men had changed to UMWA as a result of the agitation by these spies.

"On Sept. 10, 1937, I signed a PMW petition to have PMW Local #54 represent us for collective bargaining under the NLRB Act.

"I think the Mine B Company put a notice in the paper that the mine would open on Sept. 27, 1937, so when the whistle blew that morning

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] the members of Local 54 began picketing to protect our jobs because it had been announced that the mine (continued) [REDACTED] would open under UMW contract. There was no violence except that about ten of us told the engineer that we would start the pumps inasmuch as they tried to shut-off on us. The picketing continued until December when Carl Elshoff got an injunction out to keep us from picketing. Just after the picketing stopped the mine tried to open again and they brought 10 or 15 car loads of men from Taylorville in to open the mine. No violence occurred at this time.

"The mine attempted to open several times after that but they could only get a few men to work.

"In November 1939, I received a registered letter that the mine would open under a more or less open shop - that is the PMW had bargaining rights but could get no contract. At this time I was present of Local 54 and sat in on conferences at which we tried to negotiate a contract but Elshoff refused to grant a closed shop or check-off system so no contract was ever signed. We worked under this agreement for some time and the PMW had a lot of death claims amounting to about \$20,000 and I went to the PMW officials to get those paid but they said they were not financially able to do so. The UMWA then used this as a "club" over the miners heads because they offered to and did pay some of the claims. In this way they gained membership. [REDACTED]

*Wm W
[REDACTED]
death claim*

[REDACTED] Therefore I do not know anything about the NLRB election held in 1941 other than that the UMW won it.

"At the time the mine reopened there were some pretty big caveins but the mine was in fair condition because they began hoisting coal the next day after it opened.

"I do not now belong to any union and have no preference for either PMW or UMWA.

"I have read the above statement consisting of about 5½ pages written in the handwriting of [REDACTED] and know it true & correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed: --

[REDACTED] Special Agent, F.B.I.
Sp. Agt. F.B.I. - Spfld, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home in Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on August 30, 1943. No signed statement was taken inasmuch as he appeared hostile toward any interrogation at the outset of the interview. He expressed complete ignorance of this investigation but stated he began working in the Coal Mines when he was [REDACTED] years old and at that time he joined U.M.W.A. He stated he was working at the old Sangamon Mine in 1932, when the P.M.A. was organized and that he joined the P.M.A. only to hold his job at this mine. He stated his memory was bad but recalled that he was out of work for two or three years after he joined P.M.A. He stated he went to work at Mine "B" sometime prior to the strike in 1937. He said he thought the strike was called because P.M.A. wanted to get rid of Lewis. He denied ever talking to any of the miners about joining a union or of the U.M.W.A. trying to get him to change from P.M.A. when the new U.M.W.A. Local was formed. He did say though, he joined U.M.W.A. shortly after the mine opened so he could hold his job. He could not recall signing any petitions of either union at any time. It should be noted here that he later said he could not recall anything about the strike or any other strike at Mine "B", at which time he also refused to talk to agents as he said he was not on trial and if agents wished to talk to him they could arrest him. He said he did not like any unions and they were all "rackets" and were operated only for the officials.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, Springfield, Illinois, on

August 29, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was born [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] getting his citizenship papers in [REDACTED]. He advised he had no criminal record. He is presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #4. [REDACTED] understands English fairly well but has difficulty in speaking it. He has a good memory and thinks coherently and with the help of [REDACTED] translator he would make a good witness. The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in [REDACTED]. I became a U. S. Citizen in Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED].

"I first started working in the mines in Springfield in [REDACTED] and became a member of the United Mine Workers Union then. In about [REDACTED] I started working at Mine 'B', Springfield.

"In 1932 John L. Lewis came in, or the UMW came in, and held an election to see whether we wanted to work under a contract with the company or not. We voted no but Lewis had the ballots stolen and the UMW signed the contract. So the whole UMW local decided to form a new union and the Progressive Miners of America Union Local #54 was organized and I joined that.

"Before we changed to PMA I never noticed Elshoff, Falcetti, or anyone in the company bother anyone in this union. They seemed to get along all right with the union when it was UMW and when it changed to PMA in 1932 they still seemed to get along all right. They never tried to get me to change one way or the other.

"Between 1932 and 1937 I never noticed anyone from the company try to change us to UMW and there were no strikes, slowdowns or closedowns during that time.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"During the time from 1932 to 1937 I liked the PMA union very much. It was honest and a good union. I have never held a position or office in any union.

The rest of the men seemed to like the PMA also.

"I remember the bombing trials being held back at that time, but I do not know anything about them and never had any opinions about them.

"During this time I never noticed any UMW picket lines and I never saw anyone try to organize for UMW.

"In about 1937 I noticed Joe Albanese, Andy Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pcte Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Slotch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, the two Jacaways, George and Elmer, Bowling Green Bahannon, and several others were working for UMW. On March 17, 1937, at 2:00 o'clock in the morning some one placed a bomb in front of my house on the step and wrecked my house pretty badly but no one was hurt. But I do not know who did it. Just before the bombing and until we went out on strike no one ever tried to talk me into joining UMW.

"Before May of 1937 I never noticed that any of the men I named above were going with any company men and I never saw them at parties together. About 2 weeks before May 12, 1937, about six or seven of the men I have named were kicked out of the PMA local because they were working for UMW.

"On May 12, 1937, I went to work in Mine 'B' like always. Before we went down the Pit Committee went in to Falcetti and told him that the men who had been kicked out of PMA should not be allowed to go down into the mine but Falcetti said they should. We all went down to work and the Board Member went to Falcetti to tell him that he should fire those men who had been kicked out of PMA. But he said no so the Board Member called the PMA president who said we should strike. I was down in the mine all this time, but no cars came for my coal so about three o'clock I walked out and went on top because the driver told me we were out on strike. I had not noticed any cars being loaded short.

"A couple of weeks after we went on strike I remember signing a PMA petition and I think I signed another PMA petition a month or so later. But I never signed a UMW petition. I signed the PMA petition to show I wanted to stay with PMA and not go to UMW. No force or threats or promises were made to me to sign those PMA petitions.

"No one tried to get me to join the UMW in the summer of 1937 but during that summer I saw and heard that those men who had been kicked out of PMA came to all the houses of PMA men and told them if they wanted to go back

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] to work they had better sign with UMW. They went to [REDACTED], whose name I cannot spell, and talked him into joining UMW.
(Continued)

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 I heard the Mine 'B' whistle blow one night and some of the men told me Mine 'B' was going to open the next day. So I went out to Mine 'B' next day, but the company wouldn't let any one in. Finally, [REDACTED] whose name I cannot spell, talked with Falcetti after Falcetti wouldn't let us work and Falcetti said the company had a contract with UMW and we couldn't go down to work unless we signed with UMW. So none of us went down except about 25 UMW men and we went home. The next day we went back to the mine but none of the UMW came to work so we started a picket line which lasted for about 56 days and I was in the picket line all the time. We had no one helping us picket except just our PMA local, and a couple of days before Thanksgiving in 1937 the U. S. Marshall told us we had to get out, so we did.

"I do not remember going back to try to work in Mine 'B' until Nov. 1939. I remember voting in an election held by the National Labor Relations Board a month or so after Thanksgiving of 1939 when the PMA beat the UMW 404 to 35.

"No one tried to get me to join UMW before I went back to work in Nov. 1939. In November of 1939 I got a letter that the mine was going to open and I should come back to work so I went. In 1937 I had been working on the south side of Mine 'B' but when I went back in 1939 the work was all on the west side. I did not notice there had been any fires or many caves and it did not look to me like there had been any.

"After I went back to work in 1939 the UMW tried to organize down in Mine 'B'. [REDACTED] was one of the UMW who would come down to me three or four times a day and call me a Progressive son of a bitch and said if I wanted to keep my job I had to join the UMW. [REDACTED] said he would kill me if I didn't join UMW. *Shit*

"One day, about four or five months after Nov., 1939, after [REDACTED] had bothered me so much I went to Oscar Falcetti and told him what [REDACTED] was doing. Falcetti said I had the right to chose any union I wanted to. [REDACTED] was brought up before the Pitt Committee of PMA and he said I was lying when I said he tried to organize for UMW. But the next morning when I was on my way to work, 'Bowling Green' Bohannon drove up and asked me what the hell I had been doing. He said if I didn't keep my mouth shut he'd knock my brains out. When I got to work that morning [REDACTED] asked me how I liked my friend 'Bowling Green.' *Shit*

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"During this time, in 1940, UMW men would come to the Mine 'B' and work a couple of weeks and then leave. One of these fellows just a month or so before the NLRB

election in 1941 tried to get me to join UMW. He came up to me while I was working in Mine 'B' and said 'Let me put this button on you.' It was a UMW button. About 15 days before the NLRB election in 1941, [redacted] came to me and asked me if I was going to join UMW. He said it was the last day to sign. About this time I saw a lot of PMA men get beat up by UMW men. One of them was [redacted] who was beat up, another was an old man about [redacted] years old whose first name was [redacted] [redacted] told me [redacted] beat him up. [redacted] was an air man but I never saw him work and all he did was talk about UMW. In about Feb. 1941, the NLRB held an election which UMW won. I voted in that election but no one threatened me in any way. I went to vote but I had changed to UMW because I didn't want to lose my job, and before the election the UMW local had a meeting and we all went from the meeting to vote. At this meeting they told us everybody go over and vote UMW and everything would be all right. There were about 200 or more men there. I think the election was fair.

"I changed to UMW the last day they let me. 'Cudger' came to me that day and I signed because I didn't want to get beat up and I wanted to have my job.

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

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

/s/ [redacted]

/s/ [redacted]

/s/ [redacted]

Special Agent, F.B.I.

Special Agent - F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on August

31, 1943.

At [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, phone [REDACTED]
Agents interviewed [REDACTED] in the presence of his wife
and daughter, and he advised he has never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that he is an illiterate person of foreign birth
and he had difficulty in understanding the questions and answering them
and he was assisted by his wife and daughter. He was cooperative and
appeared sincere and it is not believed he would make a good witness
unless his testimony is necessary.

He furnished Agents with a signed statement which he initialed
and signed and which is set out as follows:

"Springfield, Ill
August 31, 1943

"I [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill.
hereby give the following statement to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] who are known to me to be Spec. Agts. of the F. B. I. No threats
or promises have been made me. I was born [REDACTED]
I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a citizen [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]
I first joined a mine union [REDACTED] this was the U.M.W.,
I transferred this to U.S. I was first employed at Mine "B" in about
[REDACTED] and worked there till May 1937 as a coal-digger. From [REDACTED] to
1932 the U.M.W. had no trouble with Elshoff so far as I know. When the
union swung over to the P.M.A. I went over then too. I felt conditions
were twice as good under P.M.A. as U.M.W. I went over because I wanted
to nobody made me.

"From 1932 to 1937 there was no trouble that I know of. Everything
was ok in the P.M.A. union up until about 2 or 3 weeks before the strike.
As far as I know the P.M.A. officials were all right, no force was used
to run the union and if a miner had something to say it was ok. While
I was in the Progressives I attended one or two meetings a month.

"I dont know anything about the men who were convicted for the
bombings. I dont think the P.M.A. officials were doing anything wrong
with our money.

"I dont know about any trouble being caused the P.M.A. by the

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

I never heard anything about any parties given the U.M.W. officials by ELSHOFF.

U.M.W. I never saw them give out any literature or anything. About 2 or 3 weeks before the mine closed there were about 25 men who would start talking about which union the men should join.

"At the time the contract ran out in 1937, I did not hear anything about the kind of agreement they reached for us to work under. A member of our local board told us at one meeting that when an agreement was reached we would get back pay for any increase we got. Nobody seemed to be mad about this agreement. We heard nothing from the management as to the kind of agreement made.

"I attended the meeting at which the 5 so-called spies were expelled from P.M.A. I can't tell now what happened it is too long ago. On the day of the strike the men were provoked because the Co. let the 5 expelled men go back to work. There was no talk of striking because of pay.

"I dont remember anything about cars being loaded short the day of the strike.

"I dont remember signing any petition for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. if I had signed any it would have been P.M.A.

"I heard of the forming of the U.M.W. local in Jul. 1937. I was not contacted to join this as I had made it known that I wouldn't join. I dont remember anything unusual happening during the summer of 1937.

"I returned to the mine when they tried to open it in 1937. The Progressives didn't go to work that day because Falscetti didn't want the Progressives. As I remember the U.M.W. men went out for 2 or 3 days. The Progressives then said if we dont go to work nobody is going and the U.M.W. men stayed in the office. I was out at the mine most of the time we were there to protect our jobs. No one forced me to go and it was all peaceful. Some said that some carloads of U.M.W. men came out but I didn't see them. I was not there the night the marshall came and told us to leave. I never went back to the mine except once to the wash-house to get my pet-clothes.

"I voted for P.M.A. at the first N.R.L.B. election I did this of my own free will. It looked to me to be a good election.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

When the mine opened in 1939, I read about it in the papers. I dont remember getting a letter. I just went out to get my clothes, my tools are still there. I would not work with the U.M.W. if I didn't have any job. I started in 1938 in another mine and was not interested in the job at mine B.

"I am still a P.M.A. member. I work in Panther Creek mine #5.

"Nobody ever talked to me about joining the U.M.W. if they did I chased them away.

"I have had read to me by [REDACTED] this 5 page statement and it the truth as I rember it. I am therefore signing it and initialing each page thereof.

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

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Springfield, Ill.

Spec. Agt. F.B.I.
(Milwaukee, Wis.)"

Aug. 31, 1943

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on August 30, 1943.

At the [REDACTED] mentioned hereinafter, agents interviewed [REDACTED]. He advised that he was arrested once some years ago in connection with a divorce proceeding but has never been arrested on a criminal charge.

It was observed that [REDACTED] appeared to have more intelligence than the average miner and he seemed to have a very retentive memory; he seemed to know what the mine trouble was all about. He speaks English very well and is understandable. He was very cooperative and said that he would appear in court if it were necessary for him to do so. It is believed that he will make a good witness.

[REDACTED] furnished Agents with the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]
Springfield, Ill.,
August 30, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and making this free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me.

"I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States on [REDACTED] and became a citizen of American in [REDACTED]. I started at Mine B in [REDACTED] and am still there and I am a coal digger and timberman. In [REDACTED] I joined United Mine Workers [REDACTED] and I also had a card from the old country. I never have held any union office. The union runs alright prior to 1932 when UMW was there, and it was a pretty good local at that time. I felt pretty bad when John Lewis wanted us to take the cut back in 1932 or so. The trouble started over some one stealing some ballots--I heard that. That was why the men changed over to PMA. I thought it was alright when the men changed over to PMA from UMW and I went over because the rest did. PMA officials and the management got along alright prior to the time the mine closed down. I don't know if Elshoff preferred one union over another then. No one talked to me before the strike to turn over to UMW again. Local 54 settled all matters alright with Mine B officials and there was no trouble that I know of. I felt satisfied with PMA that the officials were doing right by us miners and I had no complaints to make at all. The men in local 54 had their say in all matters and we voted on matters and no certain men run it by themselves and no one forced us to do things. I attended quite a few PMA meetings then. In regard to the PMA men being convicted for the bombings I did not know anything about it as I never paid much attention to them. The

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INTERVIEW WITH ██████████ PMA officials gave us a black and white report as to what they did with the money and I never suspected them of being crooked. UMW men never picketed Mine B nor did they give out literature prior to the time the mine closed. I don't know of any persons spying for UMW prior to the time the mine closed. I don't know about any parties being given by Elshoff or UMW men. After the contract expired I heard that ██████████ had made a temporary contract with Elshoff and we were supposed to get back pay but I never got any pay. The PMA was doing alright by us miners then. Just before the mine closed there was no trouble over the wages that I know of and everything seemed to be alright. No one ever bothered me then to join over to UMW. I don't know anything about the PMA officials and the management fighting over the wage contract.

"I did not attend the meeting the night before the strike but I recall that the Trial Committee had voted to oust 5 men and at that meeting I heard that the men voted to throw out these 5 men. Regular Meetings were on second and fourth Fridays and I don't know if this was a regular meeting or a special one. There was no talk of wages around the mine on the day it closed down. No one said that we would not get a contract between PMA and Mine B. I heard that the Committee told FALCETTI several times to get rid of those 5 men but they would not kick them out. On the morning of the strike there was no trouble there that I recall of. In Box 3 and 4 and others I heard that some cars were being loaded short that day and later that day I also saw some cars that were loaded short. I don't know why the cars were being loaded short that day. Down below nobody knew there was going to be a strike. About 14 or 15 minutes before quitting time we were called out and we were told the mine was to be shut down. I heard ██████████ and Elshoff were arguing about those 5 men and that is supposed to be why the strike was called. Right after Mine B closed I signed a PMA petition. I was not forced to sign that at all. I don't recall what they said about it anymore. I signed it on the road outside the mine there. I never signed any UMW petition that summer but I heard there was one around but no one came to me with it. Later on I signed another PMA petition as they wanted to know if I still was PMA and I was and no one forced me to sign it. I believe I signed that at a meeting. I heard that UMW started a local that summer and that men were around but none came to see me. Nothing unusual happened during summer of 1937 that I know of. During fall of 1937, on a Sunday, I was in a saloon near 14th St., and Tony Plotch came in and said the mine was going to be reopened and that I had better be there. That was the first I knew of it. PMA did not have any meeting to decide what they would do if the mine were opened by UMW. I took my dinner bucket and went out to Mine B the next morning to go to work but Falcetti told us that he wanted 50 UMW men to go down into the mine. ██████████ said to Falcetti he could give him 100 PMA but he didn't want us. Falcetti told us that we would have to be UMW men to do down. 11 or 12 UMW men did go down into the mine and before they had been PMA men. JOE ALBENESE, Andy Schrevlevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, believe both Jacaways, Tony Plotch, and Charles Bohannon and Jim Hale and several others went down alright. By letting those men go down--that was the

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INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(continued)

cause of the picketing out there for several months. I went home twice a week but I was there on the strike most of the time. The men out there were from Local 54 and there were no outsiders brot in to help us. We just sat around, played ball and cards and just watched the property at Mine B. PMA officials did not force us to go out there and we were there to protect our jobs there. While we were there no one bothered us and UMW did not cause any trouble and the sit down strike was very quiet and peaceful. I was there when the U. S. Marshall told us to leave. He read something and said we had better leave and we all left and there was no trouble at all regarding leaving.

"I don't recall if I went out to Mine B later again when it was supposed to reopen. Oh, yes, I remember that in some chilly weather I was at PMA office and lawyer Dahl and Mr. Burke said something about them going out to take the mules out of Mine B. I went out there but nobody went down then and I went home again. I just don't know what the reason was why no one went to work.

"I voted for PMA at the NLRB election at the Armory in Springfield, Ill. 404 went for PMA and 25 for UMW. That was an honest election. I was not forced to vote by anyone and I voted the way I want to. It was by secret ballot and no strong arm methods were used.

"I don't know why PMA and Elshoff could not sign a contract after PMA won the election. I got a registered letter from Elshoff telling me I had to be back in 10 days in order to get my job back. I figured I would get paid the regular scale wage and no one told me what wages we were to get. Nothing was said about a contract that I know of. After the mine opened Bohannon told us in the Redman's hall on Monroe St., in Springfield, Ill., that if we joined to UMW that they could get a contract in 3 weeks. Many of the old PMA came back when the mine opened. [REDACTED] talked to my buddy in the mine and asked him if I was going to sign over and my buddy, [REDACTED], told him that I had said that I was going to wait till the Courts decided the matter. I had heard that [REDACTED] (phonetic) had been in the hospital and he had been beaten up and I am sure that PMA did not do it. I also saw [REDACTED] (PHONETIC) on the street and he said he had a fight at the mine one day. He was bleeding and had just come from the mine and he was on his way to PMA office to report it. No one ever threatened me to join over. I was working company work so no one bothered me then. There was a dead line of going over to UMW by January 16, 1941 and I finally signed up and then next month NLRB had another election at the Armory. I had to sign up otherwise I would not have a job. Some one had marked on a pit car with chalk that after January 16, 1941 there would be no more PMA and I believed that and I knew that things might happen so I signed up with UMW.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(continued)

"During summer of 1940 I never signed any card for UMW but till Jan. 1941 I paid dues to PMA. When I went back to work in 1939 at Mine B I signed some card showing that I was still with PMA.

"NLRB had another election at the Armory in Springfield, Ill., and altho I was with UMW then I still signed PMA as I liked that local and I had been satisfied and they had a nice bunch of men. No one told me to vote that way and no force was used and it was by secret ballot and was an honest election. There had been many new UMW men at the mine and I also think that many PMA voted for UMW because they were afraid that the mine would be closed again as I heard some gossip about that. Box 4 was cleaned up in two days. Box 3 took a little longer as it had a little squeeze in it. Box 2 and 9 were never reopened. I don't know of any fire at Mine B in 1939. I know Glasgow but I don't know of him talking about money at any meeting.

"This is about all I can think of in connection with this strike and I had to go to work for WPA then.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this 2 page statement to me and it is true and correct and I have signed it of my own free will."

/s/ [REDACTED]

WITNESSES:

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

[REDACTED]
Special Agent, F.B.I.,
St. Paul, Minn.
Springfield, Ill.
Aug. 30, 1943

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is a naturalized citizen who is no longer working in the mines. He was cooperative and sincere, but had little information concerning the matter under inquiry as he was not active or interested in union matters. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943

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

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

"I first started working in the mines [REDACTED] and joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to herein after as the U.M.W. The mine was operated by the [REDACTED] I worked there from [REDACTED] at which time I came to Springfield, Illinois.

"Upon my arrival in Springfield, I started working in the Citizens Coal Mine, near Springfield which is called Mine A at the present time. I started working at this mine as a member of U.M.W. and remained there until about [REDACTED] In [REDACTED] I went to work in Mine B as a U.M.W. member and worked there until May 12, 1937, when the mine shut down, [REDACTED]

"I never held an office in a mine union and only went to mine union meetings about once every three months. I joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] and I remained a member of that union until September, 1932, when the Progressive Miners of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, was formed. I joined the PMA because the majority did and not because anyone threatened me. I don't know anything about the reduction in the wage scale in 1932. I don't know if I voted or not on the wage scale matter. I heard the ballot box was stolen, but I did not know why it was stolen, or who did it.

"I did not take any active part in organizing the PMA and only attended their meetings about once in three months. I thought this was a good union and the leaders were capable men. I'm speaking of the PMA now. I remained a member of PMA until February 21, 1941 when Mine B signed up

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

with the UMW. I remained a member of the UMW until I quit mining on [REDACTED]

"As far as I know, relations between Elshoff and the UMW at Mine B were good prior to 1932. I don't know which union Elshoff or Falcetti favored if any as I did not hear them talk about unions.

"In the Spring of 1937 a group of men having PMA cards were organizing for UMW. I knew the following men: Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Cotton, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale. In the Spring of 1937 these above mentioned men were trying to get the men to sign up with the UMW and I saw two fights by the wash house, but I stayed away because I did not want to get in trouble. I do not know who the men were as it was dark. I heard the fight was over union matters because they would not join the UMW and these PMA men never came back to the mine. I was never threatened either by the UMW or the PMA men, and I was not asked to join the UMW at this time.

"In May, 1937, I heard some men had been expelled from the PMA because they were acting as organizers for UMW, but I do not know their names. The last day the mine worked, in May, 1937, I loaded the coal cars short, because a PMA man named John Schneider told the miner to do so while we were down in the mine. I loaded the cars short, but no one told me why we loaded them short, and I did not ask. I always did what the Union told me to do as I did not want any trouble, however, no one threatened me when I was told to load short.

"Elshoff would not sign a contract with PMA in 1937 and there was plenty of men to work. I think Elshoff liked the UMW better than the PMA because later he gave the UMW a contract, but I don't know why he favored the UMW.

"After the shutdown at Mine B in May, 1937, I was in the picket line of PMA at that mine about two weeks at the most. From May 1937 to November, 1939, I did not have regular work, and did not go back to the mine after I finished about two weeks picketing, until the mine re-opened in November, 1939.

"In November, 1939, when I went back to Mine B, I was still a member of PMA and no one asked me to join the UMW until just before the second NLRB election in February, 1941. Just before this election, Tony Plotch, who was a member of UMW and a check weighman at Mine B, talked to me at the mine. Tony said, [REDACTED] you might as well join UMW as all the rest have". Tony talked to me in a friendly way and did not threaten me. He gave a UMW card to [REDACTED] (phonetic), who was a member of the UMW, and he brought it to my house at [REDACTED] Springfield. I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

signed it voluntarily and gave it back to him.

(continued)

"I liked the PMA union best, because it was more democratic as they had a good committee in the union who helped make conditions in the mine better. The UMW had a committee, but it was not as good. The PMA did not beat up UMW men to get them to join PMA, but the UMW organizers beat up miners to get them to join the UMW.

"I have had this statement, consisting of two pages read to me by [REDACTED] and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge.

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnessed: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative, but because of his limited knowledge it is not believed he would make an effective witness. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following is the signed statement of [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED]. I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED]. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers in 1932 while I was working at Panther Creek Mine #4. I became employed at Mine B in [REDACTED] and am employed there at the present time.

"Before 1937, from the time I became employed at Mine B, I knew of no trouble of any kind at the mine. I was entirely satisfied as to the PMA, and had no doubts in the leadership of the PMA union.

"Before the strike, in 1937, at Mine B, I knew of no activity on the part of UMW men in Mine B. I was not contacted by any UMW man myself, and did not know of anyone who was.

"I did not know of any meeting of the PMA held the night before the strike. I do not know if there was a meeting or not, for I never heard anything about it. On the day of the strike, we were called out of the mine, and were told that there was a strike. I do not remember who told me that a strike had been called. I don't remember hearing anything about why the strike started that day in May of 1937. I didn't hear anything about there being U.M.W. spies in the mine, causing the strike, but I do know that the strike was not called because of wages. I do not know the cause of the strike. I know that the men were satisfied with the P.M.A. and the efforts the P.M.A. was making to settle the wage question.

"I do not remember signing a P.M.A. petition in the summer of 1937. I don't remember signing any petitions at all in the summer of 1937.

"In the summer of 1937, TONY PLOTCH and COTTON ANANIAS came to my home and asked me to join the U.M.W. I told them I wouldn't join unless I

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

had to, and I didn't have to at that time. No one else contacted me, and I was not threatened in any way by anyone to join the U.M.W. in that summer.

"I don't remember whether I got a notice that the mine was to be re-opened in September of 1937. I remember that I did go on the picket line in the fall of 1937. No one forced me to go on the picket line, but I just went because a lot of the men did. I don't know the purpose of the picket line, but I believe it was to keep all the men from working, both U.M.W. and P.M.A. It seems to me that the injunction gotten by the management was directed against the P.M.A., because the management favored the U.M.W. The original trouble started when some of the men tried to get elected to offices, in the P.M.A., and lost out. COTTON ANANIAS, TONY FLOTCH and ANDREW SCHRELEVICUS were the ones who ran for office and got 'licked, and were the leaders of the trouble. I don't know anything specific, but I just have the feeling that the above named were shown favors by the management.

"In December of 1937, I voted in the election at the State arsenal. I voted for the P.M.A., because I was thoroughly satisfied with the P.M.A. From the time of that election until the mine re-opened, I was not contacted by anyone in attempts to sway me in my choice of unions.

"In the fall of 1939, I received a notice from the management of Mine B, telling me to report to work, that my old job was open.

"After I returned to work, it seemed to me that the management favored the U.M.W. men in the mine. After I began work, a man came to me in the mine and told me I had better sign with the U.M.W., because the U.M.W. was going to get a majority in the mine, and unless a man was U.M.W. he would lose his job. I do not know the name of this man, but he was a big man. He was in the mine, but I never saw him doing any work in the mine. At the time he told me that all but twelve men had joined the U.M.W., and I was one of the twelve. This was just before the election of 1941. He never threatened me in any way.

"I joined the U.M.W. just before the election, because, on account of my age, I couldn't get a job in another mine and I felt I had to join U.M.W. to keep my job at Mine B. At the election, I voted P.M.A., in spite of being a member of U.M.W., because I felt it was the best union. I didn't join U.M.W. because I wanted to, but because I had to to keep my job. I think that P.M.A. is the best union, and would like to see it in the mine at the present time.

"Before the election I did not see or hear of any violence on the part of either union to influence the election of February, 1941.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
(continued)

"I recall a fire in box 4 after the mine opened, but, if I remember correctly, that happened in 1942. I don't know the extent or the cost, but the box is still closed down.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

WITNESSES:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 1, 1943, at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a self-educated young man who speaks clearly and precisely. He claimed not to have much interest in union activities and he also claimed to have no criminal record. The following statement was prepared but [REDACTED] declined to sign it.

"Springfield, Ill.
September 1, 1943

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, and am employed as a mine engineer at Mine B. I was born [REDACTED]. I joined a mine union for the first time in [REDACTED], when I joined the P.M.A. on becoming employed at Mine B. I have never held an official position in any union. Shortly after the strike of May 1937, I joined the U.M.W., and am a member of that union at the present time.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike, and don't know anything about the meeting, or the reason therefore. On the day of the strike, the men were just standing around, without doing anything. I don't know the reason for the strike, how it was called, or anything about it.

"Shortly after the U.M.W. formed a local chapter for Mine B, I signed a membership card for the U.M.W. The reason for my joining the U.M.W. was because my father had been a member for years, and liked the U.M.W. I was willing to go along with him, and that is the reason I joined.

"In the fall of 1937, I saw in the paper that the mine was to be reopened. I was working in Springfield, and didn't go back to the mine at that time. In fact, I didn't go near the mine from the day of the strike until I returned to work in November of 1939. In the fall of 1937 when the Progressives picketed the mine, I believe that the management was correct in getting the injunction to keep the picketers off his property.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"In the election of December, 1937, I voted for U.M.W., because I was a member of that union.

"I remember hearing of some violence at the mine after we returned to work, but I didn't see any myself. I saw one fellow who was supposed to have been beat up down in the mine, but I don't know of any of the particulars. I worked on top, and have no knowledge of anything that went on down in the mine.

"Since becoming a member of the U.M.W. I have attended quite a few union meetings. I remember seeing in the newspaper that Jack Glasgow was expelled from the U.M.W., but I don't remember the particulars and I don't remember attending any meeting at which this matter was discussed.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of slightly over two pages, and state that it is true to the best of my recollection.

[redacted] declined to sign this statement although he stated that everything contained in it was the truth).

/s/

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his

home on August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] makes a very good appearance and speaks very good English, with a slight [REDACTED] accent. He gave his information freely and voluntarily to the extent of his knowledge. It is believed that he would make a very good witness. He claimed to have no criminal record. [REDACTED] is employed [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I became a naturalized citizen in federal court, [REDACTED].

"I joined the United Mine Workers in Springfield in [REDACTED] and was a member of such union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I remained a member of this union until 1941, when I rejoined the U.M.W., when they signed a closed shop agreement with the management of Mine B.

"I began work at Mine B in [REDACTED] and worked there until 1942, with the exception of the time we were on strike. [REDACTED]

"I did not take an active part in organizing the P.M.A. I just went along with the men. After its organization I attended several of the meetings. I was very well satisfied with the P.M.A., for it was run by clean, honest men. The men running the P.M.A. tried to do what was right and best for the men, and always gave a full explanation of all special assessments. The relations between the union and the management of Mine B, until 1937, were entirely satisfactory as far as I know.

"I do not know of any activity on the part of U.M.W. agitators prior to the strike in 1937. I do know that no one tried to get me to join the U.M.W. before the strike. The night before the strike, in May of 1937, I remember attending a union meeting. I don't remember how I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued).

knew about the meeting, as well as I remember, the meeting had to do with some men who were kicked out of the P.M.A. for U.M.W. activity. I remember the following names

as some of the men: DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, COTTON ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEORGE AND EMORY JACAWAY, CHARLES BOHANNON and JIMMY HALE. I remember that these men were mentioned at that meeting. I also remember some talk at the P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike about what would happen if the company didn't discharge the above named men, but I don't remember what action was decided upon.

"On the day of the strike in May, 1937, the men went down into the mine and loaded a few cars, some full, some only partly full. After a while, the union called the men out of the mine, that is the P.M.A. I don't remember how notice of the strike was sent down into the mine. I don't remember why the men loaded the cars short, and can't really remember the cause of the strike. I think the strike was called because the P.M.A. didn't want the above mentioned men to work in the mine, but I can't be sure of it. I don't remember that any talk or dispute over wages entered into the strike at all.

"I remember signing a P.M.A. petition shortly after the strike began, but I don't know what the petition was about. I know I signed only the one petition, and know I signed none for U.M.W. I believe I signed the P.M.A. petition at Progressive Hall, but I don't remember anyone coming to the house. No one approached me that summer to sign a U.M.W. petition, or to talk me into joining U.M.W.

"I received a notice from Mine B management that the mine was to reopen in Sept. of 1937. I didn't go out to the mine at that time, and didn't know anything about the picketing.

"In the election of December, 1937, I voted for P.M.A. The majority of the men were for it, I thought it was the best union, and I didn't want to have anything to do with the U.M.W.

"In the fall of 1939, I got another notice from the Mine B Management that the mine would re-open. I appeared for work, and remained there until 1942, when I quit and got my present job. From the time the mine reopened in 1939, until the election of 1941, which the U.M.W. won, I was talked to by U.M.W. men several times, and they tried to get me to join the U.M.W. One man, [redacted] talked to me quite a bit, and told me that, unless the U.M.W. won the next election, and unless we all joined the U.M.W., the management would close down the mine, because they wouldn't work with the P.M.A. I was never threatened or abused to join the U.M.W., and voted for the P.M.A. in the election in 1941, which the U.M.W. won. I joined the U.M.W. after the election, because I had to if I wanted to keep on working at Mine B.

Handwritten notes:
U.M.W.
P.M.A.
b7c
b7D

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued).

"I saw several P.M.A. men beaten. One was [REDACTED], and I can't remember the names of the others. The men were beat up by Bohannon, Lensky and Sirtout,

some in the wash-house, and others outside the mine. The men were beat up because they were members of the P.M.A., and wouldn't join the U.M.W. I don't remember any conversation or activity on the part of the Mine B management to influence the men toward U.M.W. during this period.

"I remember that, after the mine re-opened, in the fall of 1939, [REDACTED] got a job in the mine as an air checker. There was no position before the strike, and he spent almost all the time talking to the men and trying to get them to join the U.M.W. I have heard several of the men say that he was paid by the U.M.W., not the mine management, but I don't remember who said that, and I know nothing more about it.

"I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A. in every way. In my mind, it's much the better of the two unions. I only joined U.M.W. because I had to to keep my job.

"I have had this statement, consisting of approximately four and one half pages, read to me and state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 31, 1943, by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] seemed to have only a limited knowledge of activities at Mine B because of his lack of interest in union activities and absence from Mine B since 1937. For these reasons it is not believed that he would make a valuable witness. He claimed to have no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.
August 31, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. I was born [REDACTED]. I am presently employed [REDACTED].

"I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] while I was working for the [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I rejoined the U.M.W. when I was working in Mine A. I don't recall the exact date.

"Prior to the strike in 1937 I recall hearing something about some arguments and incidents at Mine B, but I don't recall what they were about. Prior to the strike I don't recall that anyone ever tried to persuade me to join the U.M.W. However, I do recall that [REDACTED] one day told me and my father, when he called at our house, that there was going to be trouble at Mine B. He did not give any more information, and because both my father and I were P.M.A. men we paid no attention to [REDACTED]. Everything was going smoothly at Mine B. All of the miners seemed to be satisfied with F.M.A. I thought it was a good union, and that the leaders were trying to do good for the miners.

"I went to some of the F.M.A. meetings. As I recall, we had to attend at least one meeting a month. At those meetings everyone had the chance to speak his piece. I don't recall any discussion at these meetings about the bombings that were going on about that time.

"Some time before the strike in 1937 I heard something about an argument between some of the drivers and [REDACTED]. I don't remember any of the details, but as I recall he was supposed to be carrying a knife. I don't know if he was said to be a spy for U.M.W., or if there was any talk about U.M.W. spies in the mine at that time.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I don't recall anything about the P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike. I can't recall how the strike started in May 1937. It seems to me that there was some controversy about some men who were supposed to trying to get members for U.M.W. from P.M.A. I don't remember if there was any talk about these men having been discharged or fired. I think it was bec use of the controversy about these men that the P.M.A. on the day of the strike loaded their coal cars with short weights. I think that the only reason for the strike was the trouble about these men. I don't recall any talk about wage scales.

"After the strike started in 1937 I went [redacted] and since that time I have not been in Mine B. However, I did vote in the election for Mine B held in December 1937, and voted for P.M.A. because I thought the majority of the miners wanted that union, and because I thought it was a good union.

"Some time in February or March 1938 I started to work in Mine A. I stayed at that mine until a short time after U.M.W. obtained the bargaining contract for the miners there. In the election that was held for Mine A I voted for U.M.W. because I wanted to save my job, and I thought that U.M.W. would win the election. It really made no difference to me which union won the election. All I wanted was my job.

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

[redacted] (signed)

" witness:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI (signed)

[redacted] (signed)

Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 1,

1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. This man speaks English with some difficulty of expression, and he can understand English only when it is spoken slowly. He claimed to have no criminal record. The following statement was prepared but not signed by [redacted]

*R-U
now of mine*

"Springfield, Ill.
September 1, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [redacted] Springfield, Ill. [redacted] and do not work.

"I was born in [redacted] I came to the United States in [redacted] Previous to [redacted] became a citizen of the United States [redacted].

"I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] in [redacted] I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1936. About two or three months before the election in February 1941 I rejoined the U.M.W. I never was an officer in any union.

"I went to a few meetings of the P.M.A., but I don't remember any talk about organizers for the U.M.W. I don't know of any trouble within P.M.A. or between the P.M.A. and the U.M.W.

"I knew there was to be a meeting on the night before the strike started but I did not go to the meeting. I don't remember how I knew about this meeting.

"On the day the strike started in 1937 I saw everyone going out of the mine, and I went along with the miners. I don't know any reasons for the strike. I did hear some talk about getting back pay, but I don't know if this was the reason for the strike.

"I never signed a petition for any union in 1937, and no one from the U.M.W. tried to get me to join the U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued).

"I remember reading in the paper that the mine would reopen in the fall of 1937, and I went out to the mine. In that fall

I got into the picket line, but I don't know why the picket line was put up. I saw only Mine B men in the picket line.

"In the mine election of 1937 I voted for P.M.A. because I wanted to go along with the majority of the miners. It really made no difference to me which union had the mine contract. I only wanted to work for my living.

"No one tried to get me to join U.M.W. until the mine reopened in 1939. Before the mine reopened I received a letter from the company, and was told when to report for work.

"After I started to work again, a man known as [redacted] asked me how I would like to join the U.M.W. I said that it made no difference to me to which union I belonged.

"I signed with U.M.W. about 3 months before the election in February 1941. I voted for U.M.W. because it seemed to me that most of the miners wanted this union. I also thought that I would have to join the U.M.W. to keep my job. [redacted]

"To me one union is just like any other. I have no preference one way or the other. Nobody ever threatened me to make me join a union.

"This statement consisting of this and one other typewritten page has been read to me by [redacted] and I state that it is true to the best of my recollection and knowledge.

([redacted] declined to sign the above statement although he stated that everything contained in it was true).

/s/ [redacted]

Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] is unable to read the English language and had little knowledge of union affairs. He executed the following signed statement which was read to him by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois
September 1, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] arrived in the United States in [REDACTED] was naturalized at [REDACTED] I presently work at Mine "B" near Springfield, Illinois and reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill.

"In [REDACTED] I first worked in the Peabody Mine #6 at Springfield, Illinois as a member of the United Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as UMW. I worked there about six months. I worked in other mines after this as a member of UMW.

"In 1921 or 1922 I worked in Peabody Mine #53 under the UMW and worked there until [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] I went to work in Mine "B" under the UMW and worked there continuously until the present time with the exception of the period from May, 1937 to November, 1939 when the mine was closed while the strike was in progress.

"I never held an office in any union.

"I became a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA in September, 1932 because everyone else changed to PMA at Mine "B".

"ELSHOFF had no trouble to my knowledge with the UMW before 1932. As far as I know ELSHOFF got along alright with PMA from 1932 to 1937.

"I did not help organize PMA. I know nothing about how the PMA members liked their union leaders. As far as I know everyone was satisfied under the PMA.

"No one started any trouble over the wage scale back pay.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH "I know all of the following persons:

(continued)

JOE ALABANESE
ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS
DOMINIC PASQUALE
PETE CARTER
FRANK AUSTIN
TONY FLOTCH

JOHN SIRTOUT
CHARLES BOHANNON
GEORGE JACAWAY
EMORY JACAWAY
JAMES HALE

"Two or three weeks after I returned to Mine "B" to work when it re-opened in November, 1939 I signed a UMW card and became a member of UMW. I didn't want to join UMW, but everyone else did so I did too. I was never threatened or made to join. I always stayed in the background and let the other men decide what to do.

"I did not know about the activities of the eleven men whose names are mentioned above in this statement, except that after the mine opened in 1939 these men went around to the miners to get them to join UMW. I heard that some miners were beaten up but I don't remember who or why they were beaten.

"I remember when the five men were thrown out of PMA in May 1937, but I do not know why. I did not go to the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 because I do not understand English well. For this reason I can not talk very well about union affairs or what the trouble was in 1937 when the strike took place at Mine "B".

"I helped picket Mine "B" with the other PMA members for several weeks after the mine closed.

"I do not remember if I ever signed any PMA or UMW petitions.

"I do not care which union I work under. I do not know anything about PMA and I do not know anything about UMW.

"I have had this statement consisting of one and one half pages read to me by [redacted] because I do not read English. This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and I gave the information set forth above of my own free will.

(Signed) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] (signed)

[redacted] (signed)

Special Agent F.B.I.

[redacted] (signed)

Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a naturalized [REDACTED]. He was cooperative and had a fair understanding of conditions at Mine "B" from 1936 to January 26, 1940. He executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
September 1, 1943

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

[REDACTED] I came to the United States about [REDACTED] and I was naturalized in [REDACTED].

"Upon my arrival in the United States in [REDACTED] I started working in the mines at [REDACTED]. The first union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW at the [REDACTED]. I helped organize UMW in that mine about [REDACTED] as near as I can remember.

"I came to Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED] and went to work at the Capitol Mine and the #2 Sangamon Mine under the UMW.

"I went to work at Mine "B" about 1936 under the Progressive Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"I never held an office in any union. I attended most of the union meetings at Mine "B". I liked the PMA and was satisfied with its' officials. I do not like the UMW on account of JOHN L. LEWIS and some of the UMW officials.

"In the UMW a miner can hold an office indefinitely, but in PMA a miner can hold an office for only two years at one time.

"In Mine "B" I was working as a 'digger' and TONY PLOTCH came to me about a month before the strike in May, 1937 while I was digging in the mine during working hours and asked me twice one day to leave the PMA and join the UMW. He said I better join UMW now and I said no, that I would wait and see which way the other miners went and he again said that I should not wait for the others, but that I should sign up with UMW right away. I did not do it.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"Regarding the wage scale trouble, I was expecting to get the back pay, but I know nothing about what was going to be done by ELSHOFF or the PMA officials to get the back pay.

"I know some of the men who were aggitating for U.M. in mine "B" both before the mine closed on strike and after it opened in November, 1939. These men were as follows:

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

JOHN (COTTON) ANANIAS
JOHN SIRTOUT
CHARLES BOWLINGGREEN
JAMES FALE

"I attended the PMA meeting held on May 11, 1937. I learned this was a special meeting from the PMA Pit Committee.

"In the meeting the five men were thrown out of PMA because of the aggitating they were doing at the mine. I voted to throw these men out of PMA and everybody else at the meeting voted the same way. Most of the PMA members present at this meeting including myself, got up and told how these men tried to get us to join U.M. I don't believe the five men were at this meeting.

"The PMA miners who didn't attend the meeting on May 11, 1937 were told about what happened the next morning at the mine.

"I went down in the Mine "B" at 8:00 A. M. on May 12, 1937. However, before 8:00 A.M. the PMA Pit Committee came around to us diggers and told us not to bother about filling the coal cars up to the top and so I shorted my cars that day. I think the coal cars were shorted for two reasons. These reasons were as follows: Because ELSHOFF would not discharge the five men who were thrown out of PMA, and because ELSHOFF would not give us our back pay.

"As best as I remember it, it was about May 14, 1937, about two days after the coal cars were shorted that I went to Mine "B" and all of the PMA men were there too. We all wanted to go to work, but Oscar Falcetti would not let us go to work unless we joined U.M. I learned it was this way because the PMA Pit Committee went to ELSHOFF's office to see about working about the back wages and other things, and I heard that most of the twelve men including TONY PLOTCH were in ELSHOFF's office at that time.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] ELSHOFF called the Sheriff out to the mine to have the PMA men thrown off the property.
(continued)

"The twelve or fourteen men who were aggitating for UMW went down the shaft to work. I saw this. I saw Oscar Falcetti go down the shaft with them.

"I helped to picket the mine for about three or four month after that.

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

"In November, 1939 I started back to work when the mine re-opened.

"On January 26, 1940 ANDY SCERULEVICH who lives now on [REDACTED] Street, Springfield, Illinois and who got a job last week at Mine "A" came up to me in the wash house at Mine "B" early in the morning. He said, 'you better not put on your working clothes and go down in the mine, because if you do, you will never come up from the mine.' [REDACTED] who lives on [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois was standing near me when this was said and he told me that I'd better sign up with UMW.

"I did not go down in the mine that day and I never went back, because I did not want to join the UMW, and I was afraid I would be killed if I stayed there any longer as a member of the PMA.

"I can speak and understand the English language, but can not read it well. This statement was read to me by Special Agent [REDACTED] in the presence of [REDACTED] at my home at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED] (signed)

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed on August 31, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence. [REDACTED] appeared willing to cooperate in answering the questions put to him, appeared to be alert and definite, and would willingly testify if called upon to do so.

Following is a signed statement obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I was naturalized an American citizen at Springfield, Illinois, date not recalled, but before I was twenty one years old, as I gained my citizenship through my father, [REDACTED] I am presently employed by [REDACTED] and live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

"I have worked off and on at mines including Mine "A", Mine "B", and at the Capitol Mine owned by the Peabody Coal Co.

"I recall that I was working at Mine "B" under the United Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as UMW in [REDACTED] and I continued to work at Mine "B" under the UMW until 1932 when Mine "B" went Progressive Mine Workers of America that will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA. At that time I became a PMA member.

"I was a member of the Pit Committee under the UMW for a period of two and one half years and held the same position for two years under the PMA. I attended all union meetings under the UMW and under the PMA.

"Sometime in the year before 1932 when the PMA organized in Mine "B", [REDACTED] and another miner whose name I don't remember were discharged from Mine "B" by the company bosses. UMW had the contract with Elshoff at this time.

"The above men were considered by me to be fair loyal union men who wanted to look after the interest of the miners. I believe some of these men were UMW officials at this time. I believe that the discharge of those men contributed to the success of the organization of the PMA in September, 1932.

"It was my job as a member of the Pit Committee, UMW, to get those

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] men back to work, and I tried to do this and in so doing I took the matter to Board member [REDACTED], and (continued) the to JOHN H. WALKER and finally [REDACTED] and I went to see JOHN L. LEWIS. Either the Union officials were not able to get these men back to work or else the UMW officials did not want them back to work in the mine. I do not think the discharged men were aggitating for the formation of another union at this time as this was before the formation of PMA. I think these men were discharged for some other trouble. Elshoff discharged them, according to Oscar Falcetti, because they were aggitators.

"I was in favor of organizing PMA at Mine "B" in September, 1932. I figured it was time to get away from JOHN L. LEWIS'S control, I took no active part in organizing PMA.

"I know nothing about the relations between ELSHOFF and PMA from September, 1932 until April, 1937. I was on the Pit Committee under PMA the first two years after it organized. As far as I can recall I worked at Mine "B" until the miners went on strike in 1937.

"I believe the PMA membership was satisfied with the PMA leaders.

"I believe I heard that literature was passed out by the UMW to get the PMA men back into the UMA.

"I do not remember why the five men were thrown out of PMA. I did not attend the PMA meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937.

"I know nothing about coal cars being shorted or why they were shorted.

"I know nothing about the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of PMA. I helped picket Mine "B" for 56 days.

"I went out to the mine everytime it was supposed to re-open, but I never went to work on these ocassions.

"I heard the whistle blow on the days Mine "B" was supposed to re-open. Only UMA men went back to work on these ocassions.

"The last day I worked at Mine "B" was on the day the miners went out on strike in May, 1937, until January, 1942. I finally left Mine "B" in June, 1942. When I went back in January, 1942, I joined the UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
[REDACTED]
(continued)

"I have no desire to ever work for the UMW organization under the present leadership. I preferred the PMA over the UMW because I felt I was treated more fairly by the UMW.

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

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed at his residence on August 31, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He appeared willing to fully answer questions put to him, though his knowledge of pertinent facts was limited. He presents a good appearance, is alert and willing to testify if called upon to do so. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 31, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois. I was born in [REDACTED]. I arrived in the United States having derived citizenship through my father [REDACTED]. I first started working in coal mines in [REDACTED] at Springfield, Ill. I started working at Mine A, or mine B, as a member of the United Mine Workers of America, hereinafter referred to as UMW, and I worked in these two mines and four other local mines from [REDACTED]. I presently work at Panther Creek Mine no. 4.

"In [REDACTED] I started working in Mine B and continued to work there until May, 1937 when the mine closed down. I did not help in the Progressive Miners of America picket line. I will refer to this latter union as the PMA. I did not go back to Mine B until November, 1939 when the mine opened. I worked then from November 1939 to [REDACTED] when I voluntarily quit and went to work at [REDACTED] Illinois, and I never did go back to mine B. I worked as a member of UMW from 1916 to September 1932. I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932 when Mine B went Progressive. I have remained with the PMA from 1932 to the present time. and never did rejoin the UMW.

"I never held any office in the UMW and the only office I ever held in PMA was as a member of the trial board of local 54 at mine B. I held that position for about two years which I think was about [REDACTED]. From [REDACTED] to 1932 relations between ELSHOFF and UMW were good. In 1932 when the UMW officials stated that the ballot box was stolen, I didn't believe it and neither did other miners, so I joined the PMA. I did not help organize PMA. I went to very few union meeting in 1937. At that time I never heard anything about UMW men organizing in the mine. I never heard the PMA expelled any men. The last day the mine worked in May, 1937 I knew coal cars were shorted. I thought the cars were being shorted because Elshoff would not pay the back pay he had agreed on. No one tried to get me to join UMW. I signed the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of PMA. I don't remember any other petitions.

C . O
RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]
(continued)

"When mine B opened in November 1939 I went to work as a member of the PMA and worked to February 12, 1940. No one has ever contacted me to join the UMW. I do not know anything about the wage scale problem or the efforts of UMW and PMA to get or maintain the bargaining rights at Mine B.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

WITNESSED:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 1, 1943. It is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to speak English fluently. He has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

[REDACTED], Ill.
September 1, 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 first joined U M W Union in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] I came to [REDACTED] and worked in a mine there. Later in [REDACTED] began working at Mine "B". I have not held an office in any union.

"In 1932 I joined P. M. A. because all the men in U M W were changing to P M A so I changed too.

"There were no strikes or close-downs that I know of between 1932 and 1937. Sometime in the 1st part of May 1937 a group of men at the mine while waiting to go down the shaft said several men had been expelled from the P.M.A. for spying. No one approached me in any way to join U.M.W. At the end of that day we were called out on strike and I understood that it was because the management had refused to stop those men who had been expelled from continuing to work in the mine.

"I don't recall signing any petitions in the summer of 1937.

"In Sept. 1937 I read in the paper that Mine "B" was going to re-open so I went to the mine to work and when the whistle blew for work only about 13 men started to work and they were U M W members so we began picketing. I picketed at the mine for 56 days until an injunction was served on us. Only Mine "B" men picketed the mine then.

"I voted in the N L R B election in Dec. 1937 and P M A won by 404 to 25. It was a fair election as far as I could see. No violence of any kind occurred at the election.

C . O
RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I received a letter in Nov. 1939 that the mine would reopen. I went to work as a digger in the same room I had worked in 1937. My tools were still there and I didn't notice any large cave-ins at the mine. No one attempted to get me to change from P M A to U.M.W. at any time. I voted P M A in the N L R B election in February 1941. About two days later I joined U M W because the election showed U M W had a majority and I wanted to be with the majority.

"I am now working at Mine "B". If I had my own free choice of any union I would prefer P.M.A.

"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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Illinois, was interviewed at his home in [REDACTED] Illinois, by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 1, 1943. [REDACTED] advised he does not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] would not make a good witness as he cannot speak English very well.

[REDACTED] provided the following statement:

[REDACTED] Ill.,
September 1, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] emmigrated to the U. S. in [REDACTED]. I am a citizen of the U. S. being naturalized in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED].

"I started mining coal in the U. S., in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and became a member of UMW in [REDACTED] about [REDACTED]. I remained a member of UMW until I became a member of PMA in 1932. I became a member of PMA because my local UMW changed to PMA in 1932. I took no active part in the formation of P.M.A.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"I was employed by Mine "B" in about [REDACTED] and I am now employed by Mine "B" as a trackman.

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

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

"I at no time saw an official of UMW with the management of Mine "B".

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

"I did not attend a PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937 and do not know if I had notice of such a meeting. I did not take any interest in union activities. I did not know of anyone being expelled from PMA in

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

67c 67D
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] May 1937.

(continued) I reported for work on the morning of May 12, 1937. Someone told me sometime that day that the mine was on strike, everyone looked like they were going home so I went home. No one told me why Mine "B" was on strike and I did not know the reason. So far as I know there was no intention on the part of miners to strike that day. I saw no coal cars loaded short the day of the strike.

"I think I signed two PMA petitions in the summer of 1937. I do not remember much about the petitions and I cannot remember where I was when they were signed. No one threatened me if I did not sign.

"I did not sign a UMW petition in the summer of 1937.

"I do not know of the formation of a new UMW union in the summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 I heard PMA had a picket line at Mine "B" and I went to picket in order to enjoy myself. I acted as a picket off and on for about two months. I was not forced to be a picket. So far as I know no persons acted as pickets except Mine "B" employees. There was no violence during the time I acted as a picket. An injunction was obtained to prevent picketing. I was not present when the injunction was served and do not know the attitude toward the injunction.

"I did not know of Mine "B" attempting to re-open in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938.

"I voted in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. I think the election was fair and I was allowed to vote any way I wanted to.

"In the last part of 1939 I received notice to return to work at Mine "B". I returned to work and received a job as track man a short time later. I did not see the result of any large fires on my return to Mine "B", there were a few cave-ins. Several months after I returned to work at Mine "B" Charles Bohanon and a man named [REDACTED] asked me at Mine "B" if I would join UMW. I informed them I did not know if I wanted to join or not as I was PMA at which time they stated if I did not join I may be too late. No one threatened me if I did not join UMW. Several months after I went back to work I saw [REDACTED] a few minutes after someone beat him very badly. I do not know who beat him. [REDACTED] was beat while he was in his room at Mine "B". I also saw two more unknown men fighting. I do not know why [REDACTED] was beat.

"In the last part of 1940 I knew most of the men at Mine "B" were

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] joining U.M.W. so I joined. I joined UMW through Charles Bohanon, Bohanon promised he would get my son a job at Mine "B" if I joined UMW. Bohanon got my son a job at Mine "B".
(continued)

"In Feb. 1941 I voted at the N.L.R.B. election PMA. This election was a fair election.

"I am now employed at Mine "B" and I am treated all right.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:--

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 1,

1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This man is uneducated, and professed an inability to read or write English, except his own name. He can understand English only when very simple, plain questions are asked of him. He speaks in a very high, squeaky voice. He claimed to have no criminal record. The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
September 1, 1943

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I am working at Mine B. I was born in [REDACTED]. I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and became a naturalized citizen in [REDACTED].

"I just joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in Springfield about [REDACTED] years ago. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, and went back to the U.M.W. in 1940. I never held an office in any union. I started work in Mine B when the superintendent was a man known as [REDACTED]. I was working at Mine B in 1932 when the P.M.A. took over the union, and I followed the majority of the men and joined the P.M.A. From that time until the strike in 1937, conditions at the mine were all right, and there was no trouble.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike and I don't know the reasons for the strike. I think that [REDACTED] called the men out of the mine, but I don't know why, other than that I heard it was because we didn't get a raise in pay. I don't remember signing a P.M.A. petition, or any other one, in 1937, and I don't know whether I voted in the 1937 election or not. Because I can't read English, speak or understand it well, I never took much interest in union meetings.

"While the strike was going on, George Sirtout told me that if I stayed in the P.M.A. I couldn't have a job at Mine B. He told me that the men would go back to work, and the company would open up the mine, if the men would join the U.M.W.

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(Continued).

"About two months after the Mine B opened in 1938, I went back to work, having been called to work by [redacted] Elshoff when my room was ready. I don't remember the exact

*Statement
written*

time but I know that after the mine opened, a man known as [redacted] told me that I should join U.M.W. or else I would get beat up. I was never beat up, but I saw many men beat up in the mine by U.M.W. men. I don't know any of the names. I know that the sheriff beat up some men who did not join the U.M.W. I joined the U.M.W. right after I went back to work at the mine. I felt that I had to join to keep my job and was afraid I would be beat up if I didn't join.

"I have never been beaten up, but I am afraid to say anything against the U.M.W., because I know if I do, I will be beat up.

"This statement was read to me in the presence of [redacted] I state that this statement consisting of 2 and 1/2 pages is as true as I can remember the facts.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

/s/ [redacted]

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

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Illinois, on September 1, 1943.

Agents interviewed [REDACTED] at his home at [REDACTED] Illinois, and he advised he has never been arrested in his life. He was interviewed in the presence of his wife, and it was noted that although he speaks and understands the English language very well, he could not recall things very rapidly, and his wife had to assist him in recalling specific instances. It is felt that if [REDACTED] is needed as a witness that he would make a fair witness.

[REDACTED] furnished Agents with a signed two page typewritten statement which is as follows:

[REDACTED] Ill.,
Sept. 1, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Ill., am making this free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. No force or threats have been made me to give this statement.

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED] and became a citizen of the United States in Illinois. I have not worked for the last 3 years or so. I first joined a union [REDACTED] and when I came to U.S. I became a member of United Mine Workers, shortly after I came to the United States. I never have been an officer of any union. I started at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., about [REDACTED] years ago or so. When the split happened in 1932 or so when John L. Lewis wanted lower wages I was working at [REDACTED] but afterwards I went to Mine B. I think I joined PMA union after I went to Mine B. I joined the PMA of my own account because I was against John L. Lewis anyway. Before the mine closed in 1937 OSCAR FALCETTI of Mine B always seemed to favor the UMW over PMA even tho PMA was the local there. For about [REDACTED] months before I got my job at Mine B Falcetti would have me come out to the mine every day and it seemed because I was a Progressive and a UMW man he would not hire me. Finally my brother-in-law, [REDACTED] told me that Falcetti was hiring men and finally I saw Falcetti that I would work in any place and finally he hired me.

"Most of the miners felt that PMA was a good union but there were a few traitors in the place. I never heard any complaints against the Progressives and most of us miners were satisfied. I was a coal digger at Mine B. I and other miners all felt that those PMA men convicted for the bombings were all framed and were not guilty and we felt that UMW had something to do

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(continued)

"I never suspected that PMA officials were stealing money and we never had any special assessments like they did with UMW. The Progressive union was run by us miners and it wasn't like the UMW which was run by only a few. I attended as many meetings as I could of PMA. To my knowledge no UMW men came out and bothered me before the mine closed won in 1937 nor did I see any literature of UMW. No one ever approached me about going over to UMW but I heard there were some going around and this was before the mine closed. It was gossip that UMW had spies in Mine B but I didn't know who they were.

"While living in Springfield with [REDACTED] I recall that he once said something about the UMW giving a big party and he said that he felt before long that Mine B would be UMW.

"I don't recall much about the contract running out in spring of 1937. I don't recall of going to the meeting the night before the mine closed down. I don't recall of hearing anything about some men being expelled and I just don't recall when I first heard about it. I remember of being called out from the mine on the day it closed but I don't recall what we were told about it. The way I recall it the strike was called because some spies were not fired and it was not over any wage question. I still have my tools out there in the mine.

"I recall that on the day the mine closed the cars were loaded short because the drivers would come and take the cars away from us before we could load the cars and many of mine were not full and it never happened before except just that one day. I can't recall the name of the driver. No one told me to load cars short.

"When we got called out from the mine on the day it closed nothing was said to me that a strike was called. Several weeks after the mine closed I signed a petition for PMA and I can't recall just where I signed it. No compulsion was used to make me sign it. I never signed anything for UMW and I never would. I would have signed any petition for PMA then and may have signed another one or two but I just can't recall for sure.

"I heard something about UMW forming a new local but no one asked me to join it. I heard that Pete Carter was close with UMW, but neither he nor any others bothered me. I think I attended several regular PMA meetings during the summer of 1937 but nothing unusual took place. I heard something about Falcetti and some of the other traitors were working at the Jefferson Mine but I don't know anything more about it. I also once heard something about Elshoff taking over the Jefferson mine. I never got any notice that Mine B would reopen in Sept. 1937 but I heard about it and I

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was out there the first day at the gate and I remember that Falcetti got up and said something to us but I don't recall what it was and then he let some UMW men go down into the mine and I recall that a fellow named ~~BOGARTEN~~ (phonetic) was one who went down. I don't know if PMA had any meeting as to what they would do if mine opened as UMW. We then started to picket the mine because I heard that Falcetti said they would open up the mine only to UMW. I was out at Mine B most of the time when we were watching the grounds. It was very quiet out there and we miners just sat around and smoked and ate and there were no fights or trouble. No one forced me to go out and we were just protecting our jobs there. PMA did not bring in any outsiders at all on that strike and it was just the local men who were there.

"I don't recall of any UMW men coming out while the sit down strike was on. I think I was out at Mine B when the Marshall came out but I can't recall just what happened except we all went home.

"I recall hearing something about the mine going to reopen as UMW so I did not go out as I felt there might be some trouble there. This was after the Marshall was there.

"I voted at the first NLRB election and it seemed to be alright as far as I know. I never saw any strong arm methods being used. It was a secret ballot and no one forced me to vote. I voted Progressive.

"Shortly after the above election it seems as tho I received a letter from someone saying the mine was to reopen under UMW and because of that I did not even go out to the mine. I always felt that the Progressive Local was a better one than the UMW and I still feel that way and under the Progressive we miners could say what we wanted to say and no one hurt us but under UMW it was run by a few and you never could open your mouth.

"Even tho PMA had the majority and won the election we miners heard a lot of gossip around that Elshoff had received a large sum of money from John L. Lewis and we miners also heard that Elshoff felt sorry that he ever took the money otherwise he could have opened the mine back under PMA.

"I don't know much about what went on from the time the first election was held till the mine opened in the fall of 1939. In fall of 1939 I got a letter saying I could go back to work in a certain number of days. I went over to Mine B the first day it opened and no one asked me what union I belonged to. I went down the same day.

Falcetti told me that my old room was caved in and he gave me an old room for the time being and he told me to take a few shots in that. My old room was [redacted] and they gave me [redacted] when I went back. Nothing was said about a contract then. I felt that our wages would be the same as before. I

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[REDACTED]
(continued)

don't recall if any strangers were there or not. I did not vote at the second NLRB election as I was not working there. During those 7 days I was there no one asked me to join over to UMW and I did not see any fights.

Since then I have never worked as I had arthritis then.

"The mine appeared to be in bad condition but all I saw was just where they told me to go to. I never heard anything about a fire there while the mine was closed.

"I never joined over to UMW when I went back to work and I still call myself a progressive and not a UMW.

"I have read this 2 page typewritten statement and it is true and correct and I have signed it of my own free will.

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI, St. Paul, Minn.
[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI, Milwaukee, Wis.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on August 31, 1943. [REDACTED] advised he did not have a criminal record.

[REDACTED] would not make a good witness as he does not speak English well and is very vague as to his facts.

The following signed statement was furnished by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.,
August 31, 1943.

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

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

"In [REDACTED] I became a member of UMW when I was employed at Sangamon Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill. and remained a member of that union until 1932. In 1932 my local UMW union changed to PMA for some unknown reason and for that reason I joined PMA.

"I have never been an official of any union.

"I was employed at Mine "B" in about 1936 one year prior to the strike at Mine "B" in 1937.

"From 1936 to May 1937 when I was employed at Mine "B" the management of Mine "B" seemed to be on good relations with PMA, there were no strikes or close-downs by the management. So far as I know the management of Mine "B" did not attempt to persuade the men to return to U.M.W.

"I thought PMA was a good union and an honest union, there were no unusual special assessments. I took no active part in union activities.

"I knew nothing about the bombing cases.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" prior to the strike in 1937 there were no UMW pickets at Mine "B" and no literature was

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(continued)

distributed at Mine "B" by UMW. No one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW and I did not see or hear of anyone attempting to convert anyone from PMA to UMW prior to May 1937.

"I know nothing about the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend or know of a PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937 nor do I know if anyone was expelled from PMA in May 1937.

"About May 12, 1937 I worked all day and upon leaving the mine someone told me the mine was on strike. I do not know why the mine went on strike and no one told me why the mine was on strike.

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

"I do not recall a new UMW local being formed in the Summer of 1937.

"Sometime in Sept. 1937 someone left word at my home for me to go to Mine "B". I went to Mine "B" and found out the mine was being picketed by PMA. I remained for a few hours and returned home. No one threatened me if I did not picket.

"I obtained a position with WPA soon after Sept. 1937 and took no interest in Mine "B".

"I do not remember voting in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937.

"In the last part of 1939 I received a letter from Mine "B" to report for work. I returned to Mine "B" to work immediately as a driver and worked at Mine "B" for about one year at which time I was discharged by Oscar Falcetti because I refused to drive a mule. From the time I returned to Mine "B" in 1939, I was frequently given a different mule. I do not know the reason the mine kept changing mules on me.

"No one asked me at Mine "B" to change from PMA to UMW after my return to Mine "B" in the last part of 1939.

"Tony Plotch and another man came to my home in 1940 to ask if I would change from PMA to UMW.

"I was never threatened by anyone and I never saw any violence at Mine "B" during the time I was employed there in 1939 and 1940.

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(continued)

Ill.

"At the time I was discharged from Mine "B" I was a member of PMA.

"I am now employed at

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

(signed)

"Witnessed:-

- Sp. Agt. F.B.I. - Spfld, Ill. (signed)
Special Agent, F.B.I." (signed)

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois, on September 1, 1943. At [redacted]

Agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised that he never has been arrested in his life. He further stated that [redacted] Illinois, from 1937 to 1941.

It was noted that [redacted] is a very intelligent man and appeared to know a lot about union affairs. He stated that he would be willing to testify if called upon but his wife remarked that if he did testify she hoped he would not lose his job. He would make an excellent witness.

In regard to the affidavit mentioned hereinafter it might be stated that the same is on file in the Springfield Field Division, and it is one that was signed by [redacted] and several other persons at [redacted] Illinois, on August 25, 1937, and it made reference to CHARLES ROTH, (now deceased) contacting him relative to attending a UMW meeting.

[redacted] furnished agents with a signed statement which he signed and initialed and it is as follows:

[redacted] Ill.
Sept. 1, 1943.

"I, [redacted] give the following statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bur. of Invest. No threats or promises have been made me and I make this statement of my own free will and volition.

"My address is [redacted] Ill. I was born in [redacted] I now work for Peabody Coal Co. where I have been employed for the last [redacted] yrs. When I was about [redacted] I joined the UMW at Auburn, Ill. I have been a member of the "Pit Committee" at the Verdun Mine this was a PMA union and was before I went to Mine "B". I started at Mine "B" in Aug. 1936 as a Track layer. I was then a member of the PMA.

"From the time I started in Mine "B", I remember that Falscetti was sore because the UMW was letting the mines contracting with them have a half hour clean up time to hoist in, the PMA would not permit this and FALSCETTI was displeased. Before the mine closed there was talk in the mine that the men were going UMW within a certain time.

"My experience with the PMA has always been that it is a rank and file members Union. I attended some meetings of the PMA while at Mine "B" but not all. I took more interest in the Progressives because of the dirty deal we had gotten from the UMW. There never appeared to be anything crooked in the way the finances of the PMA were handled.

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"It was the feeling at the time that the PMA miners who were convicted of the bombings had been given a raw deal and some thought they were framed.

"I don't remember any trouble between PMA and UMW prior to the strike. When one of the men was underpaid for the work he was doing, the Pit Committeemen instead of helping the man with his grievance, which I believe was a just one, took the part of the Co. The Committeemen I remember were Joe Albanese and Andy Schrelevious, the man with the grievance was named [REDACTED]

"I don't know anything about any social parties or affairs held by Elshoff.

"In the Spring of 1937 we were working under a temporary agreement calling for retroactive pay after the contract was reached. There was no doubt in our minds that the PMA could not do as well for us as the UMW. Prior to the strike the men worked on feeling confident that everything would be O.K. There was some talk that we might not get a contract but most of the men paid no attention to this.

"I recall that there was a meeting May 11, 1943. I don't know if it was Special or Regular, I knew it was to be held but don't remember how I know. The morning of the strike there was no talk or fuss concerning pay. I don't remember there being any trouble that morning over anything. The only thing I do know was that there were some cars loaded short, but I don't know why. I remember the mine shut down about one half hour before quitting time but I worked on through, I don't know what this was about. I seem to remember there was some refusal of Elshoff or Falscetti to recognize our representative [REDACTED]

"I recall signing several PMA petitions the summer of 1937. One of these was a couple of weeks after the mine closed. I signed it of my own free will. I heard of a UMW petition that summer but I never saw or signed it.

"I signed a 2nd PMA petition the summer of 1937 this was to go to the Govt. for something. I signed this of my own free will.

"I remember that a UMW local was formed the summer of 1937.

"I recall signing the affadavit of August 26, 1937. I re-affirm the statements therein and acknowledge my signature thereon.

"There was nothing unusual that happened during the summer of 1937 except that Chas. Bohannon and some others came to [REDACTED] to get the men to

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swing over but no one contacted me.

(continued)

"I remember when the mine opened in Sept. 1937 a whole bunch of us were out there and some of the men who were the trouble makers in the union went down they even went down in clean clothes. Some of those who went down were "Sam" Joe Albanese, Andy Schrelivious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Cotton Ararias, Geo. & Emory Jacaway and Chas. Bohanon. It was understood that Albanese had bought the papers of a fellow named [REDACTED] who returned to the old country.

"Falsetti came out and told the men to get back so those who wanted to could go back to work. I believe the picketing started the next day, this lasted awhile and the men went home then we heard the mine was to be opened and we started picketing again for a while and then moved in on the property. This was done by local members to protect their jobs there was no outside help. I went out of my own will and so did the others so far as I know.

"I got a job at the [REDACTED] the day or so before the Marshall came to tell the men to leave the mine property. I have not been back since.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election and voted for FMA because that was the Union I wanted. So far as I know this was a honest election and there was no force used at this election. I had the right to vote because I still had the right to go back and claim my job at Mine "B".

"I have read the foregoing statement of seven pages and so far as I can at this time recall it is all the truth. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

Signed [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

[REDACTED] (Spec. Agt. FBI) (St. Paul, Minn.)

[REDACTED]
Sept. 1, 1943.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home on August 29, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He gave information voluntarily and freely. It is believed that he would make a good witness. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was given by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.
August 29, 1943.

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. I am employed in Panther Creek Mine #4. I was born in [REDACTED]. I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized [REDACTED] in a Federal court.

"I first joined a mine union in [REDACTED] when I was working in a mine in [REDACTED]. This was the United Mine Workers union. I remained a member of this union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in Springfield, Ill. I first started to work at Mine B about [REDACTED] and continued to work there until [REDACTED]. I have never been an officer of any union.

"Prior to 1932 there was not any trouble between Elshoff and the U.M.W. at Mine B. In 1932 the miners became dissatisfied with U.M.W. after it was said that John L. Lewis had stolen the votes in an election in that year. The Progressive Mine Workers of America started up in that year. I did not take any part in the formation of P.M.A., but joined that union immediately. Another reason the miners did not like U.M.W. was the many assessments imposed by that union on the members. They were called "special assessments" and the officers of U.M.W. did not tell the members for what purpose the assessments were used.

"After the formation of P.M.A. in 1932, everything went smoothly at the mine. As I recall there were no strikes or shut-downs. I don't recall any attempts on the part of the management of Mine B to discredit the leaders of P.M.A.

"I did not go to many meetings of P.M.A., but when I did go to meetings I know that I could have said what I wanted to at any time. The leaders did not attempt to tell us what to do. If we did not attend the

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(continued)

meetings, we were not fined. I was satisfied with the P.M.A. leaders who I thought were always trying to help the members. I don't recall anything being said in the P.M.A. meetings about the bombings that were happening between 1932 and 1937. I only knew what I read in the newspapers.

"If the P.M.A. ever asked for extra assessments, the leaders always explained what the assessments were for. There weren't many assessments.

"From 1932 to 1937 there were no attempts by the U.M.W., to my knowledge, to picket Mine B. I never saw any propaganda.

"I don't know anything about any social contacts between the members of the U.M.W. and the management of the mine.

"After the temporary agreement was signed by the P.M.A. officials with the mine management, I don't recall that the P.M.A. officials gave any report on this agreement. I, as well as most of the miners, felt that the P.M.A. could get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. could get. All of us had faith in the P.M.A. leaders. I don't recall any trouble at Mine B on pay days in April 1937.

"I don't recall seeing any notice of the P.M.A. meeting just before the strike in 1937, but I recall that I heard that there was going to be a meeting. I don't know what the meeting was for, and I don't recall that I went to the meeting.

"On the morning of the strike in May, 1937, I don't recall any talk regarding the wage scale. As I recall the P.M.A. men refused to go into the mine if the U.M.W. went into the mine. I remember that I saw Dominic Pasquale, Andy Schrelevious, and a third man arguing with the P.M.A. officials on the morning of the strike. I don't know what they were arguing about. There was some talk at the mine on the day of the strike about loading the cars with short weights to make the mine management sign a contract with P.M.A. I did not load my cars short, and I don't know if any miners did load their cars short.

"I recall that I signed the P.M.A. petition which [REDACTED] (Ph) brought to my house. He told me that the P.M.A. officials wanted to find out if the P.M.A. had a majority of the miners in Mine B on their side. I signed this petition voluntarily because I wanted to.

"I recall that in the summer of 1937 Tony Plotch, Cotton Ananias, and a third man, who is now secretary of U.M.W. local, came to my house with a U.M.W. petition which they asked me to sign. They told me that if I did not sign the petition, there would be no work at Mine B, and that the

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[REDACTED]
(continued)

mine would remain shut down. They also said that if the U.M.W. got a contract with Mine B, there would be better working conditions in Mine B. I did not sign this petition, and the men did not threaten me.

"Nobody asked me to join the new local of U.M.W. when it was started in the summer of 1937. At this time I favored the P.M.A., and would not have joined the U.M.W. if I had been asked. However, I do recall that some time in 1937, when [REDACTED] and another man whose name I don't remember were at my house, Tony Plotch, Andy Schrelevious, and [REDACTED] came to my house. They told me that if I wanted to work, I should sign up with the U.M.W. They said that the mine would not reopen unless the men signed up with U.M.W. I did not sign up with U.M.W. [REDACTED] at that time was not employed in Mine B, but was an U.M.W. organizer who had been brought into Springfield to organize the men for U.M.W.

"In September 1937 I received a notice from Mine B that the mine was going to reopen. At this time I did not know of the attitude of P.M.A. about the mine being opened under U.M.W., or as an open shop.

"I don't know when the picketing started in 1937, but I remember that I participated in it. I went to the picket line on my own accord. I saw only local men there and there were no strangers. To my knowledge the purpose of the picket was to keep out U.M.W. men.

"I don't recall receiving any notice of the desire of the management to reopen the mine in December 1937. However, I received a notice from the National Labor Relations Board and from the U.M.W. about the election in that month. I went to the election voluntarily, and voted for the P.M.A. in the State Armory, Springfield, Ill. Nobody told me how to vote at this election. I received my ballot from a government official at the election place, and voted for P.M.A.

"Prior to the opening of the mine in 1939 Andy Schrelevious and a man from St. Louis known as [REDACTED] came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.W. They told me that the mine would open as soon as the U.M.W. secured a majority of the miners. [REDACTED] had not worked in the mine prior to the strike, and I think that he was brought here by the U.M.W. to organize for U.M.W.

"I received a notice from Mine B that the mine was going to open in November 1939. I was told that because the room in which I had worked had caved in, there was no work for me at that time, but that I would be notified when there was a room for me. Later I received a notice from the mine and started to work again at Mine B. There had been some cave-ins at the mine, but I don't know how much it would have cost to open the mine.

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[REDACTED]
(continued)

"After the mine opened in 1939, [REDACTED] and his buddy, also known as [REDACTED] both of whom were from St. Louis, came to me in my room at the mine, and told me that if I did not sign up with U.M.W., I would not have my job. They merely talked to me, and did not threaten me. At this time I was working in the mine with Andy Schrolevious, who did not speak to me about joining U.M.W.

"While working in Mine B after 1939, I know that U.M.W. men were getting better rooms in which to work than P.M.A. men through the management's favoring U.M.W..

"Prior to the election in February 1941, I never signed up with U.M.W. In the election of February 1941, I voted for P.M.A. because I liked that union better than U.M.W.

"I don't recall when I joined U.M.W. in 1941, but it was shortly after the election. I only signed up with U.M.W. so that I could get a job at Mine B. I still preferred P.M.A.

"On the day of the election in February 1941, the officers of U.M.W. spoke to the miners in Mine B and told them to vote for U.M.W. They said that they had to vote for U.M.W., or Mine B would not open up. They also said that Elshoff would not recognize P.M.A. The statements by these men scared many of the miners who then voted for U.M.W.

"This statement consisting of this and four other typewritten pages has been read to me by [REDACTED] and I state that [REDACTED] is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

[REDACTED]

Witnesses:

[REDACTED]

Special Agents, FBI,
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c 47D

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed near [REDACTED] Illinois, September 1, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at which time he executed a signed statement. [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] reads and writes English fairly well. He is employed [REDACTED] and quit the mines in 1939. He did not take an active part in union activities at any time and, therefore, his knowledge of facts pertinent to this investigation is meager. It is believed he will make only a fair witness due to his lack of pertinent information. He has been in ill health for a number of years and has no known criminal record.

The following is the signed statement obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ill.

September 1, 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 know it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born [REDACTED] I came to U. S. in [REDACTED] and am a citizen of U. S. such citizenship having been derived through my parents. I began working in the mine at [REDACTED] and joined U.M.W.A. then in [REDACTED] I have never held any office in any union.

"About [REDACTED] I began working at Mine "B" as an entry driver. In 1932 I changed from U.M.W. to P.M.A. because the U.M.W. dues were too high.

"As far as I know the miners and Elshoff got along Ok up until the strike in 1937. There were no strikes or close-downs during this time.

"I did not hear of any labor spies at Mine "B" prior to the strike.

"As far as I could see there was no difference in the wage scale of the two unions before the strike in 1937. I did not know of any spies working at Mine "B" and I did not know that some men were expelled from P.M.A. for being spies. I remember on the day of the strike my buddy [REDACTED] asked me if Hale had seen me about joining U.M.W. I said no and he told me that Hale had asked him why he didn't change over to U.M.W.

"I worked a full day at Mine "B" the day of the strike and did not see any cars loaded short. I did not know of the strike until I went to work the next day and some of the men met me out in the road and told me that the mine was on strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

b2c b7D

"I don't recall signing any petitions in the summer of 1937. I saw in the paper that the mine was going to reopen but I was working on my small farm and didn't go to work. Sometime in October 1937 the Union came around and told us each man would have to spend so much time picketing at the mine. I picketed for about a week or two [redacted] and came home.

"I was not present when the injunction was served on the pickets. I heard some way or saw in the paper that the mine would reopen just after the injunction but I did not go to the mine to work.

"In December 1937 I voted in the NLRB election and in my estimation it was just as fair an election as it could possibly be.

"I quit paying dues to P.M.A. at the time of the strike and I did not join any union after that. I quit working in the mines and did not pay any attention to them after I voted in the election in 1937.

[redacted] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I. (signed)
[redacted] Sp. Agt. F.B.I., Sprfld, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN The following is a resume of the interview conducted with Mr. WILLIAM M. RYAN, 801 South Douglas, Springfield, by Special Agent in Charge FRED HALLFORD and Special Agent [REDACTED] on the afternoon of August 25, 1943: b7c

Mr. RYAN is 62 years of age, is retired from the coal business and presently resides at 801 South Douglas, Springfield, Illinois. Previous to his retirement in the Fall of 1941, at which time he sold Springfield Mine "A" to CARL ELSHOFF, subject in this case, he had operated this mine for approximately 19 years both under the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

When the break came between the United Mine Workers and what is now known as the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, Mine "A" and Mine "B" employees decided that they desired to be represented by the Progressive Mine Workers of America. At that time Mine "A" was shut down and Mr. RYAN called a meeting of his employees and asked them what they desired and they stated they desired to obtain a contract under the Progressive Mine Workers of America. Accordingly, Mr. RYAN entered into a contract with this union and continued this relationship until the sale of the mine in the early Fall of 1941.

The matter of making a contract was handled through the Illinois Coal Producers Association. This association, according to Mr. RYAN, was completely dominated by four or five of the largest coal mines in the state and all agreements entered into which bound mines being operated by the Progressive Miners worked more or less to the particular benefit of these four or five mines. In order to belong to this association, it was necessary to pay a small tax upon each ton of coal mined amounting to approximately one or two mills. Mr. RYAN stated that he felt personally the benefits derived from membership in the Coal Producers Association were not worth the expense and, subsequently, he dropped out although still making his contract with the Progressives in accordance with the former rules.

Mr. RYAN had no definite information concerning the situation of Mine "B" and CARL ELSHOFF but felt that ELSHOFF dropped out of the Coal Producers Association for possibly the same reason as he did.

At the height of its power, Mr. RYAN estimated that the Progressives had between 60% and 75% of all miners in Illinois in their union. This union has steadily declined due to the raiding of Progressive Mines by the United Mine Workers and by the United Mine Workers' buying off the outstanding organizers for the Progressives.

The mine workers in Mine "B" included some of the most radical element of the Progressives, several of whom were convicted in Federal

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN
(continued)

Court of violence in connection with the mine bombing cases. Mr. RYAN informed that numerous difficulties arose at Mine "B" between the Pit Committee and the Management and that there were, in fact, work stoppages of short duration lasting perhaps as long as two or three days. It also appeared that the Progressives at Mine "B" were able to obtain concessions which were outside the scope of the contract which the Progressives had with that mine. In spite of these difficulties, Mr. RYAN was of the firm opinion that the men at both Mine "B" and Mine "A" were content to be members of the Progressive union and so indicated their desires in the election held in 1937, at which there was an overwhelming majority of votes for the Progressives as the bargaining agent for them at Mine "B".

During the time that Mr. RYAN operated Mine "A" he was not aware of any raiding tactics or agitation of the United organizers at his mine. Previous to the strike in May of 1937 Mr. RYAN advised that ELSHOFF had complained to him on various occasions concerning his difficulties with the Progressive Miners and indicated some inclinations toward the United Mine Workers. Mr. RYAN attributed some of the difficulties arising at Mine "B" to the overbearing tactics of the Mine Superintendent, OSCAR FALCETTI. These officials were reluctant to deal with the officials of the Progressive Mine Workers and he knew of actual occasions when ELSHOFF had either ordered or run DAN MCGILL, Progressive Mine official, off the Mine "B" property. This activity, it should be noted, was carried on prior to the strike in May, 1937. Mr. RYAN's comments upon whether or not any other matters, such as wages, entered into the difficulties actually precipitating the strike on May 12, 1937, were that ELSHOFF had stood just all he could from the Progressives and closed the mine rather than deal with them further. However, Mr. RYAN is positive that ELSHOFF would never have closed this mine for anything more than on a temporary basis, unless he had received definite assurance that his expenses for the upkeep of the mine would be insured.

Mr. RYAN estimated that it would cost ELSHOFF between \$5000 and \$6000 a month to keep his mine in shape during the time it was shut down. He was aware that ELSHOFF had to pay \$20,000 a year royalties to the mine owner, a Mr. BONTZES of Peoria, Illinois, who is also the lessor for Mine "B". Insofar as he knew, ELSHOFF kept the mine in good shape and when it opened in November of 1939, it would have required only two weeks' work cleaning up to put it in full operation. This would have necessitated an initial outlay of from \$10,000 to \$12,000. In accordance with the usual custom of wage payments, ELSHOFF would not have had to pay his miners any wages until thirty days after operations were started, at which time he should have been mining enough coal to meet his payroll and maintenance expenses.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN

The following facts were related by Mr. RYAN relative to the sale of Mine "B" to

ELSHOFF:

b7c He and ELSHOFF had been trying to get together with the mine owner in Peoria relative to the purchase of a small railroad which would facilitate the movement of coal from both mines and result in a considerable reduction of operation and transportation expense. ELSHOFF proved to be the stumbling block in these negotiations in his final refusal to participate and at that time, which was in the latter part of April, 1941, Mr. RYAN made the idle remark to ELSHOFF that he was going to get out of the mine business and was ready to sell his mine. ELSHOFF promptly asked him how much he would take for his property. RYAN was surprised and stated he would have to consult with the accountants and make an inventory of the properties before he could make an estimate, but stated it would be around \$60,000. ELSHOFF informed that he thought perhaps his people might be interested in making a purchase at that price. RYAN thought ELSHOFF was joking and gave the matter no further attention until he received a telephone call from ELSHOFF from some point in Wisconsin again inquiring as to how much he would sell the mine for. It was Mr. RYAN's understanding that ELSHOFF was fishing in Wisconsin at that time with D. M. THOMPSON, President of District 12 United Mine Workers, and another person by the name of [REDACTED]. After a complete inventory of his properties, RYAN informed ELSHOFF that it was valued at \$75,000 and that was the price that he would accept for his lease. ELSHOFF stated that he did not feel his people would pay that much.

Two more contacts were made by ELSHOFF with RYAN on this matter, both being by telephone from some sanitarium at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where ELSHOFF was purportedly taking an alcoholic cure.

In view of the fact that his lease was expiring within a few months, Mr. RYAN decided that if he was propositioned again by ELSHOFF he would make the sale, but only on the condition that ELSHOFF would make a down-payment of \$10,000 to show his good faith and agree to certain other stipulations. Mr. RYAN left these instructions with his Superintendent, D. G. BEST, at Mine "A" and went on a vacation trip to Seattle, Washington. He had hardly arrived at Seattle, Washington, when he received a call from Mr. BEST that Mr. GOURLEY and OSCAR FALCETTI had come to his office and wanted to complete the sale of Mine "A". Mr. RYAN instructed BEST to confer with FALCETTI and GOURLEY to see if they were in accord with Mr. RYAN's stipulations on the sale. He subsequently received a call from BEST stating that a counter-offer had been made giving the details, and that GOURLEY and FALCETTI felt that \$5,000 was all that they could place on deposit. Mr. RYAN countered with the proposition, accepting the \$5,000 retainer and outlining the provisions under which he was willing to sell. GOURLEY and FALCETTI who were on

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN
(continued)

the telephone at that time stated they would confer with their attorney, Mr. BURKE, to see if all was agreeable.

Mr. RYAN was subsequently notified that the terms were agreeable and that everything would be drawn up to complete the transaction upon his return to Springfield.

Mr. RYAN returned to Springfield and found that he was dealing with GOURLEY, BURKE and FALCETTI, instead of ELSHOFF. The principal actor appeared to be BURKE, who gave RYAN his personal check for \$5,000 as a retainer. RYAN then asked where ELSHOFF was, inasmuch as the original negotiations were started by him, and he was informed that he was in Wisconsin taking a cure. This information was given to RYAN by FALCETTI. RYAN then asked who the principals were who ELSHOFF represented and both GOURLEY and FALCETTI assured him that they had the power to act and that Mr. BURKE, representing these principals, could handle the entire details. The transaction was completed and again a personal check of \$55,000 was deposited by Mr. BURKE at the First National Bank. All parties went to the bank and Mr. RYAN received the \$55,000 in cash.

Mr. RYAN was fairly certain that all the employees of his mine were well satisfied with the representation they were obtaining from the Progressives, with one or two possible exceptions. He recalled that one of his engineers complained on one occasion of the excessive deductions for the Progressives, indicating that it was round \$23.00 or \$24.00. According to Mr. RYAN, these deductions were excessively heavy at that period, inasmuch as they were made to defer expenses of the trial of members of the Progressives indicted in the mine bombing cases. Mr. RYAN was not familiar with the circumstances under which Mine "A" became organized by the United Mine Workers. He stated there was an air shaft located on the line between the two properties of Mine "A" and Mine "B". However, he was not aware that this shaft had connected the two mines, although the workings of Mine "B" were only a short distance from this shaft. As a business man he felt it would have been impractical for ELSHOFF to take out the coal in Mine "A" through Mine "B" with United employees if the shaft constructed for Mine "B" could handle only a certain amount of coal and such a course necessitated the closing down of Mine "B" in order to operate Mine "A". He was not aware as to whether any threats had been made to Mine "A" in such a fashion as to induce Mine "A" employees to become members of the United Mine Workers union.

Shortly after Mine "B" closed down in 1937, RYAN entered into an agreement with the Santher Creek Mines for the purchase of coal which was to be sold on a brokerage basis. RYAN stated that ELSHOFF had approached him on this matter at first but that he would not deal with ELSHOFF because

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INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN
(continued)

he, RYAN, had no faith in ELSHOFF's word or, particularly, his financial ability to meet his obligations. Later on it was Mr. RYAN's understanding that ELSHOFF obtained a much better deal from the Peabody Coal Company, who have always operated their mines with the United Mine workers. It was his understanding that ELSHOFF obtained a commission of 50% which would have been highly profitable inasmuch as the usual commission is not more than 12% or 15% a ton. //
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Mr. RYAN also knew that ELSHOFF at that time had attempted to purchase Panther Creek Mine from its owner, GEORGE SOLOMON. ELSHOFF also spoke to Mr. RYAN about the possible purchase of another mine located in Southern Illinois in Bond County, which was organized by the Progressives. Mr. RYAN advised that ELSHOFF attempted to purchase another Progressive mine located in Fulton County. He said that these negotiations were probably carried on with a person by the name of BOB BORK of Fulton County.

The information concerning the alleged meeting of LEWIS, EDMUNDSON, SULLIVAN and ELSHOFF immediately prior to the closing of Mine "B" was not enlarged upon by Mr. RYAN.

b7D [REDACTED] Further information should be obtained concerning this confidential source as to its reliability.

Perhaps the most pertinent thing discussed with Mr. RYAN was his conversation with R. J. EDMUNDSON early in 1937 concerning collaboration with the United Mine Workers in their organizational efforts in Mine "A". Mr. RYAN stated that EDMUNDSON called him down to his office in the United Mine Workers building and after discussing general matters finally came to the point of the interview, asking Mr. RYAN what he thought of the United Mine Workers. Mr. RYAN's answer was more or less non-committal as he stated he had nothing against the United Mine Workers, and then EDMUNDSON countered with the proposition that he, RYAN, enter into some sort of an agreement or deal with EDMUNDSON in order that they could get the Progressives out of Mine "A". RYAN then told EDMUNDSON that he could not do such a thing that he wanted to "go to bed at night with a clear conscience". EDMUNDSON then asked what RYAN thought that GEORGE SULLIVAN at Panther Creek or another operator at some other Progressive Mine would do along those lines. RYAN told EDMUNDSON that he would have to see GEORGE SULLIVAN to find out about that, that he was running Mine "A" and that he could not and would not enter into any such proposition. //
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From Mr. RYAN's conversation with EDMUNDSON, RYAN received the definite impression that if he were out any expense during the organizational effort of the United Mine Workers, EDMUNDSON would take care of him. Mr. RYAN stated that he told EDMUNDSON that he wouldn't have anything to do with

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM M. RYAN such a proposition, that even if he went
(continued) through with it, after United had organized
Mine "A" they would simply turn on him then.
This terminated the interview and he was never approached again by EDMUNDSON.

In commenting on the current situation at Mine "A" and Mine "B" Mr. RYAN felt that a number of employees were entirely dissatisfied with the situation as far as the United Mine Workers were concerned and, particularly, with ELSHOFF for whom they had very little use. In fact, he knew of some of the miners who would not even speak to ELSHOFF. Again, he attributed most of the difficulties at Mine "B" to the overbearing and non-conciliatory attitude of FALCETTI.

Inasmuch as it will be necessary to interview Mr. RYAN from time to time in the course of this investigation, no signed statement was taken from him in connection with the preliminary interview.

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INTERVIEW WITH Mr. ROBERT C. SOLOMON who resides at 810 South Glenwood Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, is presently the President of Panther Creek Coal Company which is located in Springfield, also. Mr. SOLOMON maintains an office in the Ridgely Building and was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] relative to any approach which was made to him or to officials of his company by RAY EDMUNDSON in 1937 relative to closing down the Panther Creek Mines in order that they might be organized by the United Mine Workers of America. He was also interviewed for any details concerning recent attempts by subject CARL H. ELSHOFF to purchase the Panther Creek Mines.

Mr. SOLOMON, who was very cooperative, advised that he had heard that his brother, GEORGE SOLOMON, who is now dead, was approached by RAY EDMUNDSON several years ago, and at that time EDMUNDSON attempted to persuade him to shut down the Panther Creek Mines in order that organization of these mines could be undertaken by the United Mine Workers of America. The Panther Creek Mines according to Mr. SOLOMON have been organized by the Progressive Mine Workers of America since the inception of this union in 1932.

Mr. SOLOMON informed that the first negotiations relative to the possible purchase of the Panther Creek Mines were made by Mr. HARRY G. ALLEN, a representative of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co. who resides in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. ALLEN first approached Mr. SOLOMON regarding this matter in the summer of 1941. According to Mr. SOLOMON, ALLEN was responsible for bringing ELSHOFF into the picture. ELSHOFF had several telephonic conversations with Mr. SOLOMON during a period of several months relative to the proposal to purchase the mine. In the initial stages they were particularly interested in the Auburn Mine which, although shut down, was potentially a very productive mine. 4

During these negotiations Mr. SOLOMON stated that he was represented by two attorneys, Mr. L. G. PEPPERLE and Mr. JOHN W. BARBER, who have offices in the Reisch Building. Mr. SOLOMON stated that he finally insisted that if ELSHOFF were actually interested in the purchase of his mines that they have a conference. This conference was held on June 11, 1942, in the offices of the Panther Creek Company at which time Mr. SOLOMON was present with his two attorneys, and ELSHOFF alone. There they came to a more or less definite agreement as to what the proposition would be and letters were exchanged regarding the same, the originals of which were obtained from Mr. SOLOMON. 15

At that time Mr. SOLOMON stated that he desired to know just what the financial ability of ELSHOFF was to enter into such a contract which would involve at least \$400,000.00. Mr. SOLOMON stated that he asked Mr. ELSHOFF where he would obtain the money and ELSHOFF told him, "You ought to know". Mr. SOLOMON informed that it was common knowledge around Springfield

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
ROBERT C. SOLOMON
(continued)

among coal operators and those interest in coal mining that ELSHOFF had obtained money for the Mine "B" and Mine "A" ventures from the United Mine Workers of America and JOHN L. LEWIS. In fact, Mine "B" is commonly referred to as JOHN L. LEWIS' mine. However, at this meeting or at no other time did ELSHOFF indicate that he actually did obtain the money from the United Mine Workers. Mr. SOLOMON had been advised, however, from sources whose reliability could not be ascertained, that ELSHOFF during the time of these negotiations had gone to Washington, D. C. with Mr. ALLEN to confer with JOHN L. LEWIS and arrange for financing.

It was Mr. SOLOMON's belief that his attorney, PEPPERLE, took more than a casual interest in what was going on with reference to the possible sale of the Panther Creek Mines to ELSHOFF, and possibly acted as a go between. PEPPERLE on one or two occasions said that he was convinced that ELSHOFF could obtain the money and would live up to his contract. Mr. SOLOMON knew that ELSHOFF would have, therefore, financial backing because before entering into any negotiations at all with ELSHOFF he had made an appropriate inquiry into ELSHOFF's financial responsibility, and knew that he personally did not have the money to purchase the Panther Creek Mines.

Mr. SOLOMON stated that after ELSHOFF's mine closed in May of 1937 he purchased coal from the Panther Creek Company in order to satisfy his customers. This coal was purchased outright and sold by ELSHOFF. During the course of these transactions ELSHOFF became deeply indebted to the Panther Creek Company, and Mr. SOLOMON advised that eventually he had to settle for \$4,000.00 or \$5,000.00 less than the contract price in order to get his money out of ELSHOFF. After that he did not deal any further with ELSHOFF because of his unreliability.

It was after this that ELSHOFF began dealing with the Peabody Coal Company, and it was Mr. SOLOMON's understanding that arrangements were made through Mr. GEORGE REED at Chicago, Illinois. He understood that ELSHOFF acted only as a broker going out selling the coal, and that all deals, invoices, etc., were made out by the Peabody Company, giving ELSHOFF only a commission on what he sold. Mr. SOLOMON understood that this was a 15% commission on all sales; however, he could not be certain, and was of the opinion that if an inquiry were directed to Mr. REED he would answer honestly concerning these details. Mr. SOLOMON had also heard that during the period in which Mine "B" was shut down JOHN L. LEWIS became more or less disgusted with ELSHOFF and at one time through Mr. REED attempted to persuade the Peabody Coal Company to take the mine off his hands.

Special Agent [REDACTED] who was at the time of this interview in Chicago, Illinois, making inquiry into certain matters pertaining to this case, was telephonically contacted and furnished with pertinent information concerning REED and ALLEN as obtained from Mr. SOLOMON. [REDACTED] conducted appropriate

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
ROBERT C. SOLOMON
(continued)

inquiry which appears also in this report.

Inasmuch as the attorney, PEPPERLE, was not to be interviewed until after an interview with HINDMARSH, Representative of CIO, no signed statement was taken from Mr. SOLOMON inasmuch as the details of this picture are not complete as yet. However, the following letters were voluntarily furnished to Special Agent [redacted] by Mr. SOLOMON which pertain to the attempted negotiations by ELSHOFF to purchase the mine. It is noted in ELSHOFF's letters that he continually refers to "we". It is difficult to ascertain whether by this expression ELSHOFF was referring only to himself in a collective sense or whether it also included other individuals. These letters are set forth as follows:

"June 11, 1942

"Mr. Carl H. Elshoff
"Springfield, Illinois

"Dear Mr. Elshoff:

"This is to confirm our discussion this morning, wherein it was indicated that Panther Creek Mines, Inc. is willing to lease to you all of its coal mining properties, with the option to purchase or to renew, all on the following basis.

"Term of Lease: 10 years.

"Rent: Royalty basis of 10 cents per ton on production; minimum royalty of \$90,000 per year.

"Taxes, Insurance and Repairs:
To be paid and carried by Lessee.

"Additional Coal Rights: Lessor to purchase and provide all additional coal rights which Lessee may require for the continued operation and development of the mining properties; or, on failure so to do, Lessee to have privilege of acquiring, at Lessee's expense, such additional coal rights with a credit of five cents per ton on coal produced therefrom.

"Personal Property: Lessor will sell to Lessee, at invoice price or other fair present value, all explosives, supplies, mined coal, unused timber, mules, unused repair parts and replacements, and unused tangible personal property used or for use in the operation of the mines.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
ROBERT C. SOLOMON
(continued)

"Guaranty: Lessee to deposit in Springfield Marine Bank \$400,000 to be held in escrow and invested in Lessor's collateral note for that amount, payable to lessee in installments of \$40,000 per year, with 3% interest, by credit on royalties. The \$400,000 to be actually used in taking up all indebtedness of Lessor and its President to said Bank including approximately \$250,000 in bonds - liens on the coal mining properties of Lessor; said bonds to be not cancelled but held as collateral security for the payment of said collateral note.

"Retail Office: Lessee to take over Lessor's city retail office rent and other incidental expenses, from the time of transfer of possession of mines.

"Options: At the expiration of the ten year lease, Lessee to have alternate options:

"(A) To purchase the leased properties for \$400,000, plus amounts hereafter paid by Lessor for additional coal rights, with 3% interest thereon; or,

"(B) To renew the lease for another ten years on same terms, with further option to purchase the leased properties at the end of extended period for \$100,000, plus amounts hereafter paid by Lessor for additional coal rights, with 3% interest thereon.

"This of course is only for prompt acceptance as to major terms, with the understanding that necessary details be worked out later."

Yours truly,

President"

"July 6th, 1942

"Mr. Robert C. Solomon, Pres.,
Panther Creek Mines, Inc.,
Springfield, Illinois

"Dear Mr. Solomon:--

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
ROBERT C. SOLOMON
(continued)

"Referring to your proposition of June 11th, 1942 in which you outline a plan for the sale of your mining properties.

"The arrangement suggested is not satisfactory, and we decline to accept it in its form. I am still interested in buying these mines and am willing to meet with you and with your consent submit to you a proposition in different form and possibly at a lesser value.

"First, we hope in a discussion of the matter to establish a fair value of the properties and then to arrive at a satisfactory method of payment of them. I might say now there is no objection to advancing the \$400,000.00 as outlined.

"Awaiting your reply indicating that you are interested in receiving such a proposition, I am,

"Yours very truly,

/s/ CARL H. ELSHOFF"

"Springfield, Illinois
"October 30th, 1942

"Mr. Robert C. Solomon,
"Panther Creek Mines, Inc.,
"Springfield, Illinois

"Dear Sir:--

"It is with great difficulty that we approach the subject of a fair value on your mining property known as Mine #1-Auburn, Illinois. This mine has been in a State of Abandonment since April 1927. The condition of the equipment below is very uncertain as well as the natural conditions. Subject to a complete inspection, we submit the following proposition.

"We are willing to purchase this property under the following terms and conditions; to mine and pay for at the rate of ten cents per ton a total of not less than 2,000,000 tons or \$200,000.00 within four years beginning with January 1st, 1943. The Royalty payments shall accrue in equal monthly payments throughout the four year term.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
ROBERT C. SOLOMON
(continued)

"At the end of the four year term, the Lessee shall have the option to purchase all of the property so leased for a sum of \$50,000.00, at which time a good and sufficient title shall be given.

"In submitting this, we realize that many details will have to be worked out.

"Truly yours,

/E/ CARL H. ELSHOFF"

Mr. SOLOMON stated that these efforts to negotiate the sale simply fizzled out in the fall of 1942, for what reason he was not able to determine. A signed statement will be taken relative to all of these matters as soon as Mr. PEPPERLE and Mr. BARBER are interviewed. Mr. SOLOMON advised that his books relative to the sale of coal to ELSHOFF would also be available for review. In the event this is deemed advisable it is anticipated that this phase of the investigation will be conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED]

b7c [REDACTED]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b7c b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH Special Agent ██████████ on September 1, 1943
GEORGE REED, interviewed Mr. GEORGE REED, Vice President, Peabody
Chicago, Illinois. Coal Company, Room 2020, 231 South LaSalle Street, b7c

Chicago, Illinois, telephone number Andover 2345. Mr. REED has some faint recollection that on two or three occasions RAY EDMUNDSON mentioned to him that he (EDMUNDSON) hated to see ELSHOFF deal with Panther Creek Mines, a Progressive Mine Workers of America mine, during the strike period at Mine "B". Mr. REED was unable to recall the exact time or instances when these remarks were made by EDMUNDSON. He pointed out that since his company has dealt over a long period of years with the United Mine Workers of America, which is now headed by RAY EDMUNDSON, he sees EDMUNDSON frequently and does considerable business with him. Concerning the price for which brokerage coal was sold to ELSHOFF, REED stated as follows: ||

He said that ELSHOFF approached him for the purchase of coal from the Peabody Coal Company and that since ELSHOFF was a neighboring coal mine operator in the vicinity of Springfield and since it is the custom of one coal mine to help out another during a strike shutdown or mine disaster, he agreed with ELSHOFF that he would sell him some coal. However he did not agree to sell him all the coal that ELSHOFF wanted. Mr. REED further stated that since he was doubtful of ELSHOFF's financial status and ability to pay, that he wrote up a letter which was in the nature of an agreement or contract, addressed to ELSHOFF, stating the terms upon which coal would be sold. He could not recall the exact terms of the letter or the prices stated. He said that he did not know what price ELSHOFF had purchased brokerage coal for from the Panther Creek Mines. He also stated that he was positive that he would not allow ELSHOFF any such exorbitant figure as 50¢ a ton for coal. He said that during part of the time when ELSHOFF was purchasing brokerage coal that his company became very doubtful of ELSHOFF's financial status and ability to pay; that at this time when orders for coal were received from ELSHOFF, the Peabody Coal Company actually loaded the cars, directed them to the purchaser, collected the purchase price from the purchaser, and then returned to ELSHOFF his commission.

Mr. REED further advised that when he first talked with ELSHOFF concerning the purchase of brokerage coal, that he told him that in view of his financial status ELSHOFF might have to pay cash in advance for any coal purchased from Peabody.

Mr. REED also stated that he has often wondered how ELSHOFF was able to pay the royalties due on Mine "B" while it was shut down, but more astounding than that, he has often wondered how ELSHOFF was able to entertain as lavishly and in as much extravagance as he did. He said that ELSHOFF never rented a room in a hotel, but always rented a suite.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
GEORGE REED,
Chicago, Illinois.
(Continued)

He stated that this was well known to coal mine operators generally.

Mr. REED advised that he could vaguely recall some conversation either with JOHN L. LEWIS or with RAY EDMUNDSON about Peabody Coal Company taking over Mine "B" but that he cannot recall anything definite in this matter. He said that his answer at that time would have been that the Peabody Coal Company did not want any more mines as they already had at that time more mines than they wanted. He stated ELSHOFF was unable to furnish any information concerning the association of JOHN L. LEWIS, CARL ELSHOFF and RAY EDMUNDSON, other than that people in the coal business took it for granted that CARL ELSHOFF and JOHN L. LEWIS are good friends. He advised that he had never seen these two together.

Mr. REED further stated that he will cause a search to be made of the records of his company, presently located in a district warehouse, to determine whether or not a copy of the letter which he wrote to ELSHOFF and which contains their agreement for the sale of coal is still in existence. He said he will also have a search made for the ledger records or any other records showing the amount of tonnage, sale price and commission or any other figures which may be available in connection with the ELSHOFF account.

Mr. REED advised that the situation between the employers and the employees is and has been tense for some time; that he is operating without any contract at this time with the United Mine Workers; that his company has always been a United Mine Workers Company, because of which fact he, of necessity, deals with RAY EDMUNDSON and JOHN L. LEWIS, since his company is the biggest producer of coal in the State of Illinois. Mr. REED stated that because of this fact he does not want to do anything which would jeopardize his position with the United Mine Workers or which would result in his failure to secure a contract by the end of October 1943. He pointed out that the present investigation has made matters somewhat more tense in connection with the employer-employee relationship. Therefore he has not decided whether or not he will furnish whatever information his files disclose, of his own accord, to an investigator. He stated that he would gladly furnish information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation if it were not for the circumstances set out above and that he would be glad to at least advise as to the nature of the information in his files. However, because of his relationship with the United Mine Workers, he said he much preferred that he be forced by subpoena to produce records rather than to furnish them voluntarily.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH LEONARD C. BOJARK was interviewed on August 30, 1945.
LEONARD C. BOJARK by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted].
BOJARK is presently Personnel Manager of the Visking Corporation, 6733 West 65th Street, Chicago, Illinois. His residence address is 5531 North Monitor Street, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. BOJARK became Regional Director of NLRB at Chicago, Illinois on May 8, 1937. The Springfield area and Mine "B" was included in his jurisdiction. One LYNN BEAMAN was the Regional Director at Chicago preceding BOJARK.

It should be stated at the outset that Mr. BOJARK could recall little of the details concerning the events in connection with this case of his own accord and without refreshing his recollection. At this time it appears that he could only testify to matters which were made a matter of official record in the NLRB files. Mr. BOJARK does not recall any inquiry from CARL ELSHOFF on or about May 12, 1937, concerning whether or not the dismissal or the refusal to dismiss the twelve miners expelled from PMW of A on May 11, 1937, was an unfair labor practice. As far as Mr. BOJARK's recollection is concerned he does not believe that Mr. ELSHOFF ever made any such inquiry.

Mr. BOJARK recalls little more of his meeting with JOE OZANIC than recorded on the photostatic copy of documents pertaining to this file. He stated that probably, as OZANIC previously advised this office, that RAY EDMUNDSON did come in and see him. EDMUNDSON, he believes, probably came in to attempt to find out what OZANIC had previously said. He stated that in an attempt to solve the problem he called both OZANIC and EDMUNDSON into his office for a conference. He did not recall the dates of this conference, but stated that the informal file of the NLRB in Chicago should contain either a typewritten memo or a handwritten memo concerning these meetings. BOJARK believes that OZANIC presented a petition to him containing a considerable number of signatures. He stated that if such was the case he would have told OZANIC that that petition alone was not enough to sustain charges against the UMW of A, but that formal charges would have to be filed; that the Board could not accept any such petition as evidence without their own investigation.

He did not recall definitely whether or not EDMUNDSON or WALTER J. JAMES ever showed him any petition or other form of group signatures such as application cards or membership cards. As to the date of this meeting, BOJARK was unable to make any definite statement. He cannot say definitely whether it was on September 8, or not.

BOJARK stated it was his impression at the time and still is today that ELSHOFF did not want to do business with the PMW of A but rather wanted to do business with the UMW of A. He believes that ELSHOFF feared some members of the PMW Union who had been connected with bombing and terroristic

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
LEONARD C. PAJORK
(continued)

tactics. PAJORK stated that he had gone to Springfield, Illinois, probably sometime in and around September, 1937, but he could not be positive as to the date or as to whether it was before, after, or during the month of September. He stated that undoubtedly the records of Region 13, NLRB, would reflect this trip.

Concerning the charges filed by PMW against Mine B on September 7, 1937, PAJORK stated that it was his recollection that these charges alone were not enough upon which to base a hearing on the question of an unfair labor practice as such. He did state, however, that when the question arose and a hearing was had on the matter of representation which was heard on October 25, 1937, that then the board threw the doors open for charges of unfair labor practices and the supervisors of the mine interfering with the activities of PMW, and the supervisor's refusal to discharge the twelve labor spies.

The writer questioned Mr. PAJORK as to whether or not CARL ELSHOFF, his supervisors, or Mine "B" might be guilty of an unfair labor practice in the event they had discharged the labor spies on May 12, 1937, as requested by PMW, or as to whether ELSHOFF might be guilty of an unfair labor practice if he did not discharge these men when requested. Mr. PAJORK answered this question but stated that the answer would depend upon the complexion, membership, and policies of the NLRB in Washington, D. C. at the time; that membership on this board has changed from time to time and the policies on a question similar to instant one had changed depending upon membership and policies of the Board.

Mr. PAJORK said that employers usually in situations where there was a dispute between Unions did not sign up with either Union and submitted this matter to the NLRB for a consent election, a procedure for which the NLRB was particularly fit to handle, and as a matter of fact, one of the reasons for a NLRB. He pointed out, however, that this was not done in instant case.

Mr. PAJORK referred to photostatic copy of a memo to BENEDICT WOLF dated October 8, 1937, wherein the file numbers XIII-R-125 and XIII-473 are carried on the memo. PAJORK stated that these file numbers reveal that there were at least two matters before the NLRB. The "C" file number stands for a "Charge" case. The "R" file refers to a "representation" case. He stated that it was his recollection that there were two "Charge" cases and one "Representation" case involved in the Mine "B" matter.

Mr. PAJORK stated that, of course, while he was very close with the Mine "B" situation that OSCAR SMITH, who is now Executive Secretary in Washington, D.C., was at the time Field Examiner and was the man closest

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH
LEONARD C. BAJORK
(continued)

to the Mine "B" matter.

Mr. BAJORK stated that it was his impression that whatever RAY EDMUNDSON said in connection with the Mine "B" matter, CARL ELSHOFF went along with, and conversely, whatever ELSHOFF said in connection with the matter EDMUNDSON went along with.

Concerning the December 15, 1937 election after which UMW claimed fraud in connection with the election, Mr. BAJORK said that he was familiar with this claim on the part of UMW, and that he, as a matter of fact, at that time, caused an investigation to be made in connection with the election and found no fraud.

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 23, 1943, wherein the Criminal Division has advised that a memo written on October 8, 1937, by BAJORK stated that JOHN DOHERTY was a member of the Steel Worker's Organization Committee and had suggested to BAJORK that RAY EDMUNDSON of the UMW of A was perhaps willing to reiterate his previous offer to operate Mine "B" provided the twelve suspended Progressive Mine workers were permitted to return to the mine. In connection with this matter, Mr. BAJORK advised that Mr. DOHERTY then represented the Amalgamated Iron and Steel Workers Organizing Committee as Regional Director. This is a CIO affiliate organization. Mr. BAJORK pointed out that at that time the UMW also was a CIO affiliate, and that probably DOHERTY's sole connection with that matter was the fact that he acted as an intermediary in order to get EDMUNDSON and BAJORK together.

He stated if his recollection was correct negotiations with the Mine "B" case had been at a stand still for some time and that probably this move on the part of EDMUNDSON, using DOHERTY to bring the two men together, was for the sole purpose of ascertaining what the status of the Mine "B" case was with the NLRB at the time.

Concerning the name of "BERTHA", who supervised the election of December 15, 1937, Mr. BAJORK stated that JOHN BERTHA was then Field Examiner for the NLRB. He said that at the present time, or at least the last time BAJORK knew of his whereabouts, BERTHA was working either at Pekin or Peoria, Illinois, with the Keystone Wire Company or one of their subsidiaries, and lived in a small town between Pekin and Peoria. *lead*

Mr. BAJORK was asked as to whether there would be any question as to whether members of the PMW Union would lose their status as miners for Mine "B" after the strike had progressed for some time, and after the extension of the PMW contract had expired, and subsequent to or prior to ELSHOFF's signing of an agreement with UMW. Mr. BAJORK stated there was no question but what the PMW men would retain their status as employees of Mine "B".

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH
LEONARD C. BAJORK
(continued)

In view of the fact that Mr. BAJORK stated that he could recall little, and from his actions it was apparent that he was stating the truth, without the assistance of material in the 13th Region files of NLRB, Mr. FRANK KLEITER, Acting Regional Director, Region 13, NLRB, was contacted. Mr. KLEITER advised that all files pertaining to the Mine "B" matter, including the informal file which would contain notes and memos of the meetings with Mr. BAJORK or other officials of the NLRB and the employer and employees, had been forwarded to Washington approximately one month ago and hence was not available.

Mr. BAJORK volunteered the information that after his resignation from NLRB, which was given as a result of his disagreement with certain policies and activities of the National Board in Washington, he served as a labor consultant in and around Chicago, Illinois, until he accepted his present position as Personnel Manager.

Mr. BAJORK further volunteered the information that he, in accordance with the "unwritten code of all government men" had religiously refrained from discussing or taking any part, or entering into any problems surrounding the Mine "B" matter. He stated as a matter of fact, RAY EDMUNDSON had contacted him after his resignation from the Board in connection with the Mine "B" matter, but that he had religiously avoided making any statements in connection with the matter or giving any advice. He stated that during the time he was Regional Director he had always attempted to follow an unbiased course.

Mr. BAJORK was asked the hypothetical question as to what he could have done or how the Mine "B" dispute could have been settled. Mr. BAJORK stated that he believed the key to the whole matter rested with the employer, CARL H. ELSHOFF, who could have settled the matter at practically any time he desired. /PWT

In view of the fact that most of the information submitted above was secured after refreshing Mr. BAJORK's mind in connection with the details of this matter, in view of the fact that it appears obvious that at this time he cannot furnish more information without the 13th Region file, and in view of the fact that it appears at this time he will only be able to testify to matters which appear of record in the 13th Region file, no attempt was made to obtain a signed statement.

Mr. BAJORK makes a good appearance. He does not appear to be unfavorable to the Government in connection with this matter, and it is believed that he would make an honest effort to testify to any information which he might have to the best of his ability. Because of his indefinite manner and his apparent hazy recollection as to time and place, it is believed that he would be only an average Government witness for a man in his position.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH
FRED WILKEY,
Chicago, Illinois.

The following interview was had by Special Agent [REDACTED] in Chicago, Illinois on September 1, 1943.

Mr. FRED WILKEY is Secretary of the Illinois Coal Operators Association, Bell Building, 307 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. His telephone number is Franklin 9790. Mr. WILKEY was questioned concerning the nature of the agreement of August 18, 1937 between CARL ELSHOFF and United Mine Workers of America. In this agreement ELSHOFF agreed to become a member of the Coal Operators Association. Mr. WILKEY stated that there was no information in writing in his files wherein ELSHOFF ever made application for membership in his association. He recalled that ELSHOFF did mention upon one occasion some time ago, exact time of which WILKEY could not place, something in the nature of an inquiry concerning the requirements to become a member of the Illinois Coal Operators Association. To the best of WILKEY's knowledge, this was during the time when ELSHOFF was having his labor trouble at Mine "B". If such were the case WILKEY stated that undoubtedly his answer would be that it was not the policy of the association to take in new members during the time of a labor dispute.

For the information of the file, the object of the association is to promote harmonious and businesslike relations between coal operators in Illinois and their employees, to secure labor contracts, and to negotiate disputes in connection with these contracts. The policy of the association, according to Mr. WILKEY, is not to take in members during a dispute. If new members are taken in during the time when a prospective member is having a labor dispute, according to the constitution of the association, that prospective member must pay all expenses incurred in connection with the consideration of the particular dispute.

Since the Illinois Coal Operators Association deals with United Mine Workers, Mr. WILKEY states that he is well acquainted with and sees RAY EDMUNDSON frequently, but he could not recall any occasion when EDMUNDSON talked about the Mine "B" matter or CARL ELSHOFF.

In a memorandum for the Attorney General dated July 24, 1943, submitted by Assistant Attorney General WENDELL BERGE in part XII, Section 3, it is stated that ELSHOFF was at one time or another member of both employers' organizations. In connection with this, Mr. WILKEY advised that ELSHOFF is not now and never has been a member of the Illinois Coal Operators Association.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7C
INTERVIEW WITH ██████████ This interview was conducted by Special Agent FULLERTON/FULTON, ██████████ with Special Agent ██████████ in the Chicago, Illinois. Regional Office, CIO, on August 31, 1943.

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Mr. FULLERTON FULTON is CIO Regional Director. His office is located in Room 2014, 205 West Wacker, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. FULTON had no first-hand knowledge of events in connection with Mine "B" in the pertinent period of this case. He did state however that he secured the information in his possession generally from ██████████

██████████ Mr. FULTON advised that ██████████ was formerly an active member of the United Mine Workers, active during the Mine "B" dispute. ██████████

Mr. FULTON also advised that Attorney L. G. PEPPERLE of Springfield, Illinois, and who is acquainted with ELSHOFF, may have information of value. Mr. FULTON said that when he has been in Springfield he used to talk with PEPPERLE concerning ELSHOFF and the Mine "B" matter just to see what PEPPERLE knew and that it is his opinion that PEPPERLE may be able to furnish information of value and he believes will be willing to do so.

Mr. FULTON also stated that most of the higher officials of the United Mine Workers of America usually stay at the Leland Hotel when in Springfield, Illinois and at the Morrison Hotel when in Chicago, Illinois. He said that RAY EDMUNDSON always stops at the Morrison Hotel.

Mr. FULTON pointed out that these men probably stay at the Leland Hotel, and as a matter of fact, stated that the Peabody Coal Company formerly furnished coal to the Leland Hotel but since ELSHOFF is now operating again the Leland Hotel is now furnished with coal by CARL ELSHOFF.

Concerning WALTER J. JAMES Mr. FULTON stated that he believes this man might talk considerably if interviewed by an individual who was armed with enough information to convince JAMES that the interviewing agent was conversant with the facts, since in FULTON's opinion "JAMES doesn't have much intelligence". JAMES reportedly only follows the directions of RAY EDMUNDSON and JOHN L. LEWIS. *10/1*

Mr. FULTON was very cooperative and offered his services in any way possible in connection with this matter.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH Mrs. L. R. NEWELL was interviewed on August 31,
MRS. L. R. NEWELL, 1943 by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] b7c
Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. NEWELL resides at 3240 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago,

Illinois. She advised that she was in Seattle, Washington from 1934 until 1941 and therefore had little firsthand knowledge concerning the mining properties of the Citizens B & O Coal Company of Peoria, Illinois or of Mine "B" and CARL ELSHOFF in particular. She stated that her brother, JOHN H. SCINTZES, Jr., handles most of the business matters. She also stated that anything whatsoever, no matter how trivial concerning their mine properties which comes to her attention is forwarded to her brother and in this connection she recalls sending him a copy of a letter which she received from CARL ELSHOFF, which letter was probably dated July 26, 1939. She stated that she has no further information concerning this matter, nor concerning the labor situation in writing and that she did not have any personal conversations with CARL ELSHOFF. She said that she had wondered upon several occasions as to how CARL ELSHOFF would be able to pay the mine royalties and where the money came from with which the royalties were paid, but that she never had any direct information in this regard. She also advised that she had heard indirectly, either through the newspapers or by the "grapevine" that the United Mine Workers had helped CARL ELSHOFF during the period of the strike at Mine "B". However none of this information was first-hand information. lead

Mrs. NEWELL states she has known CARL ELSHOFF personally but never intimately and that she has not associated extensively with him and his family in any social or business way.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH Mr. JOSEPH OZANIC, former State President of the
JOSEPH OZANIC Progressive Mine Workers of America, and presently
an organizer for the American Federation of Labor,
was interviewed at his home at Mount Olive, Illinois, by Special
Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on the afternoon of August 21,
1943. A preliminary discussion of the case with Mr. OZANIC disclosed
that he was in position to furnish considerable pertinent and first
hand information concerning the Mine "B" situation. Mr. OZANIC
willingly agreed to meet the agents at the Springfield Office on
Monday morning, August 23, 1943, for a more complete discussion of his
part in this case, and also to execute a signed statement. Mr. OZANIC
called at the Springfield Office as agreed, and after an exhaustive
interview the following signed statement was dictated by him:

"Springfield, Illinois
August 23, 1943

b7c
"I, JOSEPH OZANIC, make the following voluntary statement to
Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation.

"My name is JOSEPH OZANIC, my legal residence being at Mt. Olive,
Illinois, and I may be located through the Office of the American
Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

"I have been a coal miner from September 15, 1910 up until the
present time. During that period I was a member of the United Mine
Workers of America, from September 1910 to September 1, 1932, and since
September 1932, I have been a member of the Progressive Mine Workers
of America at present affiliated with the American Federation of Labor,
and I did my last work in a coal mine in January 1935. Since that time
I have been connected with our organization in various official capacities,
and at the present time I am a National Representative for the American
Federation of Labor. From February 1, 1935 to January 31, 1937, I served
as an Executive Board Member for the state organization of the Progressive
Mine Workers of America in Illinois, and from February 1, 1937 to
January 31, 1939, I served as the President of the state organization of
the Progressive Mine Workers of America in Illinois.

"My duties as president of the organization consisted of
administering the affairs, policies, and activities of the organization
on a state wide basis including the handling of disagreed grievance cases
on the joint state executive board that might arise under our contracts
through the Coal Producers Association of Illinois, and which failed of
settlement locally between the management and the local representatives
of the Progressive Mine Workers in that mine. As president I became
actively engaged in the handling of the dispute which originated in May

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPE OZANIC (continued) 1937 between the Mine "B" Coal Company of Springfield, Illinois, and Local Union No. 54, Progressive Mine Workers of America.

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"My attention was first called to dissension being created in our Local No. 54 some time in January 1937. Said dissension was being created by a small group of agents who were employed by the United Mine Workers to the end that the Mine "B" Coal Company could be placed under control of the United Mine Workers organization. The activities of these dissenters resulted in their being expelled from Local No. 54 in May 1937 as the result of charges filed against them in Local No. 54.

"On May 12, 1937, I was notified by [REDACTED] that a strike or shut-down of the Mine "B" Coal Company mine had resulted that day because Mr. CARL ELSHOFF of the Mine "B" Coal Company had refused to terminate the employment of several men who were no longer members of the organization and by virtue of their expulsion were not entitled to work under the terms of the contract.

"As the result of this emergency call I arranged a conference with Mr. ELSHOFF at Mine "B" as I recall it the following day to discuss with him the dispute with a hope that a settlement could be made. As I recall it [REDACTED] participated with me in this conference with Mr. ELSHOFF during which time we discussed all of the circumstances leading up to the dispute and offered settlement on the basis that the several men who were found guilty by the organization of entering into a conspiracy with the United Mine Workers be not allowed to work until their particular case was decided through proper channels.

"Our proposal was that all of the rest of the employees numbering approximately 450 return to work under the contract which the Progressive Mine Workers was negotiating with the Coal Producers Association of Illinois. Our proposal for settlement was refused outrightly with Mr. ELSHOFF who insisted that the mine would not operate unless the several men who had been expelled also went to their jobs. //

"The substance of our conference with Mr. ELSHOFF was that he was firm in his declaration. He didn't give a 'damn' whether the men involved were members of any organization or not, and that he would not operate the mine unless they, too, remained on their jobs. When we insisted that the case be settled on the basis outlined by the union which would be in conformity with provisions of our contract, he contended that there wasn't any contract to which he was bound, although at that time there was an extension agreement to which Mine "B" Coal Company was bound which was in full force and effect, and was a continuation contract signed by Mr. ELSHOFF.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
JOSEPH OZANIC
(continued)

"Among the many items that were discussed with Mr. ELSHOFF concerning the dispute, he made mention of short weight cars of coal that were being loaded by the men in the mine, and that this was going on shortly before the strike in 1937. That result of our conversation and his failure to settle was that the mine continued to remain idle, and except for one or two sporadic attempts to operate the mine under the United Mine Workers it did remain idle until about November 1939.

"Since the conference I had with Mr. ELSHOFF in May, on about May 13, 1937, I made repeated attempts by letter and by telephone to hold further conferences with Mr. ELSHOFF, hoping that the controversy could be closed and settlement reached, all of which were unavailing.

"During this period frequent reports came out to the effect that Mr. ELSHOFF was dealing with officials of the United Mine Workers, and finally upon our insistence for a conference we did meet with Mr. ELSHOFF and his mine superintendent, Mr. OSCAR FALCETTI, in the lobby of the Lincoln Hotel at Springfield in about mid-July 1937. With me in that conference were

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"Here, again, we made a serious endeavor to bring about a settlement with the result that Mr. ELSHOFF refused to consider any of our proposals. Mr. ELSHOFF contended that he could not deprive the several men who had been expelled by the Progressive Mine Workers the right to work at the mine with the rest of the men, adding he had no desire to be found guilty or penalized of an unfair labor practice charge by the NLRB under the National Labor Relations Act.

"To this we proposed that mine operations resume with all of the men excepting the several expelled workers with the understanding that in the event a decision was rendered by the NLRB in favor of the expelled workers which might involve compensation for time lost, that our organization stand the complete expense and cost of any such compensation. We did this purely with the thought in mind that this would form the basis for a settlement. However, Mr. ELSHOFF bluntly refused this proposal. That was my last conference with Mr. ELSHOFF as far as I as president was concerned.

"On or about August 20, 1937, Springfield newspapers carried an article announcing that Mr. ELSHOFF of the Mine "B" Coal Company had signed a closed shop contract with United Mine Workers District 12. Following the announcement of the signing of this contract we immediately by telephone and by telegram endeavored to have Mr. ELSHOFF reconsider his

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Re: JOSE L. LEWIS, ET AL

96553

INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPP OZANIC (continued) negotiations with United Mine Workers, and to meet with us in a conference, all of which failed.

"Shortly after August 20, or during the latter part of August 1937, we filed a charge of unfair labor practices against the Mine "B" Coal Company with the NLRB, and subsequent thereto, a petition for Investigation and Certification. *changed
picket
int.*

"Upon receipt of our charges and petition by Mr. LEONARD C. BAJORK, Regional Director, with offices in Chicago, we were called into conference before Mr. BAJORK to discuss with him the merits in the case. At a later date Mr. BAJORK conferred regarding the matter with Mr. RAY EDMUNDSON, President of District No. 12 United Mine Workers. During the forepart of September 1937, Mr. BAJORK then conferred jointly with myself, [REDACTED] and Mr. RAY EDMUNDSON, representing District 12 United Mine Workers of Illinois. It was the desire of Mr. BAJORK to arrange a settlement of the dispute if possible, and after he stated his desire we in the presence of Mr. EDMUNDSON presented Mr. BAJORK with a petition signed individually by some 413 employees of the total of 465 employed at the mine as evidence that those workers desired to be represented by the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"We specifically requested Mr. EDMUNDSON who was contending that his union represented the majority to place like evidence for Mr. BAJORK in our presence. Mr. EDMUNDSON replied that he did not have to present any evidence in that conference but that he would do so later at a proper time and place. At no time either during the above stated conference or at any later date did Mr. EDMUNDSON of the United Mine Workers ever produce any evidence as proof of a majority. This same petition which we presented to Mr. BAJORK was previously handed to Mr. ELSHOFF as proof of the desires of the majority of his employees which, of course, Mr. ELSHOFF ignored. The language of this petition was a clear indication as to the Mine "B" employees' desire for collective bargaining under the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"As a result of the aforestated conference the order for a hearing on our petition was issued by the NLRB; said hearing took place at Springfield, Illinois at the Federal Building, being held on October 25, through 27, 1937. The hearing was followed by a Labor Board Election being conducted by the NLRB at the State Armory on December 15, 1937.

"During September 1937, the report came out that Mr. ELSHOFF intended to open the mine under the United Mine Workers which resulted in practically all of the Mine "B" employees, members of Local 54 Progressive Mine Workers, going out to the mine to picket against any possibility of the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
JOSEPH OZANIC
(continued)

United Mine Workers taking the jobs which rightfully belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. This picketing by Mine "B" employees was an anticipation of strike breakers being imported to Mine "B" by Mr. ELSHOFF and by the United Mine Workers, such as happened on previous occasions in Illinois. This picketing continued daily until on about November 23, 1937, a temporary restraining order was issued against the Progressive Mine Workers in the Springfield Federal Court.

"On December 22, 1937, the temporary restraining order was made permanent by Judge ADAIR in a hearing held at Quincy, Illinois. As the result of these restraining orders, all picketing and activity on the part of Mine "B" employees, members of the Progressive Mine Workers ceased.

"On December 15, 1937, the results of the NLRB election held at Springfield showed 404 votes for the Progressive Mine Workers and 25 against.

"On about January 3, 1938, the NLRB issued its order certifying the PMW organization as the bargaining agent at Mine "B" Coal Company.

b7c
"On about January 4, 1938, Mr. ELSHOFF made another attempt to open the mine with the United Mine Workers. At about 6:30 a.m., January 4, 1938, I, as president, together with approximately 350 Mine "B" employees went to the mine in order to report to the management that our men were ready to work as members of the Progressive Mine Workers. While our members remained on the highway I personally went to the mine office to consult with the management regarding the situation. At the mine office I met with United States Marshals who were there to enforce the injunction previously granted, and found two representatives of the United Mine Workers -- namely, ~~Mr. JOHN GLASCO~~ and ~~_____~~ - in conference with Mr. OSCAR FALCETTI, the mine superintendent, in his office.

"I announced myself to Mr. FALCETTI whereupon he requested the two United Mine Workers representatives to retire from the room. I advised Mr. FALCETTI that practically all of his men were out there on the road ready to go to work as members of the Progressive Mine Workers, and in conformity with the decision made in the labor board election, and under the board's order. He refused to consider our proposal on the ground as stated by himself that he had no authority to deal with the Progressive Mine Workers, and that his hands were tied, and was sorry there was nothing he could do. I asked for Mr. ELSHOFF to which Mr. FALCETTI replied that Mr. ELSHOFF was not there. I requested him to call Mr. ELSHOFF and have him come to the mine immediately to discuss the case with me. He stated Mr. ELSHOFF was not available and was sorry that nothing could be done.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
JOSEFE OZANIC
(continued)

"Following this, I withdrew from the mine and had all of the members of Local 54 Progressive Mine Workers who were ready to go to work, to return to their homes. It so happened that at this time the mine did not resume operations with the United Mine Workers, apparently because of the lack of men, and the mine continued to remain idle.

"Following the above chain of events I, on January 17, 1938, directed a letter to Mr. CARL H. ELSHOFF of the Mine "B" Coal Company, pointing out the decision of the ELRB in favor of the Progressive Mine Workers in which I requested a conference for the purpose of collective bargaining. This letter like all previous letters I wrote to Mr. ELSHOFF was ignored.

"For the balance of that year 1938, and up until my term of office as President of the State of Illinois Progressive Mine Workers expired on January 31, 1939, the mine remained idle, and no further conferences of any nature were held by myself, Mr. ELSHOFF and his representatives of the Mine "B" Coal Company.

"The above statement was dictated by me in the presence of Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on the morning of August 23, 1943, in the offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1107 Illinois Building, Springfield, Illinois. The above statement consisting of six typewritten pages has been read by me, and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

"Joe Ozanic (signed)

"WITNESSED:

b7c [redacted] (signed)
FBI, Springfield, Illinois
Special Agent

[redacted] (signed)
Special Agent, FBI, Springfield, Illinois"

Re: JOE L. LEWIS, ET AL

96553

INTERVIEW WITH
JOSEPH OZANIC
(continued)

In connection with the interview with Mr. OZANIC, it should be noted that it was perhaps conducted prematurely with relationship to the logical development of the case. This was necessary because Mr. OZANIC was momentarily expecting orders from his Washington, D. C. headquarters which would assign him to the west coast for an indefinite period. In event he is subpoenaed in this case, Mr. OZANIC requested that he be given advanced notice in that he might be involved in negotiations on the West Coast which would require notice before breaking them off. Mr. OZANIC is willing to testify, and he will not make a hostile witness. He is definite and straightforward in his statements, intelligent and presents a good appearance. From the manner in which he gave his information and answered questions concerning his participation in the attempts to negotiate with CARL ELSHOFF and other representatives of Mine "B", it is believed that he will not be easily confused by aggressive cross-examination.

With reference to Mr. OZANIC's statement, particular reference is made to the telegram dated August 20, 1937, and the letter dated January 17, 1938. Copies of these documents were found in the papers and files of the Progressive Mine Workers of America furnished this office by

b7C
b7D
The telegram which reads as follows was addressed to
Mr. CARL ELSHOFF, Mine "B" Coal Company:

"Urge you to reconsider signing contract with U.M.W. of A. Your employees are members of L.U. #54, P.M. of A. and demand you recognize them as Progressive Miners, and their officials as their bargaining agents for collective bargaining purposes.

"Joe Ozanic, President
Progressive Miners of America"

There was no indication that this telegram was ever answered in the files. The files also disclosed that Mr. OZANIC followed this telegram with a five-page letter to Mr. ELSHOFF dated August 25, 1937, which is so pertinent to the issues at that time that it is believed advisable to set the letter forth in full:

"August 25, 1937

"Mr. Carl E. Elshoff, President
Mine "D" Coal Company
Springfield, Illinois

"Dear Mr. Elshoff:

Re: JOEN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPE OZANIC (continued) "I am taking this means of conveying to you my thoughts and frank expressions concerning the raging controversy over your Mine "B" at Springfield.

b7c "On Friday, August 20th, I sent you a telegram urging you to reconsider your intentions or attempt to sign Mine "B" to a contract with the United Mine Workers of America. In this telegram I pointed out to you that the employees of Mine "B" were members of the Progressive Miners of America, holding their membership in Local Union #54, P. M. of A. at Springfield, which has jurisdiction over your mine, but I am sorry to state that the telegram was entirely ignored by you since I have received no reply from you. I have been informed by [REDACTED] that his messages to you have also been totally ignored.

"For the sake of refreshing your memory I call your attention to the fact that your mine has been operating under contract with the Progressive Miners of America ever since its inception, and your mine was operating with the Progressive Miners on March 31st, 1937, the date upon which the contract expired.

"I call your attention to the fact that your mine, like all other mines throughout the state which are under jurisdiction of our organization, were permitted to continue operating under the terms and provisions of the contract that expired March 31st, 1937, pending final scale negotiations and the making of a permanent agreement.

"I call your attention to the fact that on April 2nd, 1937 you signed a tentative agreement with our organization, accepting the above terms and you continued operating your mine under contract with our organization.

b7c "I call your attention to the fact that the April 2nd tentative agreement which you signed carries with it any and all features in the final making of an agreement that is binding on both parties. This provision just mentioned provided for the retroactive feature that was agreed to in joint scale conference on April 6th, 1937, a copy of which was presented to you by [REDACTED] for your signature. You refused to sign the April 6th tentative agreement for reasons best known to yourself and on the strength of the tentative agreement that you signed on April 2nd being binding upon you until such time as a permanent agreement could be made, your mine was permitted to continue operations. It was common knowledge to this office and to the membership of Local Union #54, P. M. of A., whose entire membership are employees of your mine, that you were collaborating with Ray Edmundson, provisional president of the U. M. W. of A., and that you were attending secret meetings with Mr. Edmundson and other U. M. W. of A. provisional representatives for the purpose of attempting to take your mine from under jurisdiction of our organization and place it

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

96558

INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPE OZANIC (continued) under jurisdiction of the United Mine Workers by signing a contract with Mr. Edmondson.

"It was also common knowledge that certain members of Local Union #54, P. M. of A. were collaborating with the U. M. W. of A. officials for the purpose of overthrowing the local union, and they were being paid a certain sum of money for their traitorous work. Needless to say, 12 of these men who were charged and found guilty of conspiracy in the organization were suspended from membership. These men accepted the penalty, acknowledging their guilt, for they have never to this day availed themselves to their right of appeal to the high courts of the organization, claiming an injustice was done them.

"On May 12th, last, your employees of Mine "B" were thrown idle by virtue of a lockout, due to your stubborn refusal to comply with the terms of the contract to which your coal company is signed, and which provides that members of the Progressive Miners of America be employed.

"I call your attention to the fact that we, knowing of the secret, underhanded conferences taking place between you and the United Mine Workers, circulated a petition among your employees who are members of Local Union #54, P. M. of A., as a precautionary measure and to assure our members of their rights under the provisions of the Wagner Labor Relations Act, which gives employees the absolute right to an organization of their own choice, without coercion or intimidation by the employer and the right to bargain collectively through their chosen representatives. You have in your possession an original petition bearing the signatures of 412 of your employees out of a total of 445 who were employed on May 12th, 1937, the last day your mine operated. By a simple process of mathematics, 412 signatures for our organization out of a total of 445 means that approximately 92% of your employees bear true allegiance to the Progressive Miners of America and they insist upon their right to their jobs at your mine, and that you recognize them as members of the Progressive Miners of America, and that they continue in your employment under a Progressive Miners' contract the same as they have the past several years.

"Notwithstanding the above facts, you nor anyone else can deny you either signed, attempted or intend to sign a contract with the United Mine Workers. You no doubt know full well that your attempts along these lines are wholly un-American and are in every respect open, flagrant violations of the employees' rights under the terms of the Wagner Act.

"I call your attention to the fact that we have lodged our complaint on Saturday, August 21, 1937, with the National Labor Relations Board, and we are demanding justice under the terms of the law. I predict that you will be forced to concede to the lawful right of your employees before the Mine "B" controversy is determined.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
JOSEPE OZANIC
(continued)

"I am wondering if you expect the employees of the Mine "B" Coal Company who, as already stated, are loyal members of our organization, to permit themselves to be coerced or intimidated into joining the United Mine Workers, and organization that is not to their choice or liking.

"I wonder if you expect the 412 employees of your mine to sit idly by and permit the provisionally controlled United Mine Workers with whom you are collaborating to import outside labor to take the jobs that they are rightfully and lawfully entitled to.

"I wonder if you expect your mine to operate peacefully under such a plan. It has always been the aim and desire of the Progressive Miners of America to carry on pleasant and peaceful joint relations with the employer and certainly you would have no reason to contend that our organization did not carry on pleasant and peaceful relations with your company.

"For the sake of peace in Springfield and community, and for the sake of yourself and company, I sincerely ask you to reconsider your position and that you support the rights of your employees who have made it possible for you to successfully operate your mine during the years that they have been in your employe.

"I say to you openly and frankly that as far as the Progressive Miners of America are concerned, I especially, that there is going to be no pussyfooting by us in the Mine "B" controversy and we will see you through, no matter what legal steps might be necessary to gain justice for our membership, your employees who have made you prosperous.

"Should you attempt to start operating your mine with imported labor we are holding you wholly responsible for anything that might develop in the premises.

"Please do not construe any of the above as a threat for I am merely pointing out to you the situation as it exactly exists and what our intentions are for certainly no red blooded American would sit idly back and not defend his rights under the law which was enacted to protect the right of employees and labor organizations by the Congress of the United States.

"I call your attention to the fact that we know that Mr. Falsetti, Superintendent at Mine "B", has approached your engineers and other employees personally, urging them to attend meetings of the United Mine Workers and to join that organization.

CO - CO

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

96560

INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPE OZANIC (continued) "I call your attention to the fact that we know that one of your bosses, who resides at Virden, has made house to house canvass of Mine "B" employees living at Virden, urging them to attend the United Mine Workers meetings and to join that organization. This boss who did this work in Virden received his orders from his superiors of the Mine "B" Coal Company and no doubt the orders came from you as president of the coal company.

"I want you to know that all of the fact enuumbated in this letter are included in our charge and complaint before the National Labor Relations Board.

"This morning, I have also mailed by special delivery letter four copies of the resolution adopted by Local Union #54 at Springfield on August 22nd to Mr. Bajock, Regional Director of the board asking that the resolution be included in our complaint. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote at a special meeting of all of the employees of your mine.

"In our fight for justice in this particular case we are not only supported by the provisions of the Wagner Act, but we have the full support and co-operation of the American Federation of Labor, President Green of the American Federation of Labor being very deeply interested and is handling the matter in Washington with the head officials of the National Labor Relations Board.

"Trusting that you will carefully consider the above facts in this most important case, I remain

"Sincerely yours,

"President."

With regard to the letter to ELSHOFF dated January 17, 1938, by Mr. OZANIC, it is pointed out that Mr. OZANIC in his statement advised that he received no answer to the letter. The files of Progressive Mine Workers discloses he was in error concerning this as attached to this letter was a brief reply from ELSHOFF dated January 21, 1938. Mr. OZANIC also sent a copy of his letter to OSCAR FALCETTI, to which there was no answer. These letters are quoted as follows:

"January 17, 1938

"Mr. Carl H. Elshoff, President
Mine "B" Coal Company
Springfield, Illinois

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
JOSEPH OZANIC
(continued)

"My dear Mr. Elshoff:

"As you know, the National Labor Relations Board rendered its decision on January 3, 1938, giving Local Union #54 of Springfield, Illinois and Progressive Miners of America, exclusive bargaining rights over the Mine "B" Coal Company.

"Since the National Labor Relations Board has rendered its decision on the above date, I have, on numerous occasions, endeavored to arrange for a joint conference between yourself and I so that we could enter into collective bargaining with respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment and other conditions of employment for the employees of your mine, but, due to your arbitrary attitude, such conference has failed to materialize.

"I am reliably informed that the supervisory force at your mine are performing work for which there is a scale of wages provided and which work properly belongs to members of Local Union #54, P. M. of A. having jobs at Mine "B". Such action on the part of your company is in strict violation of the Labor Board's ruling, and, in my opinion, this action will not be condoned by the Labor Board or the higher courts to which we shall immediately appeal.

"In compliance with the order of the National Labor Relations Board, I am using this means to again insist that you meet me in conference for the purpose of collective bargaining for the employees of your mine.

"I am enclosing for your information a copy of that contract that is in effect between the Coal Producers Association of Illinois and the Progressive Miners of America and which could be used as a basis in our negotiations.

"I request that you advise me at an early date as to the time and place of conference.

"Anticipating an early reply, I am

"Sincerely yours,

"President
Progressive Miners of America"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

96562

INTERVIEW WITH
JOSEPH OZANIC
(continued)

January 21st, 1938

"Mr. Joe Ozanic, President,
Progressive Miners of America,
Gillespie, Ill.

"My Dear Mr. Ozanic:--

"I wish to acknowledge your letter of January 17th and
to thank you for the contract enclosed.

"When conditions warrant the opening of the mine, it
will be a pleasure to advise you so that your wishes as outlined in your
letter above mentioned can be carried out.

"Very truly yours,
The Mine "B" Coal Co.

Carl H. Elshoff (signed)
President."

"The originals of these documents with the exception of the
Elshoff letter dated January 21, 1938, should be in possession of ELSHOFF.
In case ELSHOFF is unable to produce these letters, Mr. OZANIC is competent
to introduce the copies in evidence which are being retained in the files
of this office.

Upon inquiry, Mr. OZANIC advised that he had never been involved
in the violence resulting from the conflict between the two labor
organizations from 1932 to 1937, and, consequently, had never been arrested
or indicted on charges of this nature. He did state, however, that in
1923 or 1924, when he was unable to obtain employment as a coal miner, he
had opened a tavern with the result that he was subsequently arrested for
violation of the National Prohibition Act and sentenced to three months
in jail in Federal Court. He was then living at Mount Olive, Illinois.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
WALTER BECKER

b7c Mr. Walter Becker who has been actively engaged as a key employee with the Citizens B and B Coal Company, Peoria, Illinois, for many years was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Peoria. Mr. Becker operated mine B prior to the time that it was taken over by Carl Elshoff in 1925. At that time the mine was operated by three men, one by the name of Buckley, the second George Bohwanner, present U. S. District Court Clerk for the Southern District of Illinois, and Elshoff. Elshoff bought out the interests of the other two partners two years later in 1927.

b7c Mr. Becker appeared to be entirely cooperative, answering all questions freely, and furnishing whatever books and records were desired for inspection during the course of the interview which took place on August 27 and 28, 1943. Special Agent [redacted] made an accounting analysis of the records furnished by Mr. Becker, and he will submit the results of his study.

b3 [redacted] *Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103*

Mr. Becker recalled definitely that Elshoff called him at the time the Progressives broke away from the United Mine Workers, saying that his men refused to work under the United Mine Workers, but that they would work as Progressives, and what should he do. Becker stated that he advised Elshoff to work it with Progressives, bricklayers, or anyone who would be willing to get the coal out. After that Elshoff reopened the mine with Progressives. During the period from 1932 to 1937 the mine continued with uninterrupted production under Progressive control. Mr. Becker could not recall any definite statements reflecting Elshoff's attitude toward the Progressives during this period. In general however, Mr. Becker stated that Elshoff gave the impression that he had a hard time getting along with the Progressives, that he could never win a case or grievance with them, and that he thought that he could get along better under the United Mine Workers.

b7c Mr. Becker stated that he was not acquainted with the merits of the strike of May 12, 1937. He and Mr. John H. Bontzes, Jr. made repeated attempts to determine the cause of the trouble and to get Elshoff to put the mine in operation. Elshoff was resentful of any inquiries, stating that as long as he lived up to the terms of his lease, it was none of the lessor's business. Elshoff paid his minimum royalty every month which was \$2000. He continued to pay this royalty up until 1939 just before the mine reopened, at which time he was able to get the royalty reduced to \$19,000 a year instead of \$24,000. He is presently paying \$19,000. An almost daily check was and is being made of the mine at present by [redacted] who resides at [redacted]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

96564

INTERVIEW WITH
WALTER BECKER
(continued)

Springfield, Illinois, who submitted written reports to the B and B Coal Company. Mr. Becker advised that when Elshoff was pressed as to why he could not deal with the Progressives that he would argue that he had a contract with the United Mine Workers and that the Progressives would not let him work the mine under this contract. Basing his opinion on the reports of [redacted] Mr. Becker was of the opinion that the mine had no maintenance crew. A careful scrutiny of these reports, however, indicated that some of the supervisory force did go down into the mine during the early months of 1938, until one of the force walked into a pocket of black damp, and was killed as a result. During the time that the mine was shut down, there were no serious fires reported. Since the mine has reopened, however, there has been one fire that Mr. Becker knew about. This happened about one and one half years ago, and that section had to be shut off.

The circumstances surrounding the sale of Mine A were discussed in detail with Mr. Becker. Mr. Becker stated that the transfer of the lease came as a complete surprise. They were not notified of the transfer until the date of its accomplishment, when Ryan and Elshoff called to ask their "blessing" on the deal. This transfer was not to the liking of the lessor, however, there was nothing that could be done about it as there was no provision in the lease which necessitated the consent of the lessor to the sale. The records disclosed that this sale was made on September 4, 1941, and that full operations were resumed on September 23, 1941 according to [redacted] report. Inquiry disclosed that Elshoff actually did try to drive an entry into Mine A. Particular inquiry was made into these facts inasmuch as it has been alleged that Elshoff threatened to mine Mine A coal through Mine B with United Miners in order to swing an election at Mine A in favor of the United Mine Workers. Mr. Becker produced maps which showed in detail the course which Elshoff was working in both mines to connect them. The report of this activity came to the B and B Coal Company through their man [redacted] early on January 13, 1942, when evidently it had been going on for some time. Previously it had been agreed that there should be no connections between the two mines without the consent of all three parties concerned, including the lessor. Mr. Becker and Mr. Bontzes immediately went to Springfield to look into this matter. Upon asking Elshoff as to why he was making this entry into Mine A, Elshoff stated that it was not of their business, that neither Becker, Bontzes nor [redacted] was going to tell him how to run his business and that he would make no explanation. Becker then stated that he would ask Oscar Falcoetti the reason and Elshoff promptly stated that neither would Falcoetti tell them anything about it. Mr. Becker then advised that they got tough and told Elshoff that he would have to seal the openings up, which was done. It should be noted that this work apparently started early after Mine A opened under Elshoff, and if it

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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b7c INTERVIEW WITH
WALTER BECKER
(continued)

should actually be proven that threats were made to close Mine A and work it through Mine B, Mr. Becker, Bontzes and [redacted] can testify that steps were actually taken toward this end. Mr. Becker stated that from a business point of view it would be unprofitable to do this, and that it would entail some expense of cleaning before actual operation. However, there seems to be no question but what it could have been done, even though according to Mr. Becker it would have been easier to have mined Mine B through Mine A than vice versa.

All the files of correspondence between the B and B Coal Company and Elshoff, also the reports of [redacted] for the pertinent period were reviewed by the writer. All the letters of Elshoff were brief and contained nothing pertinent to the case. Mr. Becker advised that Elshoff was never one to put matters in writing, and used the telephone wherever possible in answering correspondence to him. Dealings with Elshoff were so difficult at times that Mr. Becker and Mr. Bontzes began making written notes of their conferences with Elshoff for inclusion in the files. Very little of these notes, however, referred to Elshoff's labor matters in detail enough to warrant reporting. One particular letter was noted however. This was the copy of a letter written by Elshoff to Mrs. Florence Bontzes Newell at Seattle, Washington, dated July 26, 1939. This letter spoke of the hardship of operating Line B under the lease, and also spoke of the fact that he did not have to do it, indicating that he was financially independent. In the same letter he mentioned that he was out of debt and comfortably fixed, but that to operate the mine under the \$24,000 minimum would drive him into bankruptcy. One paragraph which referred to his labor problems is quoted as follows:

"Now as to the labor situation. You probably know that seven of the 34 men of the bombers and terrorists worked at this mine, and in order to deal with the Progressives, I had to deal with those men which was of course very distasteful and next to impossible. They are now in the penitentiary and this clears up the future in that respect. The only thing stopping me now is the lease."

Due to this letter and another written to Elshoff by Mrs. Newell, there is some indication that she sympathized with his situation more than her brother, Mr. Bontzes did. It was through her intercession and the support of Mr. Becker that Elshoff was able to get his royalty reduced to \$19,000 a year.

include in index
Mr. John H. Bontzes was interviewed by the writer on August 28, 1945. His comments on the Mine B situation was essentially the same as Mr. Becker's. It was his understanding from Elshoff

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH
WALTER BECKER
(continued)

During the period in question that Elshoff was dissatisfied with the Progressives and would like to make a change of unions. When pressed for specific dates and statements, however, Mr. Bontzes could not give any, stating there were numerous occasions. With reference to these two men, it should be noted that although they were very cooperative, they were apprehensive lest they be called to testify or produce their records in event of prosecution. It was their belief that to openly participate would work against their interests as lessor of the mines and also with the unions. Both insisted that if they were called they were willing to testify, but felt that they could be of much more assistance as a confidential source.

Mr. Bontzes stated that recently he had taken a trip to Washington D. C. with Elshoff for the purpose of seeing official of the Interior Department. During the visit, Elshoff arranged for him to meet John L. Lewis, and during the interview Lewis always referred to Elshoff as Carl. A short time ago Elshoff had also approached him concerning the Mine A properties. Elshoff wanted Bontzes to pay off the note which is presently held by Edmund Burke, Attorney for the United Mine Workers. He suggested that the note could be paid off by applying the royalty from Mine A to the note until such time as it was retired. Bontzes refused to do this and Elshoff stated that if there was a foreclosure, all the equipment would be taken out of the mine leaving Bontzes with nothing but a hole in the ground. Bontzes felt that Elshoff intended to bring this subject up at the time of the Lewis interview but such was not the case.

Bontzes stated also that since April, 1943, Elshoff has claimed that he is not obligated to pay the royalty; that this is the obligation of the Federal Government. He is presently in arrears with his royalties. He also claims that the Federal Government should subsidize his payroll. The following wire from Elshoff to the Interior Department is quoted from the files:

"Your wire stating no funds available acknowledged. Reference made to your wire June 7 to District managers re vacation pay and tools. This company cannot carry out these instructions because of lack of funds or collateral security to obtain them. Would like to discuss this and other matters with you on Tuesday or Wednesday in Washington. Advise what day satisfactory. Miners employed at this mine look to Government for this increase. If wages and high cost cameras can be subsidized why not high cost mines. Some provision must be made to avert failure to pay miners on June 27. June 12 last pay day taken care of. Signed Carl Elshoff"

Re: JOHN LEWIS, ET AL

96567

INTERVIEW WITH
WALTER BECKER
(continued)

Elshoff is presently the Federal Manager of these mines under the present emergency conditions.

It was noted in a casual study of tonnage production from the records, that Mine B produced much more coal under the United Mine Workers prior to 1932, than it did under the Progressives subsequent to that date. However, this rate of production did not increase after the mine opened in 1939. There is a letter on file from Elshoff dated December 6, 1940 advising Bontzes that he was not after heavy tonnage, but economical operation of the mine. This may be used to rebut any contention on Elshoff's part that Progressive operation resulted in reduced tonnage. A study of daily tonnage figures during April and May, 1937 did not disclose any evidence of a previous slow-down of production.

Other notes taken from the files which may be of collateral investigative interest are as follows:

1. Elshoff reported to be in Chicago on September 23, 1938 when NLRB ordered Elshoff to deal with the Progressives.
2. Falocetti reported working at the Jefferson Mine on August 24, 1938.
3. Elshoff did not make any cash payment for the lease on Mine B during the original or subsequent negotiations. It has no cash value. Taxes on both properties for coal rights are paid by the lessor. Lessor also pays taxes on buildings of Mine A but not Mine B.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

96568

Additional interviews are being had with miners who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America during the pertinent period. Efforts are also being made to locate and interview a considerable number of persons who either were hired at Mine "B" for the first time subsequent to November 1939, or who applied for employment at Mine "B" subsequent to November 1939 and were turned down. Numerous other investigative steps are also under way in connection with the various requests and suggestions which have been received from the Department from time to time.

In view of the complexity of this matter it appears that nothing would be gained by attempting to itemize the undeveloped leads at this time, and accordingly no undeveloped leads are being set forth in this report.

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TITLE: JOHN L. LEWIS; RAY EDMUNDSON
WALTER J. JAMES; CARL H.
ELSHOFF; OSCAR FALCETTI

CIVIL RIGHTS AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

S.A.: [REDACTED]

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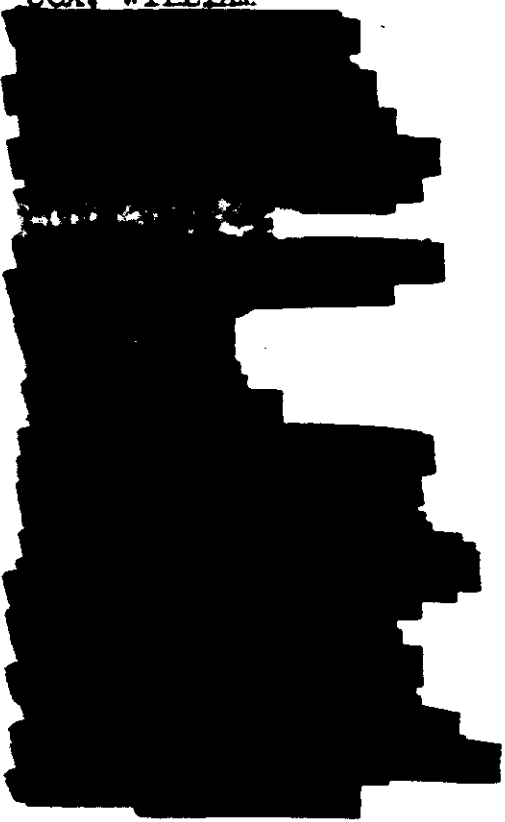
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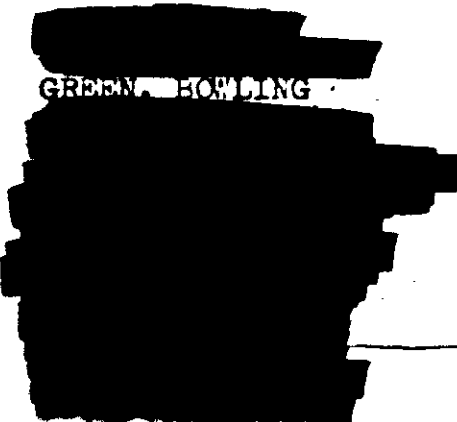
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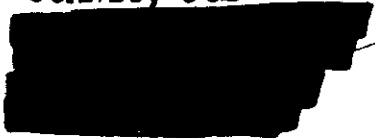
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