

THIS FILE IS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DECLASSIFICATION EFFORTS AND RESEARCH OF:

# THE BLACK VAULT

THE BLACK VAULT IS THE LARGEST ONLINE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT / GOVERNMENT RECORD CLEARING HOUSE IN THE WORLD. THE RESEARCH EFFORTS HERE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THOUSANDS OF DOCUMENTS THROUGHOUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND ALL CAN BE DOWNLOADED BY VISITING:

[HTTP://WWW.BLACKVAULT.COM](http://www.blackvault.com)

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO FORWARD THIS DOCUMENT TO YOUR FRIENDS, BUT PLEASE KEEP THIS IDENTIFYING IMAGE AT THE TOP OF THE .PDF SO OTHERS CAN DOWNLOAD MORE!

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I do not believe the NLRB election held on February 21, 1941 at Springfield was fair. Many men had already been signed up by UMW due to beatings and intimidations and through fear of losing their jobs. Therefore, the election was not a free expression of their desires.

"The only time I was personally approached to join the UMW was in the early part of January, 1941. I was in the mine and [REDACTED] a UMW organizer, came up to me and asked me if I wanted to wear a UMW button. I said that I did not. No threats were used on this occasion.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, was  
[REDACTED] jointly interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED]  
and [REDACTED] on September 3, 1943 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. He was cooperative and readily  
answered all questions. He executed the following written statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 3, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED]  
and presently live at [REDACTED] Illinois. I am now employed as  
[REDACTED]

"About [REDACTED] Illinois I first joined a mine  
union. This was the United Mine Workers of America that will  
be referred to hereinafter as the U.M.W. I worked at five mines  
under the U.M.W. before I started at Mine 'B' about [REDACTED] then  
I started working at mine 'B' under the U.M.W.

"I last worked at Mine 'B' about June 1, 1942. I worked  
at Mine 'B' from 1926 until May, 1937 when the mine went on  
strike. About a year after Mine 'B' went on strike I got a job  
with [REDACTED] and I had a job until about  
October, 1941. I returned to work at Mine 'B' in January, 1942  
and left there about June 1, 1942.

"I signed up with U.M.W. when I returned to Mine 'B' in  
January, 1942.

"I never held an office in any mine union.

"I was always a dinger at Mine 'B'. I attended several  
union meetings while I was employed at Mine 'B' both before the  
mine closed down and after I returned to work there in 1942. I  
attended both the U.M.W. and Progressive Mine Workers of America  
meetings the latter of which will be referred to hereinafter as  
the P.M.W.

"I took no active part in organizing the P.M.W. in September,  
1942.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I think relations between Elshoff and PMA from 1932 to 1937 were good, except that Elshoff would not do business with [REDACTED] of the PMA

during that period.

"I thought Elshoff would do business with anyone but [REDACTED] and I think Elshoff tried to discredit [REDACTED]. It appeared that Elshoff did not accept [REDACTED] as a representative of the Miners at Mine 'B' during this period.

"The PMA members appeared to be satisfied with their leaders in that union. I felt that I was being treated fairly by [REDACTED] and the PMA leaders.

"I never saw or heard of a UMW picket line at Mine 'B' from 1932 to 1937. As far as UMW circulation of literature is concerned I only remember that on the day of the first W.L.R.S. election in December, 1937 UMW men handed out literature to PMA members as they walked down the street to the arsenal where they were going to vote. I do remember that this literature was to try to get the PMA men to vote for the UMW.

"I did not recognize any of these UMW men who passed out the literature, but I think they were from another UMW local organization.

"I knew the following men who were working at Mine 'B' in 1937: Cudge Bumgarner, Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"I did not know of the activities of these men before the strike started in May, 1937, except I heard they approached PMA members to get them to join UMW. It is my recollection that this was not done at the mine, but at the miners' homes after working hours. However, on several occasions at the mine I saw some of these men call PMA members off to one side and talk to them. There were generally two or three UMW sympathizers together when they talked to the men. I was never approached by the UMW men on this matter.

"I know Oscar Falcetti well, but he never indicated he would rather see UMW in the mine rather than the PMA.

"George Taylor was an engineer at Mine 'B' at that time and he told me once, before the strike started, that he went to several parties at Elshoff's office at the mine after working hours. Elshoff gave the parties."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I did not know about the wage scale controversy or what action was taken by P.M. leaders with Elshoff or of any activities of the men named above in this

statement in regard to this controversy.

"I did not attend the P.M. meeting on May 11, 1943. I did not hear about the meeting until after that night. I knew the P.M. expelled some miners from the P.M. All of the miners knew of this by word of mouth.

"I remember that coal cars were shorted on May 12, 1937. I did not short my cars, because I did not get the word in my part of the mine to do this. I worked in Box [REDACTED]

"I helped picket Mine 'B' for about ten days. I signed no petitions of any kind.

"I did not go to the mine on any of the days it tried to open. I wanted to keep away from any possible trouble.

"Taking into consideration the leadership of both unions I would have rather, both then and now, be a member of the P.M.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [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 jointly interviewed at his residence on September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had little information of his own knowledge concerning activities at Mine B. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 7, 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 [REDACTED]. The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America in [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] Mine, [REDACTED] Illinois. I shall refer to this union hereinafter as the UMW.

"From [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] I worked in different mines in the Springfield area under the UMW. I started working at Mine B in September, [REDACTED] and worked there continuously until it closed on May 12, 1937. I was on the PMA picket line a few days in 1937 and did not go back to work when it attempted to re-open prior to November, 1939. I went back to work at Mine B in November 1939 as a member of the PMA, which I will refer to as the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and I worked there until February 6, 1941 when I quit. I have remained a member of the PMA from 1932 to the present time.

"The only office I ever held in a mine union was [REDACTED]. I was also [REDACTED].

"I took no active part in the formation of PMA. I attended most of the union meetings when I was a member of UMW and the same applies when I was a member of PMA.

"I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932 as I was tired of the UMW leadership and I was not in favor of the reduction in the wage scale.

"Prior to 1932, Elshoff seemed to get along well with the UMW. I do not think Elshoff was pleased with the PMA from the start in 1932, and as time went on he appeared to favor the UMW more strongly. I did not deal with Elshoff personally and have no specific facts to support this opinion.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d  
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

The PMA rank and file were satisfied with the PMA officials. This was a good union and to my knowledge, no fraud existed on the part of the officials of PMA.

"In May, 1937 several men in the mine were aggitating for UMW at Mine B. There were four or five of these men but I don't recall their names. None of them ever contacted me. I felt that these men should be expelled from the union and feel that the rank and file miners felt the same way. I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937. I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show that I was a member of PMA. I do not recall signing any other petition in 1937.

"On May 12, 1937 I worked the whole day in Box [REDACTED] I never knew that short cars were loaded until after work that evening. I do not recall why they were shorted.

"I was not familiar with the wage scale controversy in 1937 between Elshoff and the PMA and had no understanding of it.

"I voted in the NLRB election of December 15, 1937. I think this was a fair election and presented a true picture of the feelings of the miners in Mine B at that time.

"After I went back to work when this mine re-opened in November, 1939, I was not contacted by any UMW organizers, but in 1940, Cotton Ananias approached me in the mine and asked me to join the UMW. I declined. He did not use any threats. Also in 1940, two UMW members came to my home and asked me to join the UMW. One of these men was [REDACTED] I declined. No threats were made to me.

"I understand a member of the UMW, an organizer, spent a good deal of time at Elshoff's office and that he was friendly with him. This was unusual for men, not on union committees to do and I felt Elshoff preferred the UMW. I am unable to state from my own knowledge actual incidents showing the relations between Elshoff and the UMW or the UMW organizers.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence in [REDACTED] Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at which time he stated that inasmuch as he was a new man at the mine his information relative to instant case was rather limited. [REDACTED] does not speak good English and has difficulty comprehending questions put to him relative to the facts of instant case. It is not believed that he would make a good witness to testify in instant case.

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

"Sept 4, 1943

[REDACTED] Ill.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED] I live at [REDACTED] Ill. I started coal mining in [REDACTED] and joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] I never held any office in any union. I was in Illinois when the PMA was formed in 1932 and I joined the PMA at that time. I never had any complaints to make about PMA and I felt it was a good union. I didn't have anything to do with the forming of the PMA. I started work at Mine B in 1936 and everyone seemed to be satisfied with PMA. I am still working at Mine B.

"I had never been asked to join the U.M.W. up to the time of the strike. I remember that there was some argument about the new contract which was to be signed by the company in the spring of 1937. Our board said a contract was to be signed, making it retroactive, but the company said they didn't owe us any back pay. A lot of the men were arguing about the new contract, but I don't know any of the details of the contract.

"I was a new man at the mine and didn't know all of the men, and since I lived in [REDACTED] I didn't go to many of the meetings. I heard that 12 men were kicked out of the PMA union, because they thought they were working for united. I don't know the names of any of those men though.

"I recall that on the day of the strike I was working in box [REDACTED] as a digger. I went to work that day as usual and I remember that our union men didn't want the 12 men to work, but the company said they were supposed to go to work. We all went to work and I heard that some of the 12 men also went to work. When I heard that the rest of the men were sending up short loads, I also sent up some short loads. We were called out of the mine about one half an hour before quitting time. We were sending up short loads



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

in protest against the men working that we didn't want to work. When I got on top I heard that the mine was on strike and we came on home. Nobody had ever threatened me or tried to get me to join United before the strike.

"Some time after the strike I signed some kind of a petition for Progressive. I don't know whether I signed it at my house or when I was at the Union hall. I remember that they tried to open the mine in Sept. of 1937, but I didn't go out to the mine until a few days later when I started on the picket line.

"I stayed on the picket line off and on until about the First of December 1937. I was home the day the Marshal came with the injunction. While I was on the picket line I came home quite often to rest and clean up. Nobody ever told me that I couldn't come home.

"I voted in the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937. We met at the union hall and then walked to the Armory in small groups. Everything was quiet and there were no fights that I know of. I didn't go near the mine again until the mine opened in Nov. of 1939.

"I went to work in my old spot as soon as the mine was opened. I was still a member of progressive and stayed a member until about June of 1940. I joined the U.M.W. the same month. I remember that sometime before I joined the U.M.W., [REDACTED] came to my house with another man and he said he wanted me to join United. He didn't threaten me and acted nice while he was at the house. When I saw the rest of the men were all joining United I decided to sign up with United. I signed up because I wanted to be sure I'd hold my job & I wanted to be with the majority. I was never threatened or beaten up by anyone.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield,

field, Illinois. He appeared willing to answer the questions propounded to him and furnished the following signed statement. He stated that he would willingly testify to the facts set forth in this statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 5, 1943

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

[REDACTED]

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the U.M.W. I joined this union at the [REDACTED] mine, Springfield, Illinois about [REDACTED]

"I worked [REDACTED] all of which are in the vicinity of Springfield, Illinois. At all of the above mentioned mines I worked as a member of the U.M.W. I started working at Mine B in [REDACTED] and at that time also worked under a U.M.W. contract.

"The only union office I have ever held was at Mine B when I was elected by the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the P.M.A., [REDACTED] when that mine was working under a P.M.A. contract.

"I retained this position until about [REDACTED]

"I think relations between Elshoff and U.M.W. prior to 1932 were good. I did not take an active part in the organization of Local #54 of the P.M.A. in September, 1932.

"In September, 1932 I joined the P.M.A. and left the U.M.W. at Mine B because U.M.W. tried to force us to accept a lower wage scale. I knew of no dissatisfaction in the rank and file of U.M.W. at Mine B. prior to 1932. I voluntarily joined the P.M.A. for the above mentioned reason.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "The relations between Elshoff and Local #54 of FMA between 1932 and 1937 were good as far as I remember.  
(continued)

"The FMA rank and file were satisfied with their leaders and even after losing a years work after the strike started in May, 1937 I believe the rank and file miners were still satisfied with FMA.

"I know the following men who were all working at Mine B prior to the closing down of that mine in May, 1937: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, Bill Sirtout, George Jacaway, Tony Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale.

"I know of no other miners who could be put in the same class with the above men who were UMW organizers or sympathizers. I heard from some miners in 1936 or 1937 that James Hale was passing out UMW cards at the mine.

[REDACTED]  
I recall that FRANK AUSTIN and possibly PETE CARTER were expelled from FMA for agitating for UMW.

[REDACTED] I remember that evidence was presented indicating that CARTER and AUSTIN were guilty of these activities.

"[REDACTED] other UMW sympathizers or agitators were expelled from FMA. I do not remember the FMA meeting held on May 11, 1937, however, I may have been at this meeting.

"I do not remember seeing any coal cars shorted at the time of the strike. I later heard the cars were being shorted but I did not hear the reason for this action.  
[REDACTED]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ellshoff (continued) and he told me he would not accept this check-off sheet, indicating he would not recognize the PMA. This happened sometime between May 22nd and June 30, 1937.

"I was not acquainted with the wage scale controversy.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937. The petition was placed on a table out near the mine and anyone who wanted to sign walked up to the table and signed voluntarily.

"I signed another PMA petition, as I recall, just before the mine attempted to re-open in September, 1937. I signed this petition at the PMA headquarters at 6th and Washington streets, Springfield, Ill. It was just like the petition of May 26, 1937 and for the same purpose, that is to show the mine operators that PMA had a majority. I recall that this petition was also taken to some of the miner's homes, who were working at other jobs at this time and who did not have an opportunity to go to the PMA office in Springfield. I do not remember hearing anyone say they wanted to go back to work at this time under the conditions as they existed at that time.

"I do not remember exactly, but it is my opinion that a district board member of PMA sponsored this petition. Regarding this petition a number of miners came to me and asked me about this petition and I told them that it was meant to determine if the miners still wanted to work under the PMA and also to determine if PMA still had a majority. I remember that from 300 to 400 miners signed this petition.

"I helped picket mine B for about three weeks after the strike started."

"I believe notice of the planned opening of the mine on September 27, 1937 was published in the newspapers. I went out to the mine that morning. On this morning, September 27, 1937, I was standing next to [REDACTED] and OSCAR FALCETTI walked up to the group where I was standing and I heard him say he wanted fifty men to go to work and [REDACTED] said he could get two hundred and fifty men if FALCETTI wanted them. FALCETTI said he was not recognizing the PMA, but that he was only recognizing the U.M.W. CHARLES BOHLANNON, who was standing in this group, said he was representing U.M.W. and that he could furnish the men to work. Only about a dozen men did go to work. At this time the PMA miners left and went home.

"I do not remember the details of the second and third attempts to open Mine B.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "The mine re-opened on November 6, 1939 and I worked  
[REDACTED] thereafter.  
(continued)

[REDACTED] I was not approached to join  
UMW and I heard of no threats or violence. All of the miners had not returned  
to work by this time.

"I prefer the P.M.A. I would not want to work under the UMW leadership."

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d  
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed by  
[REDACTED] Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] on September 4, 1943 at his residence,  
[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. He willingly answered the questions pro-  
pounded to him, and indicated that he would be willing to testify to the  
facts as set forth in the following signed statement furnished by him:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 4, 1943

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

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

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America,  
referred to hereinafter as the UMW, a [REDACTED] Illinois in [REDACTED]  
At this time, I was working in the Peabody Mine #6, near Springfield,  
Illinois.

"I have held the following offices in mine unions: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as a member of PMA I worked there until  
the mine closed on May 12, 1937. After that date, I never went back or  
attempted to go back to work there although I heard the mine was trying  
to re-open. I felt there would be trouble there, so I did not return to  
work there, even to get my tools.

"Prior to September, 1932, I was working at Peabody Mine #57, at  
Springfield, Illinois. This mine shut down when the UMW ballot boxes were  
stolen. I am referring to the ballots submitted in connection with the  
Wage Scale reduction vote. I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932  
when the miners at Peabody Mine #57 voted in favor of PMA at that local.  
I felt that the PMA was a good union and that PMA officials of PMA well  
represented the miners in that union.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"In 1933 I started working in Mine B as a digger. I believe in relations between Elshoff and PMA at that mine were satisfactory until about April, 1937.

Elshoff never made any remarks to my knowledge indicating which union, if any he favored. About April, 1937, the following men working at Mine B were reported to be contacting the men at their homes and at the mine trying to get them to join the UMW. They did not contact me; Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, Frank Austin, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"It was common knowledge in the mine that these men were UMW sympathizers or organizers and were active as such in Mine B which was a closed shop, PMA mine. Elshoff and Falcetti never made any attempt to stop these activities to my knowledge. I never saw these men distribute literature or UMW application cards. These men were very friendly with Elshoff and Falcetti and I saw them in Elshoff's office at the mine quite often before I went down in the mine. This was before the mine closed down in May 1937. At about this time, these men appeared to be more friendly with Elshoff than the other miners. It is not the normal thing to see working miners in Elshoff's office like this.

"I attended about one-half of the union meetings of both the UMW and the PMA, when I was a miner at Mine B. I do not recall that I attended the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 when some of the UMW sympathizers were expelled but I heard about it the next day at the mine by word of mouth. I heard Elshoff would not discharge these men, and they were still arguing about it on top when I went down into the mine. I heard some coal cars were being shorted, but I don't know why. I did not short mine as I had little coal at that time.

"I was not familiar with the details of the wage scale agreement. The PMA Report indicated that the miners were to get some back pay, but I did not know the details or how much the pay was to be. I felt that the UMW sympathizers should have been expelled and believe the other PMA members felt the same way. After the mine closed in May, 1937, I helped picket the mine for several weeks, but I never attempted to go back to work when the mine attempted to open.

"I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 to show that I was a member of PMA. I do not recall signing any other petition. As far as I know, there was no fraud in the NLRB election on December 15, 1937. I do not remember how I got notice of the election, but I went to the Arsenal and voted with the others and no one tried to influence me in any way. Prior to the time I left Mine B, no one tried to influence me to join UMW. I did not overhear any union organizers talking to other people on this subject and I did not observe any fights over this matter. I had no additional information referring to UMW organizers or concerning the wage scale problem.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c

b2D

INTERVIEW [REDACTED]

(continued)

me to make this statement."

"I have carefully read and fully understand the three and one-half pages of this statement and it contains the truth to the best of my knowledge. No threats or promises have been made to induce

/s/ [REDACTED]"

"Witnesses:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c  
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed on September 2, 1943 at the [REDACTED] Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is a good knowledge of English, but would not make a good Government witness as he is very much in favor of U.M.W.

[REDACTED] provided the following statement:

[REDACTED] Ill.,  
September 2, 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. No force, threats or promises have been made in attaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

"I reside at [REDACTED] Ill. and I am employed at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I was employed at Mine "B" in [REDACTED] and stopped working at Mine "B" in March 1943. I stopped working at Mine "B" because the air in the mine was bad.

"I started working in coal mines in [REDACTED] which time I became a member of U.M.W. In 1932 I changed from U.M.W. to PMA because U.M.W. lowered the wage scale.

"Between [REDACTED] and 1932 the management of Mine "B" were on good relations with U.M.W.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 the management of Mine "B" did not attempt to discredit PMA and the management did not seem to have a hostile attitude in settling grievances.

"I had a good opinion of PMA until the first part of 1937. In 1937 PMA did not seem to me to be a democratic union as the officials of PMA controled the union and members did not have a voice in the operation of the union. I considered some of the special assessments to be too much although I do not know anything about the financial arrangements of the union.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases.

"Between 1932 and May 12, 1937 U.M.W. did not set up a picket line at Mine "B" nor did U.M.W. distribute any literature at Mine "B". No one attempted to change me from PMA to U.M.W. I heard that PMA expelled Joe

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon and James Hale. I knew all of the above named men but they did not tell me they were expelled from P.M.A. I heard some of the officials of P.M.A. make the statement that the above named men were expelled because they were attempting to organize UMW at Mine "B" although I do not know whether the statement made by P.M.A. officials was true or not.

"I did not see any UMW officials with the management of Mine "B" prior to May 12, 1937.

"In the Spring of 1937 the P.M.A. contract with Mine "B" expired and a temporary agreement was made with Mine "B" so that any increase in the wage scale would have been retroactive to the date the contract expired. The members of P.M.A. thought they would get an increase in the wage scale. I know of no trouble at Mine "B" during pay day in April. In the spring of 1937 the management of Mine "B" seemed to want a contract with P.M.A. to increase the wage scale, but for some unknown reason P.M.A. officials would not sign a contract. The officials of P.M.A. made statements that the wage scale would be increased with retroactive pay.

"About May 12, 1937 I heard P.M.A. was to have a meeting with the management of Mine "B" about the wage scale. Instructions were given that day by [REDACTED] to load coal cars short and the management would increase the wage scale. There was no sentiment on May 12, 1937 to strike at Mine "B". About 2:00 P.M., May 12, 1937, Dan McGill called a strike at Mine "B". That afternoon [REDACTED] made a speech at Mine "B" at which time they stated they would strike until the wage scale was increased.

"In the summer of 1937 on two occasions representatives brought petitions to my home to be signed, naming P.M.A. as my bargaining agent at Mine "B". I voluntarily signed these petitions.

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

"I heard that a new UMW local in the summer of 1937 \_\_\_\_\_.

"In Sept. 1937 I was notified by a representative of P.M.A. that Mine "B" was to open. On the day Mine "B" was to have opened I went to Mine "B" to work, but P.M.A. refused to work as members of UMW were allowed to go into the mine. I acted as a picket from time to time until an injunction was obtained to prevent picketing. I was pleased an injunction was obtained as I did not want to picket. The only reason I picketed was because I thought I would have been expelled from P.M.A. if I did not picket. No one told me I had to picket nor did anyone threaten me if I did not. I think P.M.A. members from Mines other than Mine "B" were brought to Mine "B" to picket.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

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

(continued)

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

"In Nov. 1939 I received notice to report for work at Mine "B". I immediately returned to work as an entry driver. I did not see the results of any large fires or cave-ins. In the summer of 1940 I changed from PMA to UMW as I did not think PMA could do as much for me as UMW. No one asked me to join UMW and I was not threatened if I did not join UMW.

"I voted in the NLRB election in Feb. 1941 for UMW. I consider this election a fair election.

"I was a friend of [REDACTED]  
At no time did [REDACTED] say anything to me about joining UMW.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b2D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence in [REDACTED] Illinois, on September 2, 1943, by Special

Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] Illinois and is presently unemployed. He stopped working at Mine "B" July 15, 1943.

Because of these two factors he would make a poor witness. He is unable to recall many of the happenings during the pertinent period. He advised that he has never been arrested. The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 2, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and presently reside in [REDACTED]

"Before 1932 I was working in Mine "B" in Springfield and was a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union. In about 1932 almost our whole local went over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and I joined PMA at this time. I joined to keep my job, but no force of any kind was used to make me change. From this time until sometime in May 1937, I worked in Mine "B" and was a PMA, and during these five years I thought the PMA was an honest union and the officials seemed honest to me. I cannot remember whether during this time the UMW tried to organize in Mine "B" or whether company favored either UMW or PMA.

"During the forming of the PMA I took no part and I have never held an office of any kind in any union.

"During this time between 1932 and 1937 I don't remember anything about any spies. I do not remember anything about any men from PMA being expelled; I don't believe I attended a PMA meeting the night before we went out on strike. All I remember is on one day, which may be May 12, 1937, at least it was in May 1937, I was called out of the mine by one of the PMA men who said we were out and we left the mine about two o'clock in the afternoon. I never knew why we went out and I came right home. I do not remember hearing any of the PMA men, or anyone else, tell us why we were out.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

"I do not remember knowing anything about wage scale trouble at that time. I went to very few PMA meetings and because I am hard of hearing, I listened to very

little that went on.

"From that time on I do not remember ever being asked to come back to work at Mine 'B' until I got a letter in Nov. of 1939. I remember going back in Sept. 1937, when PMA had a picket line at Mine 'B' for almost two months, and I was in the line about half of the time, only,

"I do not remember ever signing any petitions at all for either the PMA or the UMW.

"I remember voting in an election in about Dec. of 1937 when the PMA won, and no one threatened or forced me in any way - and I believe it was a fair election. I also remember voting in an election about a year or so after the Mine 'B' opened in 1939 at which time UMW won. No one forced or threatened me in any way in that election, and I think it was a fair election.

"In about [REDACTED] I wanted my youngest boy, [REDACTED] to work in Mine 'B' and Oscar Filcetti said he would give him one but [REDACTED] had to belong to a union before he could get the job and the PMA would not let him in, so he joined UMW and got in the mine. Just about that time I noticed most of the men were changing to UMW so I changed to UMW, too because I was afraid I would be out of a job if I didn't. But no one forced or threatened me in any way to join UMW and I never saw anyone try to organize for UMW at Mine 'B'. I don't remember hearing of or seeing anyone get beat up during that time.

"When I went back to work in 1939 I do not remember having seen the results of any big fires and I do not know whether or not there had been any. I was told there had been some cave ins and I lost my tools in one of them, but I never did see any of them.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:-

/s/ [REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

67c 620

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

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

It was noted that [REDACTED] is rather hard of hearing and had difficulty in understanding some of the questions and he had to be assisted [REDACTED] in answering. It is felt that he would make a very poor witness if called [REDACTED].

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

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

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

"I was born [REDACTED] & came to U. S. in [REDACTED] & became a citizen about [REDACTED] years ago. I first joined U.M.W. second year I came to U.S. & it was in [REDACTED] & I never have been a union officer. I first started at Mine B about [REDACTED] years ago and worked till Mine B closed in Spring of 1937 & I never worked since. I don't know what kind of a union it was at Mine B before P.M.A. came in as one was same as other. When P.M.A. came in at Mine B I was for them but did not help organize. As far as I know things went alright between Bishoff & P.M.A. before mine closed but later on Bishoff would not fire 4 men who were P.M.A. men but were for U.M.W. P.M.A. wanted to have these men fired but he wuldn't & that was the reason why there was a strike. There was no trouble about wages then and men were satisfied then about contract and we were told we would get back pay. We P.M.A. men liked the P.M.A. union & never suspected officials of doing anything wrong & there were not any special or large assessments. I did not attend many meetings. Both P.M.A. officials and men ran the union together. I don't know if those P.M.A. men were guilty or framed in regard to that bombing local U.M.W. men did not picket Mine B before it closed & I don't recall of getting or seeing any paper. But before they voted at one time I got thru the mail from U.M.W. some literature & others did too. No one ever asked me to join U.M.W. First there was 4 men for U.M.W. & then they went to six. I believe some were Andy Schrolevious, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Dominic Pasquale, Chas. Bohannon, he was the leader of them, Geo. & Emory Jacaway. They never bothered me at all. I

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

[REDACTED] never heard of any parties for Elshoff or U.M.W. I never heard P.M.A. officials say a thing about the wages but heard of it around the mine & the men never complained of the wages. I went to a meeting the night before the mine closed and they decided that they did not want to work with those men who were for U.M.W. I believe a notice was put up out at Mine B about that meeting. At the meeting I did not see any of the men. I worked the day of the strike & I did not know there was going to be a strike until later on. There was no talk among the men about a strike or about wages but there was talk about not working with those men who were for U.M.W. When mine B closed no one told me to load any cars short & don't know if they were loaded short. I never went back to Mine B after it closed & I did not go to the sit down strike at all. When the Mine B reopened I received a letter from Elshoff but I did not go back to work as

[REDACTED] I voted at the N.L.R.B. election at the Armory in Springfield, Ill. and it was by secret ballot & it was a good & straight election. We had a meeting before we went down & voted & [REDACTED] did not tell us how to vote & [REDACTED] even said if we wanted to vote for U.M.W. we should. I voted for P.M.A. then. Near the Armory some man gave me some paper but I throw it away. No one ever came to me and asked about joining over to U.M.W. Edmanison sent a letter before the election to me saying I should vote for U.M.W. but there were no threats in it.

[REDACTED] read this four (4) page statement to me and it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge. and I have signed this of my own free will."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 7, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] does not speak English well and understands only simple questions. [REDACTED] acted as an interpreter at some points in the interview. [REDACTED] has only a fair memory. He expressed his willingness to testify in court. He claimed to have no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 4, 1943

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

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

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

"I joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED]. In 1936 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America when I started to work at Mine B. I have never held an office in any union.

"On the day the big strike started in 1937 I went out to the mine and somebody said there was no work so I came home. I went to the union meetings once in a while, but I don't remember going to a meeting the night before the strike. The miners struck at this time to protect themselves and to keep their jobs.

"After the mine reopened in 1939 an Italian fellow and a Polish fellow came to my house. They wanted me to join the U.M.W. and they told me that if I did not join the U.M.W. I could not work at Mine B.

"As I recall I joined the U.M.W. again just before the election of 1941. One day when I was working in the mine, a fellow known as [REDACTED] came to my room. This was about two or three days after I joined the U.M.W. [REDACTED] grabbed me by the throat, cursed me and said that he knew that I would not vote for U.M.W. even though I had signed up with U.M.W. When I signed up with U.M.W. [REDACTED] and a fellow known as [REDACTED] told me that I better sign up, or I would be on a vacation the next day. No one else talked to me about U.M.W.



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I was satisfied with the P.M.A. when I was working in Mine B, and I did not want to join U.M.W. after the mine reopened. When I first joined the U.M.W. it was a good union, but now the U.M.W. does not look out for the members, nor does it protect them. The P.M.A. always looked out for their members. The P.M.A. always did the best it could for the miners.

"I never saw anyone beat up at Mine B, and I never saw any acts of favoritism by the management for the U.M.W.

"When [REDACTED] grabbed me by the throat, I told him that I would tell Falcetti, the super. He told me that I better not.

"Previous to my joining the U.M.W. after 1939, my room was always dirty and the company did not clean it up as it should have done. After I did join the U.M.W. the company always cleaned up my room.

"In the election in 1937 I voted for the P.M.A. union because I thought it was the best union. In 1941 I voted for the P.M.A. union because I still thought it was the best union, even though I was at that time a member of the U.M.W.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at her home at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

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

"I, [REDACTED], give the following information to Special Agents [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I.

[REDACTED] he can't carry on a conversation and doesn't understand questions. His doctor is [REDACTED] of Springfield, Ill. and I don't believe it is advisable to talk to him now."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, F.B.I. (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 7, 1943"

Agents noted that [REDACTED] was sitting in a chair and he had a cane and a wheelchair near him. He was asked several questions by Agents, with the permission of [REDACTED] and he did not appear to thoroughly understand them and no further attempt was made to interrogate him.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It is noted that his residence is at Springfield, Illinois. Being of [REDACTED] birth he does not express himself well in English. He is friendly and cooperative and it is felt, might be used to testify to those matters set forth in the following statement if deemed necessary.

The following statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Illinois  
September 6, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of whom have identified themselves to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement. I was born [REDACTED]. I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen about [REDACTED]. I now reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

"I started working in the mines in [REDACTED] and at that time joined the United Mine Workers. I have never held any office in a union. I joined Progressive in 1932 when the rest of the miners joined, but I had nothing to do with the formation of P.M.A. I started working at Mine B in 1935 and at that time the union was getting along all right with the company. The men were well pleased with P.M.A., all grievances were settled right away.

"In the spring of 1937 a new contract was to be signed but the company didn't want Progressive anymore. There was also about fourteen men at the mine who were working for U.M.W. I don't remember their names very well, but I knew their faces. They never bothered me much, but I knew what they were doing, they were trying to get P.M.A. men to join United. However, the men were all satisfied with P.M.A. I know that some of these men were expelled from P.M.A. but I didn't know they were kicked out until after the strike.

[REDACTED]

"I remember after the strike I signed a petition for Progressive. I also voted in the NLRB election, someone came and got me in a car and took me to the Armory, [REDACTED] The

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

The election was quiet and there was no trouble.  
I wasn't on any picket line.

(continued)

"When the mine opened up I got a letter telling me to come to work. I think this letter was from the Federal Government. After I had been working a while three men came to my house and told me I had to join United. These men were [redacted] [redacted] told me I had better sign or it would be too bad for me, I would lose my job. As I remember this was around May or June of 1940. I signed up with them at that time because it was hard to get a job and I didn't want to lose the one I had at Mine B. I didn't want to join United then, I would rather have stayed with Progressive, but I was afraid not to join U.M.W.

"I quit Mine B about a month ago and am now working at #5, Panther Creek. I now belong to P.M.A.

"I do not know what caused the strike in 1937, other than trouble in the unions, and I have no information as to what caused it.

"This statement was read to me by Agent [redacted] and it is true and correct to the best of my memory.

Witnessed:

(Signed) [redacted]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 2, 1943. [REDACTED] stated that he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] would not make a good witness as he does not speak or understand English very well.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statement:

[REDACTED], Ill.  
September 2, 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] and emigrated to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a naturalized citizen of the U. S. in [REDACTED]. I was employed at Mine "B" in about 1936 and stopped working at Mine "B" in Feb. 1941. I am now employed at [REDACTED] Ill. and have been employed at this mine since Feb. 1941.

"I became a coal miner in [REDACTED] at which time I became a member of UMW. I was then employed in a coal mine in Riverton, Ill. I remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I became a member of PMA, because UMW reduced the wage scale. I took no active part in the formation of PMA.

"I have never been an officer of any union.

"While I was employed at Mine "B" before the strike in May 1937, the management at Mine "B" seemed to have been on good relations with PMA. At no time did the management of Mine "B" attempt to persuade me to change from PMA to UMW.

"I thought PMA was an honest union and one which would do most good for me. PMA did not force me to pay any unusual special assessments. I took no interest in union activities.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" prior to May 12, 1937, I did not see a UMW picket line at Mine "B" nor did I see any UMW literature being distributed at Mine "B". Prior to the strike on May 12, 1937 no one attempted to get me to change from UMW to PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

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

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

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 someone told me that five miners who were members of PMA were expelled because of their activities for U.M.W.; that Elshoff would not discharge the men. No mention was made of an intent to strike that day. I heard that the men expelled were Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Tony Flotch, Charles Bohannon and Frank Austin. I worked all day May 12, 1937 and upon leaving the mine I was told that the mine was on strike as Elshoff would not discharge the five men expelled from PMA. I did not load any coal cars short that day nor did I see any coal cars loaded short that day.

"I do not remember if I signed a PMA petition in the Summer of 1937 or not. I know I did not sign a UMW petition.

"I did not know of the formation of a new UMW union in the Summer of 1937.

"In Sept. 1937 someone told me Mine "B" was to open, therefore, I went to work on the day the mine was to have opened. Only UMW members went into the mine so PMA members set up a picket line. I acted as a picket a few days, but did not stay at the mine as a picket but a few days as I had work to do at home. No one threatened me if I did not act as a picket. I do not know why PMA stopped picketing Mine "B".

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

"I voted in the NLRB election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. I thought this election was fair and I voted at my own free will.

"In the last part of 1939 I received a letter from Mine "B" setting forth Mine "B" was to open. I went to work a few days later. Several months after I returned to work [redacted] and [redacted] came to my room at Mine "B" and asked me to join U.M.W. They did not threaten me. A short time later they returned to my room and asked me to join UMW. I informed them I did not want to join UMW and they told me they did not need me as there were plenty of UMW members at Mine B. During 1940 I saw several fights. In Feb. 1941 someone cut my clothes up when I was not present. In Feb. 1941 I saw [redacted] holding the door of a small building while someone was beating a man named [redacted] inside the building. On the same morning

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

I saw some UMW members beating [REDACTED] a man named [REDACTED] I quit work that day as I was afraid I would be beaten. Sometime in the last part of 1940 [REDACTED] came into the wash house at Mine "B" and tried to pick a fight with [REDACTED] at which time [REDACTED] stated that all the persons in the wash house had to sign up with UMW by Dec. 16th or they would loose their job.

"I always went in and out Mine B in 1940 and 1941 with three or four PMA members to keep from being beat by UMW.

"When I returned to Mine "B" in the last part of 1939 I did not notice the results of a fire or any large cave-ins.

"After I returned to Mine "B" in 1939 the management did not seem to be in favor of either PMA or UMW, but the mine did not take the PMA dues from my pay.

"On Feb. 21, 1941 I voted at the NLRB election. [REDACTED] a UMW man and the Mine "B" bookkeeper told me I could not vote as I quit Mine "B", but the government man at the poles allowed me to vote even though [REDACTED] and the bookkeeper objected. So far as I know this election was fair.

"I am now a member of PMA working at the [REDACTED] I did not want to become a member of UMW as I did not want to be forced to change from PMA to UMW.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7d

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

Agents at about 7:00 p.m. went to the residence of [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, and identified themselves and explained to him the purpose of their mission. He advised that he did not know anything about the matter. He was then asked if he would wish to answer some questions and he was told that if he did not know the answers he should so advise. [REDACTED] said voluntarily that he would answer the questions. He also said he never had been arrested.

[REDACTED] answered a portion of the questions as will be reflected in the statement, and when questioned whether or not he had gone out to Mine "B" at any time while the men of the PMA were there on a sit down strike, he said he did not know anything about the strike, and that he should not have talked at all in the first place. He was then asked if he had been contacted by anyone in regard to this investigation, and he denied being contacted. He was then told that he need not answer any further questions and that Agents would depart.

Before leaving he was requested to read over the statement which he had furnished up to that time. He did so, and when he came to the part of the statement where he said that he should not have talked he laughed and said he did not think Agents would write that part down. He was told that Agents wrote down just what he had said and he was asked if what was written down was not all true just as he had said it. He told agents it was written down just like he had said and that it was true. After finishing reading the statement he again told Agents it was just what he had said and that it was all true. He was asked if he would tell Agents who had contacted him and told him not to talk about this investigation. This he refused to do; however, at this time he did not deny that he had been contacted.

The following unsigned statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

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

"I, [REDACTED] give this free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] who have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the F.B.I. to me. No force or threats have been used to give this statement.

"I was born [REDACTED] I am at Mine B as a Company man & have been there since Sept. 1936. I first joined U.M.W. when I



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c  
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

was 15 at Illinois & I never have been an officer. I had been at Jefferson Mine before going to Mine B & had been with P.M.A. there. Up till Mine B closed I never heard of any trouble between P.M.A. & ELSHOFF. No one tried to make me turn over to U.M.W. before Mine B closed & I never heard of anyone wanting to get rid of P.M.A. there at Mine B before it closed in 1937. As far as I know P.M.A. men got along with P.M.A. officials. I went very seldom to P.M.A. meetings. I don't know if P.M.A. men or officials ran the union then. In regard to P.M.A. men sent to jail all I know is what I saw in the papers & I don't know if they were guilty or not. I don't know a thing about money affairs of P.M.A. & I don't think they took out any more than any other union did. I don't know if P.M.A. officials made reports of the money & I don't know if they stole any or not. Before Mine B closed I never saw U.M.W. picket Mine B & I never saw U.M.W. give out literature & no one asked me to join over to U.M.W. I never heard of any parties between ELSHOFF & U.M.W. It makes no difference to me which union I belonged to just as long as I got the union scale & that is all I am interested in. I don't recall of P.M.A. working without a contract at Mine B before it closed in 1937 & I never heard or knew of anyone talking or complaining about the wages or money paid them. I don't remember if I went to a meeting the night before Mine B closed or not as I very seldom went to any meetings & I also am hard of hearing. I was not at Mine B when it closed in 1937 as I was sick for a few days before but I heard about it being closed from other men. I never heard or know of any men being expelled from P.M.A. During summer of 1937 I never signed any petitions for P.M.A. or U.M.W. & just stayed home. I never heard of any men from Mine B going to work at the Jefferson Mine. I never heard & still don't know why Mine B was closed down. I don't know if I heard about Mine B going to reopen in fall of 1937. But I did not go out during sit down strike at all. I got a job on P.M.A. & I don't know when that was. I don't know nothing about anything about the strike & I shouldn't have talked at all in the first place. I ain't going to say anything more. Nobody told me not to say a thing & I just don't want to say anymore about it. I guess what I have said is the truth but I don't know. I don't want to get in trouble or lose my job. I just feel that in my bones & that is all."

"Springfield, Ill  
Sept. 8, 1943

"In presence of Agents [REDACTED] affirmed that the information herein was correct and true and as he had told it to agents."

/s/ [REDACTED] Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)  
[REDACTED] Special Agent, F.B.I., St. Paul, Minn.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 3, 1943. [REDACTED] advised he did not have a criminal record. He is able to understand and speak English well. He would make a fair witness. [REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

[REDACTED], Ill.,  
September 3, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I am now employed by [REDACTED] and have been in its employment since June 1938.

"About [REDACTED] I became a member of UMW at which time I was mining coal in the state of [REDACTED] I was a UMW from time to time until about [REDACTED] I was not mining coal in 1932. In 1935 I started to work for Jefferson Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill. and I joined PMA during 1935. In the first part of 1936 I obtained a job mining coal with Mine "B" and I was employed at Mine "B" until May 12, 1937.

[REDACTED]

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" the management seemed to have been on good relations with PMA. The management did not seem to discredit PMA and the management was not hostile in settling grievances. There were not any strikes or close-downs when I was employed at Mine "B".

"I thought PMA was a good union being operated for its members, no unusual special assessments were made against me. I took no active part in union affairs.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" I did not see any UMW pickets nor did I see any UMW literature being distributed at the mine.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

b7c b7D

"Sometime in April 1937 JAMES HALE asked me if I was satisfied with the way things were going at Mine "B". I told him I was satisfied and he said no more. No one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW. A short time before May 12, 1937 some of the men at Mine "B" informed me that ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN SIRTOUT, EMORY JACOBAY and CHARLES BOHANNON were attempting to get them to change from PMA to UMW. I saw the above named men talking to different miners, but they never talked to me. So far as I know the above named men did not threaten anyone prior to May 12, 1937. I do not remember if the above named men were expelled from PMA prior to May 12, 1937 for their activity or not.

"During the time I was employed at Mine "B" I did not see any officials of UMW.

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

"I do not remember attending a meeting of PMA on May 11, 1937. I do not know if I received notice of such a meeting.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I went to work as usual. That day someone told me to load the coal cars short, which I did. I was not told the reason the cars should have been loaded short. On the afternoon of May 12, 1937 I was told to leave the mine as there was a strike. I was not told the reason for the strike and I do not know the reason. I did not know of a growing sentiment to strike that day.

"I remember signing a PMA petition in the Summer of 1937 to have PMA act as my bargaining agent. The petition was brought to my home by a representative of PMA to be signed. I voluntarily signed the petition.

"I did not sign a UMW petition in the summer of 1937, nor do I remember signing any other petition.

"I know of the formation of a new UMW local in the summer of 1937. I do not remember if I was asked to join or not.

"In Sept. 1937 I received notice some way that Mine "B" was to open so I went to Mine "B" to picket as I heard Mine "B" was opening under UMW. I acted as a voluntary picket from time to time for about two months. I was not present when the pickets were enjoined from picketing, and it made no difference to me if PMA was enjoined from picketing or not. Only Mine "B" miners acted as pickets and there was no violence.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I do not remember Mine "B" opening in Dec. 1937 or Jan. 1938, but I did receive a letter sometime in 1937 from UMW inviting me to join UMW and if I wanted to work at Mine "B" I had to join UMW. I paid no attention to the letter.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election Dec. 15, 1937 for PMA. So far as I know the election was fair and everyone voted as they pleased.

"I lost all interest in Mine "B" after I received employment at [REDACTED] and can furnish no information subsequent to that date.

"I prefer PMA over UMW as I do not like JOHN L. LEWIS and the way UMW is operated as UMW is not operated for its members, whereas, PMA is operated for its members.

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

"Witnessed:-

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

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his place of residence, which is [REDACTED] by Special Agents [REDACTED], at which time he stated he did not have much information relative to the facts of instant case. [REDACTED] seems to be an intelligent individual, but stated he had never paid any attention to union affairs and consequently could furnish no information of value to this case. It is not believed that [REDACTED] would make a good witness for the reason his information is rather limited. At the time of this interview, [REDACTED] executed the following signed statement:

"Sept. 6, 1943  
[REDACTED] Illinois

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] I became a U.S. citizen a few years ago. I started mining coal when I was a boy and joined the U.M. W. in about [REDACTED]

"I believe I was working at Mine B in 1932 when the state went Progressive and at that time I joined P.M.A. I have never attended many union meetings & have never held an office in the union. I never used to go to many meetings because I always lived quite a ways from the union hall. I didn't have anything to do with the start of P.M.A. & just joined because the majority did. I felt that the P.M.A. was a good union and most of the officers seemed to be good men.

"Since I never went to many meetings I don't know anything about any discussions about wages in the spring of 1937. I had heard that some men who were in the Progressives were really working for U.M. W. I don't know the names of any of the men though.

"On the day of the strike in May of 1937 I was working as a digger in box [REDACTED] I didn't know the mine was to go on strike, and that day I went about my job as usual. As I recall it we were called out of the mine a little before quitting time. I came out of the mine and it was then that I found out that the mine was on strike. I heard after the strike that some of the men had loaded their cars short, but I don't know why they did it. All I know is that I did my job as usual that day and had no idea the mine was going on strike.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I remember that a couple of weeks after the strike, I signed some kind of a petition for Progressive. I don't recall where I signed the petition & I don't remember what the purpose of the petition was. I remember that after I heard our men were on a picket line at the mine in September of 1937 I went out to the mine and stayed on picket duty for three or four days at first and then I went out later and stayed there until the marshal came with an injunction and made us stop the picket line.

"I remember the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937. I voted at that election & as far as I'm concerned there wasn't a bit of trouble at that time. There wasn't any fighting and nobody threatened me at any time. I didn't go out to the mine until after the mine opened up in November of 1939. I don't recall what month I went back to work, but know that I stayed in the Progressives for some time after.

"As I recall it Bohannon came out to my house with a man by the name of [REDACTED]. They asked me to join the UMW and were nice about it all the time they were here. They told me the rest of the men were going united so I signed a membership card at that time. I was never threatened by anyone and I was never forced to join any union. When I went back to work at the mine my box wasn't open & I don't think it has been worked since.

"I worked at Mine B until about [REDACTED] at which time I changed over to Peabody #9.

"Since I was always a man to mind my own business, I don't have any definite information as to what caused the strike in 1937. All I know is that there were some men at the mine who were working for united and the rest of the men didn't like it. I am not in position to prove a thing though.

"The above statement of four pages has been read to me by [REDACTED] & I wish to state it is true to the best of my memory."

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence in [REDACTED] Illinois on September 5, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen in [REDACTED]. He is presently employed as [REDACTED] Illinois. [REDACTED] can speak and understand English fairly well, but during the pertinent period took little interest in activities at Mine "B" and did not return to work there after the strike in 1937. He would be of little value as a witness. He advised he had no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield" Illinois  
Sept. 5, 1943,

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and came to the U.S. in about [REDACTED] where I had come in [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] I became a U.S. citizen in Springfield, Ill.

"I first started working in coal mines in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and in [REDACTED] I joined the United Mine Workers of America union while mining in [REDACTED]. I remained with UMW until 1932. I started working in Mine "B" in Springfield, Ill., in about [REDACTED].

"The 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union in Springfield, because I did not like the national and state leaders of UMW because I did not think they were treating us honestly. In 1932 they stole a ballot box in an election in Springfield, and this is one example of their dishonesty. I took no active part in the organization of the PMA local in Springfield, Ill., in 1932, and I have never held an office in any union.

"During the time from 1932 when PMA was organized until the strike in May of 1937, I never noticed any attempts by any company men or officials to favor either UMW or PMA and no one ever tried to discredit the PMA that I can remember. No attempts were made to get us to join UMW. During this time I never noticed any attempt of the UMW to organize at Mine "B" and I did not see any picketing by UMW.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I remember also during this time there were some bombing cases but I took no interest in them other than reading about them in the paper and I know, or knew, very little about them, and not enough to judge whether the trials were fair or not.

"During this time between 1932 and 1937 I considered the PMA union to be an honest union. I thought the PMA officials were honest and I did not think the PMA was a racket nor did I think there were any unusual assessments.

"I never attended any PMA meetings while I was working in Mine "B" because I lived in [redacted] and it was too far to go. I did not, therefore, attend a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the night before the strike.

"On May 12, 1937, I went to work in Mine "B" as usual. Then I went down in the mine some one said we were to load our cars short that day, and so I did not load mine as full as other days. I noticed that all the other cars were loaded short. Shortly after that noon, someone told us we were to come out and so I came out. I knew we were going out on strike but I did not know why. I had not heard anything about some PMA men being expelled from the local for working for UMW. I remember some men, one of whom was Frank Austin, quit the PMA to join UMW, but I never heard of any trouble over the company's refusal to fire some men who had been expelled from PMA. I knew there was some contract trouble over the wage scale. But several weeks after we went on strike I heard the reason was because the company wanted us to join UMW and would not sign with PMA. This is the only reason I have ever heard for the strike.

"The next time I went back to Mine "B" was about May 15, 1937, to get some wages. The only time I ever went back to Mine "B" was in Sept. of 1937. The company then tried to re-open the mine but only about 5 or 6 men went down and PMA set up a picket line. I was in the picket line a few days and then went home because I didn't like picketing and I didn't want to work where they were having trouble.

"Later in Sept. of 1937 I went to work at [redacted]

"No one at any time tried to get me to join UMW while I was at Mine "B". After the strike started in May, 1937, I may have signed a PMA petition, but I cannot remember definitely. I know I never signed a UMW petition.



JOHN L. LEWIS, MT AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

"I do not know anything about a UMW local being formed in Springfield, in 1937.

(continued)

"I was in the picket line at Mine "B" in Sept. 1937 only a few days and do not know why it was taken off. I do not know of any happenings after Sept. of 1937 at Mine "B" except that I voted in an election held by the National Labor Relations Board in Dec. of 1937 when PMA beat UMW. I was not forced or threatened in any way to vote in that election and I believe it was a fair election.

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

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witness

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

[REDACTED] Special Agent FBI."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

170  
INTERVIEW WITH

b7c b7D  
[REDACTED] who resides at [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was very cooperative and it is believed that he would make a good witness inasmuch as he appeared to have a good knowledge of some pertinent facts in this case, is native born and speaks English well. He has no known criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 7, 1943.

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

"I was born [REDACTED]. My present address is [REDACTED]. I started working in the Dawson Mine in [REDACTED] joining the United Mine workers of America at that time. I started at Mine B in [REDACTED] but was discharged early in [REDACTED]. I returned to Mine B in [REDACTED] as a digger. I still belonged to U.M.W. at this time. Between [REDACTED] and 1932 the U.M.W. and the Mine B officials got along fine.

"The Progressive Mine workers of America was formed to get away from John L. Lewis, "the dictator". I attended a meeting at Reservoir Park in Springfield where the new union was discussed but I took no active part in its organization. I never held an office in PMA or U.M.W.A. I joined PMA along with all the other miners at Mine B. The new Progressive union got along swell with Mr. Elshoff. I liked the PMA because it was formed on democratic principles, and I liked the union officials. I attended about 1/3 of the PMA meetings. The PMA didn't have as many special assessments as U.M.W.A.

"During the month or two before the strike in May of 1937 about a dozen men were "spies" or "organizers" by the PMA members who were working out there. These men were: Frank Austin, Andrew Schrelevious, Tony Plotch, Dominic Pasquale, Joe Albanese, Jimmy Hale, Charles Bohannon, "Bill" Sitrout, Pete Carter, John (Cotton) Ananias, Emory Jacaway, and Harry McDonald. These men were PMA but they were trying to organize for U.M.W.A. It was gossip at the mine that Charles Bohannon held a card in U.M.W.A while he was working at Mine B under PMA. I understood that a few of the above men were discharged but never attended any meeting at which these men were discharged or suspended.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I am not able to recall anything about a wage scale controversy at Mine "B" in the spring of 1937.

"I have no knowledge of any meeting before the strike in which a strike was discussed.

"The morning of the strike I heard the men talking, while going down in the mantrip, about the Mine B co. not firing the "spies" who had been suspended by PMA. The men talked about going on strike until Mine B discharged the suspended men. I also learned about the dismissal of the "spies" from a notice on the Bulletin Board at Mine B. On the day of the strike I came out on top at noon because the ceiling was cracking and falling in my room in Box [redacted]. I was loafing on top waiting for my ride home when about 2:15 I saw [redacted] run out of the Co. office and go to the Engine Room where he yelled at [redacted] to stop blasting coal as the mine was on strike. I then talked to [redacted] and he told me that he was calling a strike because the Co. refused to fire the suspended men. [redacted] said that Elshoff flatly refused to fire the men and didn't even want to talk about it. As soon as my dad came up out of the mine we drove home.

"I remember signing a petition for PMA. It was brought to my home by [redacted]. I also believe that I signed another PMA petition later.

"These alleged spies formed a new UMWA local in the summer of 1937. Charles Bohannon & Tony Plotch were officers in this new union. Charles Bohannon, Joe Albanese, and "Cotton" Ananias came to the house to see me and asked me to go to work. I said no because I knew I have to join UMWA to work with them.

"One day I read in the paper that Mine B would resume work and I took my lunch pail and went out. When we got there Oscar Falcetti came out of the office with about a dozen men. Mostly the "spies" mentioned above. Falcetti rang the bell personally to lower the first men in the cage. [redacted] told us not to say anything & not start any trouble. [redacted] turned to Oscar Falcetti and gave him a good cussing and said, "look what you've done". I remember that "Cotton" Ananias got scared and ran into the office. Falcetti told [redacted] that UMWA had promised him 50 men to open the mine - but had evidently failed. I went back home.

"Shortly afterwards some miner came to see me and asked me to go up to Mine B and picket to protect my job. At first we picketed for about a week out on the old Jacksonville Road for about a week. Later I went back and stayed on the Mine B property and stayed off and on until we were put

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

at any of the attempted reopenings.

off by an injunction. The general opinion was that PMA was being put out so that UMWA could come in and go to work. After I left the mine this time I didn't go back again

"I voted in the NLRB election which the Progressives won, by a large majority. From the time of this election until the mines reopened I [redacted] when I got a letter to come back to work.

"When I returned to the mine in 1939 I still belonged to the Progressives and I paid my dues to them. After we returned to work the UMWA stole tools, beat up PMA members, our men started getting excessive docks - all to get PMA men to change over to UMWA. During this period Oscar Falcetti hired UMWA men who were investigated for loyalty. No Progressives at all were hired. I saw [redacted] get beat up right at the Office door by Charles Bohannon. The reason he did not interfere was that the UMWA men were supposed to be carrying guns and the PMA men weren't allowed to go armed. I heard that "Cudge" Bumgarner beat up [redacted] was beat up in the wash house. I understood that a fellow by the name of [redacted] beat him up. Most of the men who were beat up were old or weak physically. I heard that [redacted] was the one who beat up [redacted]

"No one threatened me, beat me, or stole my tools. No one ever approached me at the mine to get me to join UMWA. About this time [redacted] came over from [redacted] looking for work. He came over to see me and said that "Cudge" Bumgarner had told him that if I would sign up with UMWA. I told him I would when [redacted] definitely got the job, but I was only doing it because I felt sorry for [redacted] I did sign and then [redacted] wouldn't take the job. I was boiling and plenty mad but there was nothing I could do about it.

"Shortly after that the NLRB held the second election and I voted PMA.

"If I had a free and voluntary choice I would prefer the Progressive Union.

[redacted] was supposed to get \$5.00 a day for organizing out at Mine B during the trouble. |||||

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

Witnessed:

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

(s)

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed in the Springfield Office by Special

Agent [REDACTED] on September 6, 1943, at which time the following state-  
ment was secured. [REDACTED] reviewed the statement on September 7, 1943,  
signed same, and furnished a supplemental statement also set out below.

In addition to the information set out in the signed statements  
[REDACTED] mentioned that one [REDACTED] who was one of the PMA miners  
attacked by UMW men, saw [REDACTED] hand money to CHARLES BOHANNON and  
others of his group of strong-arm men on the property of Mine "B".

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 6, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement  
to [REDACTED] whom I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal  
Bureau of Investigation. No force, threats, promises or duress  
have been made.

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.  
I am employed as [REDACTED] Partner Creek Coal Mine No. 2,  
Springfield, Illinois. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. I began working in  
coal mines at the age of 18 years. I first joined the United Mine  
Workers of America and continued membership in that union until  
about 1932.

"I went to work for the Mine 'B' Coal Company in about [REDACTED]  
In 1932, along with the general movement, I gave up my membership  
with the United Mine Workers of America and became a member of the  
Progressive Mine Workers of America. The Progressive Mine Workers  
of America was organized on September 1, 1932. I continued to work  
at Mine 'B' up to May 12, 1937. During the period from 1932 to  
1937, to my recollection, there was little or no trouble between the  
employees and the employer.

"I was present at the meeting of the Progressive Mine Workers  
of America on the night of May 11, 1937 when several members of our  
union were expelled. These individuals were expelled because of  
their activities for United Mine Workers of America while holding  
membership in our union. As a matter of fact I was aware of the  
fact that something probably was wrong and that these men were in-  
terested in the UMW prior to May 11th, because of the fact that it  
seemed as though these men were always getting to their feet on the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

floor of union meetings and causing arguments. I voted for their expulsion on the night of May 11th.

"On the morning of May 12, 1937 I went to work at Mine 'B' as usual and went down into the mine at about 7:30 A.M. as was my usual custom. When I went down into the mine that morning I knew that the PMA Pit Committee had requested the Mine 'B' Company to discharge the miners who had been expelled from PMA the night before. I also knew that there had been a disagreement between the Pit Committee, our local union president, and the coal company. When I went to work that morning loading coal I loaded short cars of coal throughout the day because of the fact that I was dissatisfied with the coal company. I was especially dissatisfied with the company because it had not immediately discharged the men who were expelled from PMA. It was my understanding that under our contract and extensions with the coal company that the company was required to discharge members who had been expelled. I was called out of the mine approximately one hour before quitting time by officials of my union. Thereafter I was of course not employed at Mine 'B' as that mine was shut down.

"I recall having signed several petitions for the PMA after the mine was shut down. I never signed any petition for any other group. Upon one occasion during the summer of 1937 I recall having met one [REDACTED] at the Victorian Tavern on 6th and Jefferson Streets in Springfield. [REDACTED] told me that RAY EDMUNDSON wanted to see me. I replied to [REDACTED] that I did not want to see EDMUNDSON. I identify [REDACTED] as a miner who I last knew to be working at Peabody Coal Company, Mine #57 at Springfield.

"At the time of the National Labor Relations Board election held at the Armory in Springfield on December 15, 1937 to determine the bargaining agent for Mine 'B', I assisted in the election in the following way. During the hours that the election booths were open I stood by the ballot box and watched the voters put their ballots in the box. I cannot recall having handled any of the ballots before they were placed in the boxes. I recall during this election that [REDACTED] checked off the names of voters from a list. I also recall that one [REDACTED] was assigned the duty of seeing to it that voters left the election hall by a different exit than the door through which they entered. I do not recall any UMW men working at the election. I recall that a National Labor Relations Board Field Examiner by the name of [REDACTED] with another examiner, were in attendance all during the election and the counting of the ballots.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"After the election was over the ballot boxes were unlocked and the ballots dumped out on a table. I, along with the examiners and other PMA men, sorted

the ballots into three piles, namely those in favor of PMA, those in favor of U.M.W. and those who were not in favor of any union. Thereafter we all assisted in counting the ballots and each man recounted all the ballots in order to check to see that the count was correct.

"I wish to here state that to my knowledge there was no fraud or dishonest count on the part of anyone in connection with the election.

"I recall that during the election CHARLES BOMANNON came into the election hall and handed an envelope to Field Examiner [REDACTED]. I do not know what was in the envelope.

"In about September 1937 I became [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I recall having had several meetings with officials of the Mine 'B' Coal Company, along with other committeemen, our union president and other district officials. These meetings concerned demands for retroactive wages due after April 1, 1937; concerned attempts to negotiate a contract with Mine 'B' and concerned attempts to have the mine reopened and worked by members of PMA. I wish to state that all of our negotiations, whether with CARL H. ELSHOFF, [REDACTED] or OSCAR FALCETTI, were of no avail. Their answers to our demands were either evasive or they would put us off, or would say that the times were bad, there was no market for coal, and that they could buy coal cheaper than operate their own mine. On one occasion, I, along with [REDACTED], went to Mine 'B' for the purpose of negotiation. We saw CHARLES BOMANNON, FRANK AUSTIN, [REDACTED] trimming the mules' hoofs. I knew these men to be members of U.M.W. We asked FALCETTI why they were working and he said that they were not working; that the mine company was giving the old mules to these men. I have been shown a photostatic copy of an affidavit made before [REDACTED] Notary Public, signed and sworn to on January 18, 1938 by [REDACTED]

This affidavit pertains to several matters. I wish to state that at this time I can recall the conversation concerning the old mules appearing in paragraph 2 on page 2. The statement there is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. However I cannot recall at this time other matters contained in this affidavit. I have initialed the back of the third page of the photostat exhibited to me, along with Special Agent [REDACTED], on this date.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"I recall that some five or six weeks before Mine 'B' reopened in 1937 as an open shop that the committeemen and officials of PMA, including myself, attempted to

negotiate a contract with CARL H. ELSHOFF but that all he would talk about was opening the mine on an open shop basis.

"On the Saturday before the mine whistle blew (November 6, 1939), LEE EISEL, attorney for the Mine 'B' Coal Company, came to the offices of the PMA and advised us that the mine whistle would blow on the Monday morning, November 6th, and that all employees who did not appear within two days would lose their right to a job.

"I reported for work that Monday morning and was given my old job back.

I did not go to work underground for about a week. I assisted in getting the men placed and in making up the waiting list of those men who had no place to work when the mine first opened. The names of the men who had no place to work were put in a hat, drawn from the hat, and placed on a waiting list in the order drawn. When I went down to my place in the mine as a coal loader I found it in substantially the same condition as when I left it almost two and one-half years before. I was able to load coal the first day I was at work.

"During about the first part of July 1940, after the mine was in about normal operating capacity and after all men had been placed, the UMW began to organize on the Mine 'B' property. On July 8, 1940, after JOE WILHESE, TONY PLOTCH, CHARLES BOHANNON and others had openly solicited Mine 'B' employees on mine property, requesting them to join UMW, I, together with other members of the Mine Committee, including [redacted] protested to OSCAR FALCETTI. We pointed out that the privilege of doing organizational work on mine property had been denied to PMA men. I knew that the UMW men mentioned above were doing organizational work because I actually saw them on mine property with application books. I actually pointed out to FALCETTI UMW men with application books on mine property. He told me, 'I'm just working here. I can't do anything about it.'

"Except for a few mule drivers and other miscellaneous UMW men who were hired earlier, the company, after July 1940, began the practice of employing new men brought to Mine 'B' by UMW organizers. I have seen [redacted] bring at least eight or ten prospective employees to the office of FALCETTI. FALCETTI would ask them for their mining papers



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

and social security cards. He would then give them check numbers and jobs. At one time I knew the names of many of these individuals and made records of these

names, which I turned over to the officers of the district. However I do not have the records at this time and cannot recall the names of such employees. During this same period of time I know of one Progressive who had a card who was signed up at this time. This was [REDACTED]. We also signed up one young boy who did not have a card, but whose father was a Progressive. This was the son of [REDACTED].

"Many of the Progressives whose names I cannot at this time recall made applications for jobs in the office of Mine 'B' during this time but were turned down. At one time there was a group of Progressive miners from Taylorville who came up every morning and applied for jobs but were always turned down.

"About June 28, 1940 [REDACTED] was employed at Mine 'B' as an air man. At this time Mine 'B' also employed another air man. Previous to this time Mine 'B' had only employed one air man. [REDACTED] air man at the time [REDACTED] was employed, continued to do the work of the air man. [REDACTED] did not take over the regular duties of an air man but instead went through the mine from room to room and place to place. Air men usually do not go from room to room. [REDACTED] was without doubt doing organizational work, although he never did approach me.

"On July 1, 1940, just as I was coming out of the wash house on the mine property [REDACTED] a UMW organizer, came up and struck me in the mouth with his fist. As a result of this blow it was necessary for a company doctor to take a stitch in my upper lip. After this blow I wish to state that [REDACTED] and I went across the tracks and off of company property, where I gave him a beating. [REDACTED] did not come back to the mine for some time and never did actually work there. I had reported this incident to FALCETTI. I do not know why [REDACTED] at that time did not return to work. I do know, however, that at a later date [REDACTED] did return to the mine property and was involved in physical violence against PMW men just prior to the election in February 1941.

"Upon more than one occasion when our union was having meetings on the second and fourth Fridays of every month at our meeting hall on Sixth and Washington Streets, men whom I recognized to be members of UMW would congregate in front of our hall. Sometimes these UMW men would

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

just stand in front of the meeting hall and watch who went in and out of the hall. Other times they would talk to men entering and leaving. On one

occasion, I believe it was on July 31, 1940, I saw [REDACTED] standing in front of our meeting hall with an open knife in his hand. On that occasion the City Police came and took the knife away from [REDACTED]. The police were called on the complaint of [REDACTED] was arrested but the trial postponed from time to time. Finally CHARLES BOHANNON came to me and said he would pay the costs of this case if the matter could be dropped. He did pay the costs and the matter was dropped.

"On another occasion it was necessary for me to drive PMA members home from the meetings, and CHARLES BOHANNON, in his car, followed me. This was in the wintertime and the car windows were frosty so that I could not see the identities of the other men in BOHANNON'S car. However I do know that there were three other men in the car. He persisted in following me and the police finally assisted me in taking these miners home. This car followed me around the city hall square several times until [REDACTED] who was in front of the meeting hall, saw what was happening, gave me the signal to continue on and then called the police.

"Frequently on the morning after one of our PMA meetings the UMW organizers who had been in front of the meeting hall the night before would approach PMA members and attempt to have them join the UMW union. When these men would not join numerous incidents would occur where dirt was thrown in the PMA miners' cars or their check numbers would be taken off of their cars. I cannot recall at this time the names of the PMA men who lost check weight tags or had dirt thrown inside their cars. I do, however, recall that on two days just shortly before the election in 1941 there were forty or more cases of check weight tags missing from PMA employees' cars. I do know that at this same time on two occasions my check numbers were removed from my cars and I've never received any pay for the loss of those cars.

"I wish to here state that some of the UMW members who did appear in front of our meeting hall included TONY PLOTCH, CHARLES BOHANNON, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had a working place in Mine 'B' very near to mine. On about August 2, 1940 [REDACTED] came to me and complained that [REDACTED] had been to his room and called him a son-of-a-bitch. I told [REDACTED] that since that was all that had happened, he ought to go back to work and forget about it. Almost immediately [REDACTED] returned and told me that [REDACTED] had hit him in the mouth.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

[REDACTED] was not obviously bruised. However I took [REDACTED] from his work place to the parting and told [REDACTED] boss, to see that he

went to the bottom, to put him on the motor, and see Superintendent OSCAR FALCETTI and tell him what happened. The next morning I called this matter to FALCETTI's attention, at which time he promised to see to it that nothing more would happen to [REDACTED]. After FALCETTI's promise nothing more did happen to [REDACTED].

"I wish to state that on more than one occasion I talked with OSCAR FALCETTI, Mine 'B' Superintendent, officially, as a member of the PMA Pit Committee and requested FALCETTI to permit me and my committee the privilege of conducting organizational activity on Mine 'B' property. I was particularly interested in this and repeatedly pressed the point with FALCETTI because of the organizational activity which the UMW men were engaging in. On each occasion FALCETTI told me that the PMA would not be allowed to conduct any organizational work at Mine 'B'. This occurred during 1940.

"The injunction issued by the United States District Court prohibited PMA from engaging in any activity at the mine. However, upon no occasion did FALCETTI base his refusal to allow us the right of organizational work upon the basis of the federal injunction.

"I have been shown a photostatic copy of an affidavit subscribed and sworn to on the 12th day of September 1940 by [REDACTED]. This affidavit pertains to a conference held on July 12, 18th, 23rd and 29th between representatives of PMA and Mine 'B' Coal Company when protests were made by our group about the intimidation and coercive acts of UMW organizers. At this time Mr. ELSHOFF denied knowledge of such acts and said it was against the policy of the coal company to permit such activities or any activities tending to further the interests of any organization on the property of the Mine 'B' Coal Company. This affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. In connection with this I wish to further state that upon one of my meetings with CARL H. ELSHOFF I told him that he ought to go over to the mine and find out what was going on. I made this remark to him after he had denied knowing of any of the organizational work on Mine 'B' property. I have initialed, along with Agent [REDACTED] the back of this photostat and it is dated September 6, 1943 on the back.

"I wish to state that Agent [REDACTED] has exhibited to me a transcript of testimony which I furnished on February 11, 1943 to Special Agent [REDACTED] of the Internal Revenue Bureau. I have re-read

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

this statement at this time and wish to here state that the information contained therein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I have initialed page 10 of this statement, along with Special Agent [REDACTED], on September 6, 1943.

"I wish to refer to the affidavit of [REDACTED], sworn to on August 8, 1940 before [REDACTED] Field Examiner of the National Labor Relations Board. This affidavit states that CARL ELSHOFF said, 'I don't think there ever will be a contract signed at this mine and I might even default the payroll'. I have been shown a photostatic copy of this affidavit by Special Agent [REDACTED]. He and I have initialed it under date of September 6, 1943. In addition to the information contained in this affidavit I wish to say that this meeting with CARL ELSHOFF took place at Mine 'B' when the Progressive Committee was attempting to negotiate a contract and dispose of grievance cases. [REDACTED] Pit Committee would always talk to ELSHOFF whenever we could find him and this was one of those occasions. I wish to state that before a hearing of the National Labor Relations Board I testified as appears in the instant mentioned affidavit. Thereafter the next day CARL ELSHOFF spoke to me personally at the mine and let me know in no uncertain terms that he did not like my testimony of the day before, before the National Labor Relations Board.

"Special Agent [REDACTED] has exhibited to me a photostatic copy of an affidavit subscribed and sworn to on August 8, 1940 before [REDACTED] Field Examiner, National Labor Relations Board, and signed by [REDACTED]. This affidavit substantiates information given above in this statement relative to the difficulty of Progressives securing employment during 1940 at Mine 'B'. This affidavit is true and correct and I have placed my initials along with those of Agent [REDACTED] on the photostatic copy, and have dated the same September 6, 1943.

"In either December 1940 or January 1941, one day when four other miners and I were going to work in my car and my wife was driving, CHARLES BOHANNON came along in his car, tooted the horn, and then attempted to side-swipe the car we were in. However he was not successful and went on down the road.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"About January 27, 1941 I went to FALCETTI's office to take up some grievance cases with him, and while I was in the office several men came in complaining that

their tools had been stolen. In the meantime a 'shot firer', [redacted] told me my tools and [redacted] tools had been stolen so I asked [redacted] the boss out there, to see about them. I was told not to go down in the mine by [redacted], who I knew to be a strong-arm man for U.M.W., and he said that this was a warning.

"The day after my tools were stolen I decided I wanted to go into the mine and see for myself what happened to my tools. I entered the wash room and was changing my clothes when [redacted] and several others walked up to me and [redacted] called me a son-of-a-bitch and told me I couldn't work there any more. He then struck at me, but I got away from all of them. I was dressed only in my underwear and was bare-footed but I ran out of the wash house and into the yard. The ground was covered with ice at this time. I met FALCETTI in the yard and told him what had happened. He took me into his office and told the Sheriff to take me over to the wash house to get my clothes. Under the Sheriff's protection I changed my clothes, but this protection was then unnecessary because the group had already broken up.

"The next day I came back to the mine and some of the men were complaining that their clothes had been cut up, so the Sheriff and I went into the wash house. I looked at my clothes and my shoes and everything were cut into ribbons. These clothes were all gathered up and taken to the States Attorney's office. That same morning I saw [redacted] and asked him about my tools and he said they were all gone. I told him I had two kegs of powder down in the mine, which I had to purchase myself, and for him to look after them for me. The two kegs of powder were found in my box in the mine and the company paid me for them.

"Between the time my clothes were cut up and the National Labor Relations Board Election, I went back and forth to the mine each day, [redacted] and not entering the mine as a coal loader. When the National Labor Relations Board election determined the U.M.W. to be the sole bargaining agent, I walked out of the job and have never worked at Mine 'B' since. It was my desire to maintain my membership in PMA rather than to become affiliated with U.M.W. I never attempted to obtain U.M.W. membership and instead sought employment in a Progressive mine.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b2d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I have read the above statement consisting of fifteen pages. I understand the meaning of all words and phrases used therein and wish to state that to the

best of my knowledge this statement is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Special Agents, Federal Bureau  
of Investigation."

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 7, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following supplemental voluntary statement to [REDACTED], who I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This supplementary statement is made by me in view of the fact that while reading my fifteen page statement, dated at Springfield, Illinois on September 6, 1943, I recall the following additional pertinent information which I desire to furnish.

"Sometime in January 1941 and before the 17th, [REDACTED] met me in the close quarters between the swinging doors at the entrance to the wash house. He asked me what I got him fired for and made a 'pass' at me. I ducked and hit him. Thereafter [REDACTED] and a group of UMW thugs gathered in the mine office along with Sheriff's deputies. At that time [REDACTED] spoke up and said, 'You big brute. I came out to get you and that's what I'm going to do.' A Deputy Sheriff warned him he was making threats and the matter was dropped at that time.

"Sometime during the month of January and between the 10th and 17th of that month, 1941, [REDACTED], CHARLES BOHANNON, [REDACTED] Superintendent OSCAR FALCETTI, CARL ELSHOFF and I cannot recall whether or not [REDACTED] was present, met in the mine office. [REDACTED] spoke up to the above-mentioned group on this morning and said that the local UMW union had received word from the International Union that January 17, 1941 was the deadline for the men in Mine B to sign up with UMW, and that any miners who had not signed up by that time would be met on the lane leading to the mine. They would be allowed to go to

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

work at the mine if they could get through the lane without having their 'caboose shot off'. He also said that it could be that there might be another

Herrin massacre. ELSHOFF spoke up and said that he did not care to have anything of that kind go on on the mine property, and said he would be there the morning of the 17th to see that nothing like that happened. I was at Mine B on the morning of January 17th and nothing of the nature threatened by [REDACTED] took place. However, I did notice that ELSHOFF was not on the Mine property that morning.

"I have read the above statement consisting of two pages. I understand the meaning of all words and phrases used therein and wish to state that to the best of my knowledge this statement is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Special Agents, Federal Bureau of  
Investigation, Springfield, Illinois "

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was jointly interviewed at his residence on

September 6, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED] was cooperative, answered all questions asked, and stated he  
left Mine "B" as he feared being injured if he remained and worked as a  
member of PMA. He executed the following statement:

[REDACTED] Illinois  
September 6, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Illinois. I was  
born [REDACTED] I am presently  
employed at the Panther Creek Mine #4, Springfield, Illinois as  
a digger. I first joined a mine union at [REDACTED] Illinois in [REDACTED]  
This was at the [REDACTED] under the United  
Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as UMW. I never  
held an office in any mine union. I worked in four or five mines  
in the Springfield, Illinois area as a member of the UMW between  
[REDACTED] In [REDACTED] I went to work in Mine B, Springfield,  
Illinois and worked continuously there until the mine closed on  
May 12, 1937. I went back to work at Mine B in November, 1937  
when it began operating on an open shop basis. I worked as a  
member of the Progressive Mine workers of America, referred to  
hereinafter as the PMA, when I returned to mine B in November  
1939. I continued to work there until about January, 1941, when  
I quit.

"As I have stated, I joined the UMW in [REDACTED] and continued  
to be a member of that union until 1932. In September, 1932,  
I voluntarily joined the PMA when the operator at Mine B signed  
a contract with the PMA. I joined with the rest of the miners  
of my own free will. I have continued to be a member of the PMA  
until the present time.

"I feel that the PMA is a good union. The PMA officials  
and the members of that union have gotten along in a satisfactory  
manner, and I feel that this union's officials have handled the  
union matters properly. I took no active part in the formation  
of PMA.



b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"Inasmuch as I do not live in Springfield I attended very few union meetings and do not take an active part in union affairs. Prior

to 1932, as far as I know, Elshoff maintained cordial relations with UMW. The relations between Elshoff and PMA from September, 1932 to April, 1937 were also satisfactory to the best of my knowledge. During this period, neither Elshoff or Falcetti gave any indication they preferred one union over the other.

"From September, 1932 to April, 1937 I do not recall that any UMW literature was distributed at the mine or that there was any UMW picket line at the mine during this period. However, in the Spring of 1937 there were some PMA members who were agitating at the mine against the PMA. These men are named as follows; Joe Albanese, John Cotton, or Ananias, John Sirtout, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Pete Carter, Frank Ausin, Charles Bohannon, James Hale, Tony Ploten.

"A short time before the mine closed in May, 1937, I attended a PMA meeting at the PMA union hall in Springfield and as I recall, Charles Bohannon, James Hale, Cotton Ananias and Dominic Pasquale and several others were expelled from the PMA as they were charged with disloyalty to the PMA, but I don't recall the exact charges. I attended the PMA meeting on the night of May 11, 1937. I learned of this meeting by word of mouth at the time. At this meeting some more PMA members were expelled but I do not recall the identity of the men or the charges.

"At this time I heard that the above mentioned group of men were contacting miners working at Mine 3 and trying to get them to join the UMW. However, they did not contact me.

"Regarding the wage scale controversy, I am not fully familiar with the details of it, but as I recall, Elshoff claimed his contract with PMA did not contain a retroactive clause. The PMA officials stated that the contract did contain such a clause and I was expecting some back pay which I have never received. To my knowledge, Elshoff did not take any action to stop the activities of the UMW organizers at the mine prior to its closing in May 1937. The PMA expelled about twelve to fourteen of these men and asked Elshoff to discharge them as they were no longer members of the union. Elshoff refused.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"On May 12, 1937, I worked with Andrew Schrelevious and since he was one of the men expelled from PMA, I knew that Elshoff had not paid any attention to the PMA request to dis-

charge him and the others. I never saw any cars loaded short and knew nothing about it. When I saw that Schrelevious was working, I loaded one car, then quit working and left the mine.

"I recall signing a PMA petition in the summer of 1937 but I do not recall what it was about. I worked in the PMA picket line at Mine B for fifty-six days and nights.

"I went to the mine all three times it attempted to re-open. I do not recall how I received notice it was going to re-open. The only miners Oscar Falcetti would let go down into the mine to work were UMW members and since they did not have enough UMW men, the mine never opened. These UMW members were men who had formerly worked there and whose names are mentioned in this statement set forth above.

"In November, 1939 when the mine opened, I started work again in Mine B. From that time on, the UMW had organizers in the mine. Sometime in 1940, Charles Bohannon contacted me in the mine several times and asked me to join the UMW, but I refused. Later, he contacted me and said he expected me to join the UMW later after the rest of the men signed up. I told him he would have to keep expecting. Later on, I was in the wash house one morning and Charles Bohannon, [redacted] were sitting on a bench together. I walked in front of them and Bohannon called me a Son-of-a-bitch and threw a lighted cigarette in my face. I know he did this because I would not sign up with the UMW. I had no other kind of trouble with him, other than this union trouble. I reported this to Falcetti and he ignored it. I went down in the mine in the same cage with Bohannon and as I got off the cage, Bohannon said he was going to soften up my head. I still refused to join the UMW and told him 'nothing doing'. A miner named [redacted] was in the cage at this time, and heard this conversation. On another occasion, while I was in the wash house [redacted] (phonetic), a UMW member who was not even working at Mine B said, 'There's one thing, these men will not be here very long'. I said I might be in the mine for some time. I knew he was trying to start trouble, and I reported it to Falcetti. Later, Falcetti got [redacted] and brought him to the office and [redacted] and [redacted] who were both UMW members came with them. [redacted] denied making the statement, and [redacted] said in front of Falcetti, [redacted] you have been looking for trouble for a long time and you are going to get it.' Falcetti made no comment and refused to take any action. Shortly thereafter, in the first part of January 1941, Charles Bohannon and [redacted] beat up [redacted] in the wash house. [redacted] was on the outside

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

of the wash house holding the door shut so [REDACTED] could not get out. A day or so later I went to Falcetti with the P.M. Pit

Committee to ask for protection and he refused to take any action. The next day, I went in the mine and found my shovel missing and then I went to [REDACTED] room. [REDACTED] had been a P.M. member, but had been threatened into joining the U.M.W., after having been approached four or five times to join the U.M.W. [REDACTED] told me to leave his room as the U.M.W. were out to get me and he said he had been told not to associate with and P.M. members. I went into [REDACTED] room and he gave me to understand he did not want me seen in his room. At this time, I felt I would be injured if I stayed at the mine, so I left.

"I voted in the NLRB election on December 15, 1937 and thought it was fair in every respect. I voted in the second NLRB election in February 1941 and felt the election was fair, but the men had been made to sign up with U.M.W. before the election.

"I want to add that I was further threatened by the U.M.W. in January, 1941 because some of the U.M.W. men cut up my working clothes and shoes during the night. They were cut up so badly I could not wear them. The soles in the shoes were cut from the upper part. Several other P.M. members had their clothes cut up at the same time. We reported this to the P.M. District Office and later to the States Attorney's office in the County Building, Springfield, Illinois.

"I made two affidavits at the P.M. District office in connection with the tactics of the U.M.W. organizers. One of these affidavits concerned [REDACTED] threat mentioned above. I do not recall what the other was about.

"I know Elshoff and Falcetti favored the U.M.W. but I never heard them say so, and I knew this because the U.M.W. organizers mentioned in this statement were seen by me in the Company office of Mine B during the Spring of 1937 while I was at the mine. This was unusual, because ordinary miners do not hang around the Company office.

"I have carefully read the fully understand the five and one half pages of this statement which contains the truth to the best of my knowledge. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to induce me to make this statement.

Witnessed:

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

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 2, 1943. It should be noted that [REDACTED] has been very cooperative since the inception of this investigation and has upon request furnished [REDACTED] Progressive Miners of America, which has been of material assistance in the course of this investigation to date.

[REDACTED] With respect to [REDACTED] statement, which he executed, it should be noted that he was born in the United States. However, this conviction may materially affect his citizenship status. In the event [REDACTED] is called as a witness, he will be very cooperative. He is intelligent and presents a pleasant appearance. He will be able to testify as to the facts set out in the following signed statement. [REDACTED] has some original notes and memoranda upon which to base his recollections.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 2, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I am [REDACTED] and was born [REDACTED] Illinois. I am presently residing at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

[REDACTED] I have been a miner for [REDACTED] years. I was employed at Mine "B" in [REDACTED], and I had been a member of the United Mine Workers of America at that time since [REDACTED] when I started working in the coal mines. I continued regularly in my employment as a coal miner at Mine "B" at Springfield under Mr. ELSHOFF's management until [REDACTED]. The reason for my discharge at that time was given by OSCAR FALCETTI as engaging in union activities on the mine property and which, he said, had taken place on [REDACTED]. At that time I belonged to Local #2403 of the United Mine Workers of America. This local had some difficulties with the International under JOHN L. LEWIS and District No. 12, which was under a semi-provisional government. Our local union because of these difficulties was retaining all the dues collected within the local itself. At that time we had some difficulties with CARL ELSHOFF because he was holding up a certain amount of dues that were being deducted from the pay of the miners and would not turn

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW NOTE  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

b7c b7D

it over to the Financial Secretary of the local. I was active among those who tried to straighten this matter out with Mr. ELSHOFF. [REDACTED] and because I was active in a local at that time which was at odds with the International, my case never handled aggressively on my behalf by the United Mine Workers' Board Member.

"On July 1, 1932 [REDACTED] It was during this period that all the miners went out on strike pending negotiations with the Scale Committee for the contract, the old contract having expired on March 31, 1932, and it was at this time that JOHN L. LEWIS wanted to institute a new wage scale, which was considerably lower than the old contract scale. This new wage scale was presented for a referendum vote of the miners of the State of Illinois sometime in July, 1932. This referendum resulted in the rejection of the wage scale. It is my understanding that JOHN L. LEWIS was then called in by District No. 12 officials. There was a second referendum, which was around August 10. During the course of the voting of the second referendum, it was apparent that the proposed wage scale would again be defeated. However, before the results could be tabulated, the ballots were stolen allegedly by LEWIS and his followers. LEWIS then declared an emergency and signed the contract with the operators. This led to a revolt of the miners in Illinois, which was at that time practically 100%.

"There were a series of meetings at Springfield, Taylorville, Gillespie, Benld and at other places in the District, which finally resulted in the convention at Gillespie and the formation of the Progressive Miners of America on September 6, 1932. During that time I was active with the movement to form the Progressive Miners of America.

"It was in September, 1932, that Local #54 was organized at Mine "B", which was Progressive. A vote was taken from the employees of this mine to see whether they would be United Mine Workers or Progressive Miners. Only one man voted to go United Mine Workers. All the rest of approximately 450 employees voted to go Progressive.

"Sometime in September, 1932, I had a conversation with CARL ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B". I was meeting with ELSHOFF, accompanied by someone else from the Progressive Miners, an official whose name I can't recall at present, trying to negotiate with him relative to a contract.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

b7c  
b7D

When our negotiations had been completed, CARL ELSHOFF said to me, [REDACTED], do you think when this mine opens up it will open under the Progressives?" I said, "I sure do." ELSHOFF said, "For your information, this mine will not work Progressive." I think that official was [REDACTED] presently residing at Springfield, Illinois, at [REDACTED]

"About the middle of October, 1932, we obtained the contract from ELSHOFF and the mine opened, being worked by the Progressive Miners of America affiliated with Local 54. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. We operated under a closed shop agreement, which meant that all employees outside of the bosses and clerical force had to be members of the Progressive Miners of America to work at that mine. During this period, the relationship between the management of the mine and the Progressive Miners of America appeared to be good. The mine operated regularly and all grievances were settled in accordance with established procedure.

"During 1935 and 1936 I, along with other loyal Progressives, began to take note of the activities of certain men who were members of our union Local 54 at Mine "B". Those men were: DOMINIC PASQUALE, CHARLES "BOWLING GREEN" BOHANNON, JOE ALBANESE, alias Sam Catalone, PETE CARTER, ANDREW SKRELEVICUS, JAMES HALE, EMORY JACAWAY, GEORGE JACAWAY, JOHN SIRTOUT, JOHN ANANIAS, A. J. PLOTCH and FRANK AUSTIN.

"The attitude of these men first became noticed in regular meetings of Local 54 because of their disruptive and antagonistic tactics.

"Their activity among the men at Mine "B", however, became very noticeable in the Spring of 1937. The contract which the Progressive Miners of America had with ELSHOFF as an independent mine operator expired on March 31, 1937. A supplemental agreement was signed extending that contract until negotiations could be completed with the State-wide Scale Committee by the representatives of the Progressives. At this time these men started an agitation, saying that the management would never recognize the retro-active features of any new wage scale that was accepted. These men, namely: CARTER, SKRELEVICUS, PASQUALE, PLOTCH, AUSTIN, ANANIAS and others, had yellow slips of paper which they said were given to them by [REDACTED] which stated that ELSHOFF would not recognize the retro-active features of the contract. They stated that this yellow paper had

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

b7c  
b7D

been drawn up by [REDACTED] under instructions of ELSHOFF. At this time, definite proof was obtained establishing the association of these men with the United Mine Workers and five of them were expelled sometime previous to May 12, 1937, namely: PETE CARTER, ANDREW SKRELEVICUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, JOE ALEANESE and FRANK AUSTIN. I was active, along with other members of Local Union #54, in bringing the charges against these five men which resulted in their expulsion from the Progressive Miners of America. In accordance with the policy of such matters, it was referred to the Pit Committee, who was to take it up with the Management relative to the discharge of these five members in accordance with the accepted practice under the closed shop contract with the company.

"I did not actively take part in the demands which were made of the Management on the morning of May 12, 1937. I did report to work and I knew these men who reported to work also. In fact, I saw FRANK AUSTIN and PETE CARTER. I told FRANK AUSTIN that he had been expelled from the organization and that he had no business out there. I also met PETE CARTER and asked him what he was doing there, I asked him if he knew he had been expelled and he said, "Yes." He said he had to eat and was going to work there until he was laid off. I worked that day and loaded at least two short cars. It was my understanding that this was done generally over the mine as the miners did not want to strike but felt if they would slow down the production some they could persuade the Management to come to their terms and discharge these five men without strike. About an hour before quitting time, the company stopped hoisting coal. I went to the top and found that there had been a disagreement between the operator, CARL ELSHOFF, and the Board Member, [REDACTED]. I am not in position to say whether [REDACTED] had called a strike or ELSHOFF had shut off production.

"The mine did not work any more after May 12 for sometime. Pickets remained at the scene of the mine on the oil road about a quarter of a mile from the mine until the early part of June, 1937. This was done in order to make sure that United Mine Workers did not import strike breakers to take our jobs. It was during this period that I, personally, saw [REDACTED] whom I know to be a United Mine Workers investigator and gun man, drive by that vicinity with at least five other cars full of men, whom we identified by license numbers as individuals from the Kincaid area where the Peabody Mine operated under contract with the United Mine Workers.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

b7c  
b7D

"A petition was circulated by the Progressive Miners of America of Local 54 during the latter part of May, 1937, at which time some 412 signatures were obtained. This was done because we felt there was going to be an attempt to throw this mine over to United Mine Workers and we wanted to be ready to prove to the National Labor Relations Board that all employees at that mine wished to belong to the Progressive Miners of America.

"Although I was aware, through the press, that a contract had been signed between ELSHOFF and the United Mine Workers on or about August 20, 1937, I did not take any part in the negotiations that went on between the Progressive Miners of America and ELSHOFF at that time.

"On or about September 26, 1937, I received word that the mine was going to open. I went out to see if any other members of our organization had been notified to report for work. They had not. In spite of this, about 400 Progressive Miners reported for work on the morning of September 27. I was present with the group of men among whom were [REDACTED] who were talking to OSCAR FALCETTI, Superintendent of Mine "B". [REDACTED] was the spokesman for the Progressives. He told FALCETTI that he had his men out there to go to work that morning, all Progressive Miners, and OSCAR FALCETTI told the minors that he had a contract with the United Mine Workers and he said that the mine would only employ United Mine Workers.

"It was at about this time that I and others of Local 54 heard that strike breakers were going to be imported from Southern Illinois by United Mine Workers to operate the mines. Therefore, our men stayed out at the mine on a 24-hour shift to see that no strike breakers took our jobs. From time to time we notified the Management that we were willing to go to work and that it was not a strike against the company. This situation lasted up until November 23, 1937 when the company obtained an injunction in Federal Court which enjoined us from coming on to the property.

September,  
"During the early part of 1937, after charges of unfair labor practice had been filed by our organization against the Mine "B" Coal Company a hearing was held in Chicago, Illinois, before Mr. LEONARD BAJORK, Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board. Attending this meeting were: [REDACTED] representing the Progressive Miners of America. RAY EDMUNDSON was there representing



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

b7c  
b7d

District No. 12 of the United Mine Workers of America, of which he is the Provisional President.

"During the meeting, [REDACTED] who was our spokesman, produced the petitions signed by the Progressive Miners definitely establishing the desire of the employees of Mine "B" to belong to the Progressive Miners of America. EDMUNDSON was asked by [REDACTED] to show his petition in that hearing and he told him he would present his petition at the proper time.

"At a later date CHARLES BOHANNON told [REDACTED] on the day that the hearing was held in Chicago before BAJORK that they did not have over twenty or twenty-five names signed to a petition but when EDMUNDSON came back he contacted them and they went to the United Mine Workers Building and signed a lot of names on the petition with their left hand and right hand in any way they could change their writing. He said they signed 350 names on there altogether. I, personally, never saw any petition circulated by the United Mine Workers and none was ever produced in any of the proceedings which followed that I know of.

"I was not at the mine in December of 1937 when an attempt was made to open it just prior to the labor board election. The labor board election was held on December 15, 1937, at which time the Progressives won the election by an overwhelming majority by vote of 404 for the Progressives and 25 for the United Mine Workers. There was nothing that I saw that was unfair concerning this election.

"A meeting was held at the Progressives Hall on the day of the election of various members of Local 54.

"On January 4, 1938, after the labor board had certified the Progressives as bargaining agency for Mine "B" I started to go out to the mine but on being told by some of the members coming back that the mine was closed down I returned home.

"On January 1, 1938, I became a member of the Pit Committee for Local 54. It was the duty of this committee to take up grievances with the Management of Mine B.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

b7c  
b20

"On or about January 18, 1938, I went out with the Pit Committee to talk about opening the mine. We talked to OSCAR FALCETTI about opening the mine and he said that ELSHOFF wasn't there at the time and there was no use of him talking about it. Upon our visit to the mine we found that some of the men from the United Mine Workers of America were working there: FRANK AUSTIN, CHARLES BOHANNON and [REDACTED]. They were bringing mules out of the mine and trimming the hoofs of the mules. We took it up with the Superintendent, Mr. FALCETTI. He said there were no wages involved and he was paying these men by giving them some old mules. We again went out to the mine on or about February 16 in an effort to locate and talk to CARL ELSHOFF. He was not there on that date. However, we served a written notice on [REDACTED] demanding retro-active wages due from April 1, 1937 for each day the members of Local Union 54 worked; that when any men are employed at said Mine "B", the company should employ members of Local Union 54, Progressive Miners of America, who were in the company's employ on May 12, 1937.

"We again returned to the mine on February 21, at which time we saw ELSHOFF concerning this same matter. Those present at that time were [REDACTED] OSCAR FALCETTI was also there. ELSHOFF, after reading our demands which were handed to [REDACTED] on February 16, said, "All right." He was then asked to sign the receipt. ELSHOFF said, "I will see my attorney on the matter." Mr. ELSHOFF was also asked to sign the Progressive Miners of America contract. He said the mine had shut down.

"In the late summer of 1938 I had still another conference with ELSHOFF in company with the Pit Committee regarding the opening of the mine. At that time ELSHOFF refused to open the mine saying that the weather would not permit it. In December, 1938, my term as a member of the Pit Committee expired and I had no further contact with the Management of this mine.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c  
b7D  
INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

"After the mine opened again I applied for employment on or about September 19 or 20, 1940, at which time OSCAR FALCETTI told me that he would not hire me back. I told him I had a right to my job because I worked there when it closed down May 12, 1937. FALCETTI said he just wasn't putting anybody on.

"This statement, which consists of eight pages, which I have read and initialed, recites the experiences and conversation I have had as an employee of Mine "E" Coal Company and as a member of the Progressive Miners of America. To the best of my knowledge and ability, this statement is true.

[REDACTED] (signed)  
[REDACTED]

"WITNESSES:

[REDACTED] (signed)

Special Agent

F. B. I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c  
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(SAC, [redacted])

Upon definite inquiry, [redacted] advised that his civil rights had not been restored to him since his release from the federal institution as a result

[redacted] It should also be noted that [redacted] took a definite part in preferring charges against some of the U.M.W. spies who were suspended and expelled from Local 54, Progressive Mine Workers of America, some before May 12, 1937, and some afterwards.

[redacted] was asked to furnish any information he might have concerning these trials and did comply [redacted]

[redacted] It is possible that others who took an active part in preferring the charges against these particular men may have more definite information, particularly [redacted] who according to [redacted]

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

6 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.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
44-445-125 p. 290-295 (Sec. 7)

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

674 67D

INTERVIEW WITH

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

He is [REDACTED] years old and is a native born citizen.

[REDACTED] It is not believed [REDACTED] would make a good witness due to the fact that he was not employed at Mine "B" during all the pertinent periods relative to this investigation. However, he was very cooperative during the interview. He has no known criminal record.

[REDACTED] submitted the following signed statement:

Springfield, Ill.  
September 7, 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 first began working in the mines in [REDACTED] when I started at Mine "B" [REDACTED] got me the job. I joined P.M.A. at that time.

"I have never held an office in any union.

"I quit working at Mine "B" about the 1st of April 1937 and went to Rockford, Ill., to work. Just before I left, I remember that [REDACTED] read a copy of the temporary agreement he had signed with the mine officials. As I recall there was some dissatisfaction among the men about some back pay and that is why the agreement was read to us in the yard one morning.

"I had no difficulty in settling grievances and I thought P.M.A. was O.K. I seldom attended any F.M.A. meetings.

"Mine "B" was working only 2 or 3 days a week when I quit. I did not work in the mines then until Oct. 1938 when I started working at Jefferson Mine. I joined U.M.W. at that time because U.M.W. had the contract for bargaining rights at Jefferson Mine. I worked at Jefferson Mine until it went bankrupt and closed down in January 1939.

"While working at Jefferson I was required to kick in \$10 each pay

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

b7c  
b7D

and I also failed to get my last two checks. As I understood it the reason for the \$10 kick in was that Mr. BREWERTON had borrowed \$135,000 from the R.F.C. to open the mine and the miners were required to pay back \$35,000 of this amount and the \$10 each pay which we paid in was to pay off this loan. When I gave \$10, I was given a receipt which was supposed to be an interest for that amount in the Indiana Coal Lands Trust but to the present time I have received nothing for the amount of money I paid in for this scheme. My father was working at Jefferson Mine at this time and he also paid in \$10 each pay.

"I began working as [REDACTED] til Mine "B" opened in Nov. 1939. When Mine "B" opened up at that time my father went to work as boss and I went to work as a trip rider. At this time the mine opened on an open shop basis and I was still a member of U.M.W. from Jefferson Mine but since the mine was on an open shop basis I did not pay any dues to U.M.W.

"I did not see anyone beat up while I was working at Mine "B".

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941, and I voted for U.M.W. because I thought the majority would vote that way and no force or threats of any kind were made to get me to vote one way or the other. About March 1941, or the first pay after the check off system went into effect I quit working at Mine "B". I quit because U.M.W. checked off back dues on me which I did not think I should pay. I learned that there was nothing I could do to get this money, paid for back dues, returned to me, so I quit working in mines altogether.

"I have had this 3 page statement read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"WITNESSED:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

b7c

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

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

[REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] but became an American citizen through naturalization at Springfield, Illinois, on [REDACTED]. It is not believed that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge about unions and Mine "B" and his inability to speak English. He admitted no criminal record and furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 4, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to America in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized in Springfield, Illinois, on [REDACTED]. My present address is [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

"I first started working in the mines in [REDACTED] in Illinois, joining the United Mine Workers of America. I have worked at Mine "B" since [REDACTED]. Between [REDACTED] and 1932 the U.M.W. got along fine with the Mine "B" officials.

"I had nothing to do with the formation of the new Progressive Mine Workers of America and don't know how or why they organized. However, I joined the Progressives because everyone else at Mine "B" did. So far as I know the Progressives got along oke with Mr. Elshoff. The PMA Union was just the same as U.M.W., both settled my grievances oke and the dues were about the same.

"I hardly ever attended union meetings for either union, and never held an office for either U.M.W. or PMA. I just worked and minded my own business and know very little about the Mine "B" troubles.

"I think the strike in May of 1937 was caused by the Progressives suspending some men and the Co. wouldn't fire them. The men who were suspended as best I can remember were Joe Albonese, Dominic Pasquale, Andrew Schrelevious. I don't know why these men were suspended. The first I knew of the strike was when [REDACTED] called everybody out. I don't know anything about coal being "loaded short" that day.

"I don't remember signing any petitions for either PMA or U.M.W.



Re: JOHN I. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c

b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I didn't take much part in the Set Down Strike at Mine "B" because I didn't like it. While I was out there I never saw any trouble or anyone from UMWA try to open the mine.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election and thought that it was fair & square. The Progressives won this election. I don't know anything about any attempts to reopen the mine after this election.

"During the time Mine "B" was out on strike I worked about a year on M.P.A., until I got a letter from Mr. Elshoff to come back to work. When I went back to Mine "B" in 1939 it was under an "open shop" agreement, but I still belonged to the P.M.A. I changed back to the UMWA because I saw that's what the majority were doing. I don't care which Union I belong to just so I work. I changed to UMWA of my own free will and nobody threatened me or beat me up. After the UMWA got a majority a second election was held and the UMWA won. I voted for UMWA at this election because I was already a member.

"It makes no difference to me which union I belong to.

"The above statements were read to me by [redacted] The statements consisting of two and three-quarters pages (2 3/4) are true and I do hereby sign my name.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c

b7D

120  
copy

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] who apparently has little knowledge of the matter under inquiry. He executed the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 7, 1943

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

"I was born on [REDACTED] entered the United States about [REDACTED] and took out my first papers at Springfield, Illinois about [REDACTED] I am not a citizen at the present time.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the U.M.W. This was at the Peabody Mine #6 at Springfield, Ill. about [REDACTED]

"I worked at four mines under the U.M.W. after I left Peabody #6 and before I started to work at Mine B on [REDACTED]

"I liked the U.M.W. and I liked to work under the Progressive Mine Worker of America which will be referred to hereinafter as P.M.A. I joined the P.M.A. voluntarily in 1932 and as soon as Mine B went on strike in May, 1937 I got another job. I did not help picket Mine B. I returned to work at Mine B. in November, 1939.

"I returned to Mine B as a P.M.A. member and two months later I voluntarily joined the U.M.W. I went to the U.M.W. Pit Committee and asked them for a membership card. I was never contacted by a union organizer or threatened in any way.

"I did not help organize P.M.A. in 1932. I never held an office in a mine union. I can not read or write. I did not attend many P.M.A. or U.M.W. meetings.

"I did not know any miners at Mine B who might have been organizers for U.M.W.

"I never knew that anyone was beaten up at the mine.