

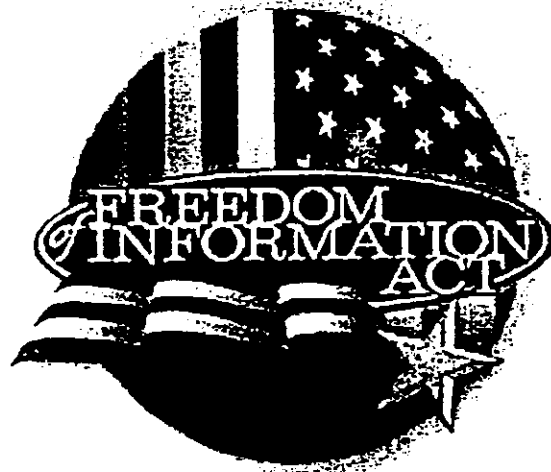
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**JOHN L. LEWIS**

**PART 7 OF 13**

**FILE NUMBER: 44-845**

FILE DESCRIPTION  
BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT JOHN L. LEWIS

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 8

SERIALS 105

Part 3 pgs. 301-450

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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b7D

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"I have nothing to say against the PMA or the UMW. I like to work under the PMA and I am also satisfied to work under the UMW.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937.

"As I remember, I never signed any petitions either for PMA or UMW in 1937.

"I did not vote in the first N.L.R.B. election in December 1937. I never heard that this election was not fair.

"As aforementioned I can not read or write. Therefore, [redacted] has read this statement to me consisting of one and one half page and it is true and correct and the same information I have furnished in the presence [redacted]

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

/s/ [redacted]

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

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

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Part 3 - Sub  
Pages 301-450

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed  
By Special Agents [REDACTED] and  
[REDACTED] is illiterate and appears to know nothing of  
the facts concerning the strike. His memory and English are poor and he  
would not make a satisfactory witness.

He furnished the following statement:

[REDACTED] Illinois  
September 3, 1942

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

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

"I started mining in [REDACTED] and joined the United Mine Workers at  
that time. I started working at Mine B in 1935 and at that time belonged  
to P. M. A. I never attended many meetings of any union.

"I was working at Mine B at the time of the strike. I remember the  
men were talking about wages and contracts but I don't know what they were  
talking about. I don't understand very well. I also heard that [REDACTED] and  
some of the other fellows were working for U.M.W. but I don't know anything  
about this.

"On the day of the strike I was working in Box [REDACTED] as a digger. I went  
down to work that morning and someone said load short but I filled my cars  
up. I worked all day long that day and the next day they said, "Mine no  
work, strike."

"I signed a lot of things at Springfield that summer but I don't know  
what they were. I remember when they had a sit down strike at the mine, I  
was there two or three days, it make me tired and I go home.

"I voted for Progressive in the election at the Armory. Nobody ever  
threatened me or bothered me.

"I didn't go back to the mine until it opened up in 1939. I went  
back to work in the same place as I remember. I had no trouble when I went  
back to work, nobody ever threatened me. [REDACTED] asked me to join U. M. W. but  
I wouldn't join with him. I joined U. M. W. when some other fellows ask

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] me because I didn't have any trouble when  
(continued) I worked under U. M. W. before and I had  
trouble with P.M.A.

"I don't know what caused the strike in 1937. I don't understand  
very well.

"Above read to [REDACTED] by Agent [REDACTED] and admitted to  
be true to the best of his memory."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] at his place of employment, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on September 8, 1943.

He resides at [REDACTED] Springfield. [REDACTED] English is very broken and it is sometimes difficult to follow his line of conversation. He appeared to be willing to fully answer questions propounded to him, and would be a willing witness. He submitted the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois,  
September 8, 1943

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

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

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be hereinafter be referred to as UMW. I joined this union in [REDACTED] at the Sangamon Mine #2 at Springfield, Illinois.

"The first time I started working at Mine B was about [REDACTED] and I continued there until the mine closed in May, 1937. I think I worked at Mine B in November, 1939 when it re-opened and quit in the early part of 1940, but I am not positive of this period of employment.

"When I began working at Mine B. [REDACTED] I was a member of the UMW. However, I voluntarily joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America hereinafter referred to as PMA in 1932. I liked the PMA because the leaders were more honest than the UMW leaders.

"I never held an office in a mine union. I attended only a few PMA meetings, but I attended more UMW meetings as the UMW fined the men fifty cents if they did not attend the meetings.

"Then I was employed at Mine B I was a coal digger.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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b7d  
"I do not think ELSHOFF liked the PMA union before the strike in May, 1937, but liked the UMW as he allowed some UMW agitators to work in the mine when the PMA had a closed shop contract with Elshoff. I know these UMW agitators by the following names: ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, COTTON ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEORGE JACKWAY, EMORY JACKWAY, BOWLING GREEN, AND JAMES HALE.

"About six months before the strike JAMES HALE came to me in the mine and told me that if I wanted to keep my job I had better join the UMW.

"I short time after the strike started in May, 1937 JOHN SIRTOUT and TONY PLOTCH came to my house to get me to join UMW. I said I would not sign even if I lost my job. They told me I would lose my job then.

"Also a miner named [REDACTED] and a miner named [REDACTED] last name unknown, came to my house and told me if I signed with UMW I would get a good room in the mine to work, and if I did not sign with UMW I would not work at all. This happened a short time before the mine opened in 1939.

"I know nothing about the wage scale controversy.

"I do not remember if I went to the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 which was the night before the strike at Mine B.

"I do not know what happened at this meeting.

"I helped picket Mine B for ninety two days.

"I went to the mine when it tried to open in September, 1937, but did not go to work. None of the PMA men would work because FALCETTI told the PMA Pit Committee only UMW men could work. I heard about this from the other PMA miners. The only men who went to work were a few UMW members which included the miners whose names are mentioned above in this statement as agitators.

"I knew the mine tried to open two times after September, 1937, but I did not go out to the mine. I do not remember how I knew about the mine attempting to re-open.

"Then the Mine opened in November, 1939 I went back to work. I knew about this because [REDACTED] came to my house and talked to my wife and told her to tell me



RE. JOHN L. LEVIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

the mine was going to open. At this time I was working on W.P.A.

(continued)

"I left Mine B in the early part of 1940 because I worked four days cleaning up slate and my boss [REDACTED] would only get me money for two days work. I had already signed up with UMW at that time. My friend [REDACTED] (phonetic) told me that he was afraid for, if I did not sign with UMW I would be beaten up.

"I never understood what was said at the mine or what the trouble was about, because I do not understand English well.

"I do not like UMW. I do not like UMW leaders. I would never work under UMW again.

"This statement consisting of three pages and one quarter has been read to me by [REDACTED] in the presence of [REDACTED]. This statement was carefully read several times and each part of it explained to me. It is the truth as best I can remember. I can not read English, but I can speak English and I can write my name.

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

RE: JOHN I. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at the Springfield Field Division on the evening of September 7, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED]. He has been an American citizen since [REDACTED] is the father of [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] would not be considered as a good witness due to a very poor memory, poor speech, and a difficulty in understanding questions propounded to him. He cannot read well, and refused to sign the following statement prepared for him, because he could not read. He listened, however, to it intently, and stated that it was all true and accurate.

"Springfield, Ill  
September 7, 1943.

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

"I first started to work at Mine B in [REDACTED]. At that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers. In 1932 when the Progressive Mine Workers of America was organized, I had to go into that organization in order to work at Mine B. I did not particularly like to go into the PMW of A. I kept right on paying my dues to the United Mine Workers because I felt that I was a member of that organization all of the time. I did this even though they were taking the PMW dues out of my pay. [REDACTED] continued to do the same, paying their dues to the UMW while they were working at mine B. My son [REDACTED] and quit working at the mines.

"I used to attend the union meetings occasionally. I was never an officer in any labor union. I was not particularly dissatisfied with the operation of the PMW while I was a member. I had no objections to it except that they took a lot of my pay for dues. Other than that I think the PMW was alright. I belonged to the UMW and that was my union. I never talked about the unions, and did not care much which union was at the mine as long as they would leave me alone and let me work. I would have been satisfied to have continued at Mine B with the unions just as they were. I did not do any agitating about changing the unions. I do not know if my boys did any agitating or not.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I do not know what caused the strike at Mine B in 1937. I was not interested in the affairs of the union or the company, and I did not want to get in any trouble. I do not remember what happened then. I know I was not at the mine on the day that they started the picket line. I am not sure. I did not go out to the mine when it was being picketed, or sit on the picket line. I did not see any of the men who were out there then.

"I voted at the election of the unions held in the Armory in 1937. That was a fair election. No one told me how to vote, or tried to influence my vote in any way. I voted exactly as I wanted to. I think every one else had a chance to vote as they wanted to also.

"I do not remember exactly when it was, but while Mine B was closed, I went to work at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was a member of the UMW because I had always been. I was not interested in what went on out there in organizing the unions, and do not know what happened. I did not see any fighting, or hear about it.

"I did not know of any organizing that was going on out there at the mine. I do not know of anything that PALCETTI or ELSHOFF did to favor one union over another. I do not know of any violence, or anything wrong done by either union in the trouble that occurred at mine B.

"The above statement has been read to me by [REDACTED] This statement was on this and two other typewritten pages. Everything that he has read to me is true and accurate."

"(Refused to sign because cannot read, but declared that it was all true.)"

[REDACTED] Special Agent FBI  
[REDACTED] FBI"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c b7d

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home

by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Although he appeared cooperative and furnished the following signed statement, it is not believed that he would make a good witness inasmuch as he has no definite knowledge about the trouble at Mine "B".

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 6, 1943

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

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

"I have worked in the mines continuously since [REDACTED] joining the United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started working at Mine B about [REDACTED] continuing my UMW membership. Between the time I started at Mine B till 1932 the mine officials and the UMW got along fine.

"The Progressive Mine Workers of America started because the wage scale ballots were stolen. I had nothing to do with the formation of the Progressives and never held an office in either union. After the new union was formed I joined it along with all the other miners at Mine 'B'. So far as I knew the Progressives got along as well with Mr. Elshoff as the UMW did before 1932. The Progressive Union officers, dues, settlement of grievances, etc. was alright so far as I was concerned.

"I don't know anything about any alleged UMW spies being at the mine before the strike, and I never heard that any of the Progressive members were expelled.

"I don't know what caused the strike at Mine 'B' on May 12, 1937 and don't even remember how it started. I don't remember anything about cars being 'loaded short' on the day of the strike.

"I recall signing a petition shortly after the strike showing that I favored the Progressives.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I know that a few U.M.W. men tried to open the mine one day and all of the P.M.A. men went down and picketed. I don't know who the U.M.W. miners were who tried to open

the mine.

"I remember voting at the NLRB election which the P.M.A. won by a great majority. We didn't go back to work at Mine B because Mr. Elshoff didn't seem to want to \_\_ contract with the Progressives.

"Then Mine 'B' opened in 1939 under an 'open shop' agreement I went back as a Progressive. After a few months I signed up with U.M.W. The mine was hiring new men, and some of the miners were being beat up & forced to join U.M.W. I joined U.M.W. to keep my job and to keep out of trouble. I didn't want to take any chances. Three men came to my house to get me to join U.M.W. [REDACTED] and Andrew Schrelevious. I know that [REDACTED] got beat up something terrible

"I don't recall any second NLRB election.

"If I could have a free voluntary choice I would choose the Progressive Union.

"On Dec. 5, 1941 I started working at Mine A. I was fired at Mine B allegedly for being drunk. Mr. Elshoff also owned Mine A and I can't understand why I was fired at one and hired at the other.

"I have had the above statement consisting of two and three-quarters (2 3/4) read to me by Agent [REDACTED]. The same is true and I do hereby sign my name.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Illinois, [REDACTED] was interviewed on September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Agent [REDACTED] took shorthand notes of this interview and the notes were transcribed by him and a statement drawn up which was presented to [REDACTED] on September 2, 1943, at which time he read the same, pronounced it correct and signed it. It was observed that [REDACTED] had a better than average intelligence for a miner and it is believed that he is a reliable individual. [REDACTED] was entirely cooperative and it is believed he would make a good witness if called. [REDACTED] advised that he had no criminal record.

The following statement was executed by [REDACTED]

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

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and I came to the United States when I was about [REDACTED] years old and I have been a citizen of the United States for over [REDACTED] years. I am presently employed as coal digger at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., and I have been there about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] years or so. I formerly was a miner [REDACTED] and belonged to the [REDACTED] and when I came to the U. S. I brot along my international card which was good here too. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Since I have been with Mine B I have never held any union office. When I first came to Mine B they had a UMW contract and as far as I know UMW got along with the management of Mine B alright. UMW was alright until John Lewis pulled off his tricks and stole the ballots--it was gossip to me then. When the other men left UMW and went over to FIA I also went over with them and I did not help organize anything then. I felt then that Lewis was not treating the mining men fairly. From 1932 until the mine closed FIA got along with the management at Mine B to my knowledge. I have always said that I can't see why the company wanted a change back to UMW. Both contracts were the same and I don't recall of any strikes or other troubles there before the mine closed. Between 1932 and 1937 Carl Elshoff and Oscar Falcetti did not say anything to me about changing back to UMW. [REDACTED] it is quite some way to Springfield, Ill., and I did not know what was going on all the times. However, everybody seemed to be well pleased between 1932 and 1937. I never heard any talk about FIA local being run by crooks nor did I ever suspect that they did anything wrong as we miners were satisfied

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] with the way the PMA officials were running the local and handling the money matters. PMA never had any special assessments except once I recall when they needed some money to help out other locals who were out or were short of money but that money went to help those other miners. The miners in local 54 ran that local themselves and it was not run for or by a few and everything was taken up at meetings and was properly voted upon or debated on. I was not very active in the union affairs as it was too far for me to go to attend the meetings as by the time I got home and ate it was too late to go to Springfield, Ill. and attend a meeting but I did go once in awhile.

"In regards to those PMA men convicted in those bombings cases we miners felt that they got a rotten deal, and there was some gossip that Edmundson and that bunch had them railroaded. The gossip then was that Edmundson was very much interested in their trials.

"Prior to the time the mine closed down UMW never bothered PMA men at the mine to my knowledge and there was no strikes or pickets out there and there was no trouble that I know of. However, before the strike started there were 2 or 3 PMA men who were pretty strong for UMW and they were FRANK AUSTIN, SAM and ANDY Schrelevious and Jim Hale. They would go around and talk to the other miners about going back to UMW. But they never personally contacted me. I never heard anything about Elshoff or UMW giving any parties.

"In the spring of 1937 when our contract ran out [REDACTED] told us several times at the mine that they had a temporary agreement with the management and that if there was any increase it would be retroactive back to April 1st. We miners felt that Elshoff would make a contract and that it would be just as good as any contract that UMW could get for us. There were no fights on pay days and everybody seemed to be satisfied with the agreement and we all thought we would get a lump sum if the increase went thru. Everyone seemed to be satisfied with the way it was handled. I never saw any short or other strikes then. I heard that around in April, 1937 Pasquale and several others were playing around with men in their own nationalities and were trying to swing them over but they never contacted me. The management of Mine B never said anything to me about the wage agreement that I know of.

"I don't recall of any meeting being held the night before the mine closed but there could have been one but I did not attend it as I went to very few of them. On the morning of 5-12-37 when I went to work I did not know there was going to be a strike and no one talked about a strike to me at the mine and the men were not arguing or fighting about their wages either. However, later that afternoon I heard some gossip that [REDACTED] had

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] been out and something was said about some men being expelled but not fired. When I came out of the mine I did not know (continued) there was a strike and I left my tools in the mine and they are still there. I believe that the trouble was over those men and I know it was not over any wage trouble. I also heard something about cars being loaded short that day but I was not told to load them short and I did not see any of my cars were all full.

"Several weeks after the mine closed I signed a PMA petition and I think I signed it at Springfield, Ill. I signed it of my own free well and no one forced me to sign and I never heard of any force being used to sign it. The men were all crowded around and seemed happy to sign it. I heard that UMW got up a petition too during summer of 1937 but I never signed it and was not approached by anyone in regard to it.

"Agents [REDACTED] have shown me an affidavit dated August 25, 1937 at Virden, Ill., which is signed by several men and I recognize my signature on it. This is in regard to Charles Roth, who is now dead, contacting some of us about going to a UMW meeting and the information in that affidavit is correct and true and no one forced me at that time to make the affidavit. If I recall right the lawyer for PMA made it up after we miners told him what happened and no one forced us to make it.

"I also heard that during the summer of 1937 the UMW started a new local in Springfield, Ill., but I never was contacted by anyone and don't know a thing about it. I also recall hearing something that several men from Mine B went over to the Jefferson mine and I also heard that Oscar Falcetti took that mine over and that he was boss there.

"In September, 1937 I did not go out to Mine B to work but I heard they were going back under UMW and I went out and helped them picket until the Marshall came out. I went out to see what was going to happen and did not go out to work under UMW. I recall that the same men I have mentioned before went down into the mine but no PMA men went down. Sam is the right name too for Joe Albanese. We PMA men did not work because we heard the mine was to be reopened as UMW. Nobody asked me either to go out there. When I did go out I saw Falcetti there too. PMA had a regular meeting before the picketing started and I understood that it was decided upon that if UMW went in there that PMA would picket but I did not attend that meeting but just heard that. I would come home from the sit down strike several nights a week but did stay out five nights a week and PMA local men were just out there and no strangers were brot in at all. The picketing and guarding of the mine was very peaceful and we men were there to protect our jobs and we did not do anything wrong there and the place got cleaner than it ever was before. UMW did not come out and cause us any trouble. However, I once heard that UMW was going to bring some outsiders in. We men went out to the sit down strike of our own free will and no



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] force was used and we could go out and leave as we pleased and nothing unusual happened. When the Marshall came out (continued) we all left and the men did not resent the Marshall as the men were getting tired of being there so long. I think the Marshall told the men that nobody else would come out and take over.

"I heard several days later after the Marshall came out that the mine was going to be reopened but I did not go out. I remember that in Dec. 1937 the NLRB had their first election for us and I voted for PMA because they were the best union. It was an honest election and nobody forced me to vote any special way and no strong arm methods were used. We first went to the union hall and then went to the Armory to vote in a group. In Jan. 1938 I think I read in the paper that the mine would be opened but I did not go out there as we were satisfied that the injunction would keep anyone from the mine property. I knew Elshoff had not signed a contract with the Progressives and as I recall it at this time the rumor was that he would not deal with the Progressives because Lewis and UMW was paying him to keep the mine closed. I received a registered letter telling me to come back to work in Nov. of 1939, this letter gave me a certain number of days to report in, I don't remember how many but I went back the first day and saw Falscetti, who told me I would have to wait till my place was ready to work in. No inquiries were made of me as to which union I belonged to. I went back to work shortly after the first of the year of 1940, one of my sons telling me when my place was ready for me to go back in. Nobody caused me to be docked or threatened me in any way. Chas. Bohanon did talk to me at the mine about swinging over to UMW, he said that all the men were joining and I had better get lined up. Bohanon was very careful what he said, he did not threaten me or say I might lose my job. No force was used by PMA to keep their men in line as the PMA felt their men were loyal and this was unnecessary. I heard at this time that whenever a new man was hired or replaced the management would only hire UMW men, I think this is the way that UMW got a majority at the mine. I heard that if new men coming in were not UMW they would be signed up with that union before they went to work, this signing up of new men to UMW went on right in the mine yard where the official and everyone could see it, so everybody must have known what was going on. During this period I was treated about the same as always and Elshoff and Falscetti made no statements to me indicating that they favored either union.

"I never signed anything for the UMW until after the second NLRB election, when every ody had to sign up with them if they wanted to keep their jobs. I don't remember signing any card for the Progressives either during the summer of 1940

"I voted at the 2nd NLRB election voting again for PMA, I voted this way because that was the way I felt. Noone forced me to vote for PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

I went directly to the Armory from my home. As far as I know the election was fair and honest. The election was by secret ballot and was under the supervision of a man from the Gov't. I paid PMA dues from Jan. of 1940 up until the time I went with PMA, I was with the last group to join UMW I believe this was around March of 1941. I joined the UMW because I either had to do that or quite my job, I still like the PMA but I had to have a job to make a living, having been out of work for two and one-half years. When I went back in Jan. 1940 the territory I had formerly worked in was not open, I used to work in Box [REDACTED] but when I came back to work I went in Box [REDACTED] I never heard anything about there being a big fire at the mine in 1939. I heard about [REDACTED] doing some talking at some meeting but I was not there and dont know what it was all about. I would have preferred to stay with PMA but felt I had better join UMW. I had heard of [REDACTED] of Springfield having two of his tires ripped open and had heard stories of other men being beaten.

"I have [REDACTED] Ill., read the foregoing statement on Sept. 2, 1943, it is to the best of my knowledge and belief the truth. I am therefore voluntarily signing this three page typewritten statement and initialing each page thereof.

Signed [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

[REDACTED] Special Agt. FBI (St. Paul)

[REDACTED] Special Agt. FBI (Milwaukee)

Virden, Ill.  
Spte. 2, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Illinois on September 1, 1943, at which time shorthand notes were taken of the interview by Agent [REDACTED] these notes later being transcribed by Agent [REDACTED] and a statement drawn up, based upon them. On September 2, 1943 this statement was presented to him. He read the same and pronounced it correct and signed it. [REDACTED] was found to have a higher intellect than most miners. It is believed that he is a very reliable person and would be a willing witness if called upon to testify. He advised that he had no criminal record.

The statement given by [REDACTED] is as follows:

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

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the United States about [REDACTED] years ago and I became a citizen thru my father, [REDACTED] Ill. About [REDACTED] years ago I became a member of UM in Illinois and I have never held any union office and I presently am working at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., and I started there back around [REDACTED] when Mine B was under UMW. UMW and Elshoff got along then as far as I know of, and the union appeared to be alright for the men. I wanted to turn over to PMA in 1932 and I went over with the rest of the men then and I did not help in turning over from UMW to PMA. Between 1932 and 1937 Elshoff and PMA seemed to get along alright as nothing unusual happened that I know of. I don't know of the management of Mine B being dissatisfied with UMW or wanted to get UMW back. I never heard anything bad at all about PMA men or officials, and we miners felt that the PMA officials were all right and were doing right for the men. PMA was not a racket run local and we had over 400 members. I would attend meetings only now and then as Springfield, Ill., is too far from [REDACTED] but I would go once in a while.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I and other miners felt that those PMA men who were convicted in the bombing cases were railroaded.  
(continued)

I was satisfied with the PMA officials and think it was a good union and I never suspected anyone of stealing money from the local.

"Before the mine closed I never saw UMW picket Mine B nor did I see any papers or literature from UMW. Before the mine closed I never was approached by anyone to join UMW and I never knew of any UMW spies being in PMA then. Things were running smooth and there was no trouble at all. I never heard anything about any parties given by Elshoff or UMW.

"I recall that in spring of 1937 we worked without a contract and we were told that we would work pending a settlement. The rumor was that the pay would be retroactive. I think that [REDACTED] told us about this at Mine B. I never heard that PMA could not get as good a contract as UMW could. In April, 1937 I don't recall of the men complaining at all on pay days and we were just waiting for a settlement of the contract and I don't recall of any strikes or troubles then either before the mine closed. The mine officials never said anything to us about that wage question that I know of.

"I did not attend a meeting on the night before the mine closed but I think I knew of the meeting and think it was a Special one but am not sure but I heard around the mine of that meeting. On the morning when the mine closed I went to work as usual and did not hear anything about the wage question and I don't recall hearing anything about some men being expelled and I did not see or hear anything about any short cars. I think I worked all that day and when I left I thought I would go back to the mine the next day and I don't remember anything about a strike then. I think I went home that day and went back to work the next day and then learned about the trouble. I had even left my tools there the day before. I think I then heard that the trouble started over some men being expelled. A short time after the mine closed I signed a PMA petition of my own free will and no one forced me to sign it and I believe I signed 2 or 3 in all around that time or so. I signed because I wanted PMA to represent me and I never heard of anyone being forced to sign them. I also heard that UMW had a petition out but I never was approached and I never signed it. I also signed another PMA petition in fall of 1937 and no one forced me to sign that. I think that was for Washington or something like that. I always was willing to sign for PMA as I wanted PMA as my bargaining agent.

"In summer of 1937 I heard that UMW was forming a new local but no one asked me to join it. I heard they got about 12 members or so and I heard that UMW was going around talking to the men. I once heard that Falcetti went over to the Jefferson Mine to run it.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have shown me an affidavit dated August 25, 1937 at Virden, Ill., which refers to Charles Roth, who now is dead, telling me (continued)

and others to attend a UMW meeting. The information in that affidavit is true and correct and I have recognized my signature on it and no one forced me to give that affidavit then and I think it was made in the court house at Virden, Ill.

"I recall that in the fall of 1937 Mine B reopened and I don't recall how I got the notice but I think some one phoned me and I don't recall of going to any meeting where they decided to do something about it. I was all ready to go to work and on that first day I believe that about 5 or 6 men went down and they were Pete Carter, Cotton Ananias, Andy Schrelevious, Tony Plotch, Demonic Pasquale, Sazzy, Frank Austin, John Sirtout, Geo. and Emory Jacarway (father and son they are) Charles Bohannon and Jim Hale. I think they all had their working clothes on and nobody stopped them from going to work. I don't recall of being told that I would have to be UMW before I could go to work. I remember that some of these men who went down had worked there before but I never heard they were spies for UMW. I lived [REDACTED] and did not know everything that went on then. I came back home that day and in a day or so went back and the picket line was set up and I stayed there about 56 days and there was no trouble at all. The men on this strike were from the local and there were no outsiders brot it and there were no fights or trouble at all and we were just protecting our jobs. We felt that the UMW men might come out if we left and we felt that they might bring in some outsiders and take over the mine.

"I was there when the Marshall came out and about half the men were glad as they wanted to get home and I think the Marshall said that they would not let anyone else on the property and everyone left at once.

"I did not know that the mine attempted to reopen again in Dec. 1937 but I recall that I voted at the first NLRB election which was held in Springfield, Ill. and it was by secret ballot. I was working at [REDACTED] and we both went over together and voted and then went home. I voted for PMA as I figured it was the best union for us and we miners were satisfied with it. PMA never influenced us men how to vote and it was an honest election and no strong arm methods were used. I was still working at [REDACTED] in Jan. 1938 so don't know if mine reopened again or not but I did see something in the paper about where they had signed up for UMW but I felt the injunction was still out.

"The gossip was that Elshoff must be getting money from some place as he did not sign a contract with PMA in 1938 or 1939.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]

(Continued)

"When the mine reopened for good in Nov. 1939 some one phoned me and I don't remember getting a letter and we were given a limited time to return. I went out

and am still there. Falcetti did not say to me as to what union I belonged to. No one ever bothered me there but a couple of guys asked me when I was going to join over to U.M. and I told them I was satisfied the way it was but they said the U.M. was the best union. They never threatened me that I would lose my job and they talked to me at the mine. No one ever contacted me at home and when I returned I paid my dues to P.M. as there was no check off then. P.M. did not use strong arm methods at all as they depended upon their men to stick together because they knew they had the majority and they did not have to do any dirty work. I saw quite a few strangers at Mine B all of whom were U.M. men. When I returned nothing was said about the wage agreement and I figured there would be a contract signed later on. I always had a good room and Elshoff and Falcetti never said anything to me about wanting U.M. back there. I did hear that the management of Mine B would not listen to P.M. complaints but would listen to those from U.M. I was told by someone that if I joined U.M. then I could get in free but later on I would have to pay and I told them I would pay if necessary.

"In the summer of 1940 I never signed anything for U.M. and don't know for sure if I signed anything for P.M. Everybody was turning over and I think I joined over to U.M. after the last NLRB election or either just before the election was held. At that election I voted for P.M. and no pressure was brot on me and it was a fair and good election and was by secret ballot. However U.M. won because whenever a P.M. quit the new men they hired were U.M. men and after the election many quit. I finally turned over because I needed a job and I am still there. The mine was in bad shape when it reopened and I think it took a lot of money to fix it up and I never heard anything about a fire there in 1939. I did not attend the meeting when [REDACTED] was kicked out and I have attended only 1 U.M. meeting since joining. I did not have any trouble with Falcetti at Mine B as I know him well because he used to live around Virden, Ill.

"I have read this two page statement at [REDACTED] on 9-2-43 and I have signed it of my own free will because it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

" witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent, FBI,  
St. Paul, Minn.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent, FBI,  
Milwaukee, Wis.

[REDACTED] 9-2-43."

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 5 and 6, 1943.

On the afternoon of September 5, 1943, agents went to the residence of [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, and no one responded to Agents knock although both front and rear doors were open, but the screen doors were closed indicating that some one probably was sleeping. At the rear door, Agents, while on the porch, noted that on the kitchen table there was some kind of a note which was placed up against a dish and Agents believe that the note said something about phoning [REDACTED] when he got up, and it was signed "Mom"; also on the note there appeared to be some writing which said "Don't let this out." It is not sure whether or not the name [REDACTED] is correct, but that is what the name looked like.

On the morning of September 6, 1943, Agents returned to the home of [REDACTED] and upon introducing themselves to [REDACTED] he advised that he did not want to get mixed up in anything and he did not want to appear in Court. He volunteered this information before Agents had a chance to explain their mission. He also said that he did not care to answer any questions and did not want any trouble. Agents explained to him and his wife, who also was present, their mission and he still said that he did not want to say anything as it did not matter to him what union he belonged to just as long as he had a job. [REDACTED] was asked whether or not he had been contacted relative to the investigation and he refused to affirm or deny that he had been. He further said that if he did give a statement he wanted a copy of the same and the Bureau's policy in this matter was fully explained to him. During this time both [REDACTED] were told by Agents that he did not have to make any statements at all to Agents if he did not desire to do so and that Agents would like to have him place in writing just why he did not desire to give a statement, and then they would immediately leave. At this time he asked his wife for her opinion, and she told him that it would do no harm to answer the questions. He was told by Agents that he could answer whatever questions he desired to, or could refuse to answer any he desired to. At this time he remarked that he would answer the questions, but did not desire to any anything that might incriminate him.

When about half through the interview he again expressed fear to Agents in the presence of his wife that he might have to go into Court and that he might get "balled up", and he was told that Agents would discontinue the interview if he so desired, and would leave immediately; that Agents were there to protect his rights and not to violate them. However, he said that he would continue on and when the interview was completed he asked Agents if he had said anything that would involve him and make it necessary for him to come into Court. He was told that Agents had nothing to do with

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INTERVIEW WITH  
██████████  
(continued)

that and that it would be up to the attorneys for the United States Government to decide that matter. He previously had been told that neither he nor the unions were under investigation, but that the investigation was being conducted to determine if Federal laws had been violated.

██████████ was then given the statement to read and he gave it to his wife and asked her to read it to him. After she read the first two pages she requested Agent ██████████ to read the same to ██████████ which was done. After the statement was read to him he said it was true and correct and was asked if he desired to sign the same or not, and that he need not sign it if he did not care to do so. He sought the advice of his wife who said that if it were true he should sign it, and therefore did.

██████████ advised Agents ██████████ never had been arrested in his life and ██████████ as well as later on. It was noted by Agents that he was not overly intelligent and it is felt that he has concealed information from Agents, and that he undoubtedly had been contacted by someone in regard to this investigation.

██████████ gave the following signed statement:

██████████  
t.  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 6, 1943.

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

"I am employed at Mine "B" as a ██████████ I have been there since I was born ██████████ I first joined a mine union ██████████ when I was just ██████████

"Prior to 1932 there was no trouble between Elshoff and U.M.W. so far as I know. In 1932 when the Progressives were formed I joined the P.M.A. I took no active part in forming this union.

"I don't know what the relationship between P.M.A. and Elshoff was from 1932 up until the strike was. I don't know of the management of mine B ever having said or done anything to make the men join one union or another or to make the men change from P.M.A. to U.M.W.

"I never paid a lot of attention to the way the P.M.A. union was run from 1932 to 1937. I didn't even attend the meetings. It didn't



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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

make no difference to me which union they had. I don't know how the money collected by P.M.A. from the miners was spent, there were lots of rumors but I don't know what was done with the money.

"I don't know anything about the guilt or innocense of the P.M.A. men who were sent up for bombings.

"I never saw any U.M.W. picket lines or any U.M.W. literature around the Mine B from 1932 to 1937. I never during this period saw anyone around the mine trying to get the men to swing back to U.M.W. from P.M.A.

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

"I don't recall much about the contract running out in the Spring of 1937. I'd rather not say anything about the wage question at all.

"I was home the night before the mine closed and did not go to any meeting.

"When I went to work the morning of May 12th, 1937, I really didn't think there was going to be a strike. That afternoon I heard that we were to quite work and I quite and came home. I found out some time later why the strike was called but would rather not state the reason given me. On the day the strike started I saw some cars loaded short. They were I believe loaded short over a dispute over the contract. I don't know whether the mine closed over the dispute over the wage question or over the men who were expelled from the union.

"I recall signing a petition for P.M.A., I don't remember just where but I don't think it was signed on mine property. I signed this of my own free will.

"I did not hear anything about any U.M.W. petition the summer of 1937. I never saw such a petition.

"I don't remember whether I signed one or two petitions for P.M.A. Whatever I signed I did of my own free will.

"I was not approached to join any U.M.W. local the summer of 1937. I did hear that such a local had been formed.

"I don't recall anything unusual happening during the summer of 1937.

"I remember there was an attempt to open the mine in Sept. 1937.

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

I went to the mine that day I believe someone came and told me they was going to reopen. I did not work that day and don't know whether anyone worked or not. I was at the mine about 10 or 12 days during the strike, we were there to protect the mine and our jobs. I never saw anyone there but local 54 members. I went out there of my own free will. I was not at the mine when the Marshall came out.

"I did not go out when they attempted to open the mine in Dec. 1937, I heard of it but did not go out.

"I voted at the first N.L.R.B. election. I was not forced to vote and I voted the way I want. The election was by secret ballot and as far as I know was honest.

"I don't recall anything about an attempt to open the Mine "B" in January of 1938.

"I know that some of the men from Mine "B" were working at the Jefferson mine in 1938. I don't know who they were though.

"In most of 1938 and 1939 I was on W.P.A. and don't remember anything about what may have happened in regard to the Mine "B" then I took no interest.

"When the Mine "B" opened in 1939 I received a registered letter telling me to come back. I went out on a Monday and went right to work. I understood that we were to get Union wages and I was paid Union wages. I paid dues to P.M.A. for some time after going back to work. After I went back to work for a while I quite paying dues to P.M.A. and made up my mind to join U.M.W. I stopped paying dues to P.M.A. because I did not like the way they were handling death benefits.

"I joined U.M.W. of my own free will nobody forced me in any way. I think this was after the 2nd N.L.R.B. election.

"I don't recall signing any cards for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. the summer of 1940.

"I voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election at the Armory. I voted of my own free will the way I wanted to. This election was by secret ballot and was entirely honest so far as I know.

"There were some falls and slate in the mine when it re-opened but they got coal out of one section of it in about 3 days. I know nothing about any fire at Mine "B" in 1939. I was not at the meeting at which

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was kicked out.

(continued) "I have had Agent [REDACTED] read the foregoing eight page statement to me and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is the truth. I am therefore signing it of my own will.

Signed: [REDACTED]

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

Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 6, 1943.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] Illinois, was interviewed September 1, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Illinois. At that time Special Agent [redacted] took shorthand notes of the interview, which were later transcribed and a statement drawn from them. This statement was presented to [redacted] on September 2, 1943, at which time he pronounced it correct in all details and signed it. It was observed that [redacted] had an intellect above that of the average minor. He appeared to be an honest and reliable individual. It is believed that he would make a good and willing witness if called upon to testify. He advised that he has no criminal record.

The statement given by [redacted] is as follows:

[redacted] Ill,  
Sept. 1, 1943

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

"I was born [redacted] Ill. and I am a citizen of the U. S. I am working at the [redacted] Mine.

[redacted] I joined the U.M.W. at [redacted] when I was about [redacted] years old. I started working at Mine "B" about [redacted] at that time they had a U.M.W. Union there. Up to 1932 the U.M.W. and Elshoff got along OK so far as I know. During this time the union was alright so far as the men were concerned.

"When the union split in 1932 I wanted to go with the Progressives, I went over with the majority of the other men and did no organizing.

"From 1932 to the time of the strike in 1937 P.M.A. seemed to get along OK with Elshoff so far as I know. I don't remember anything unusual happening during this time. I did not know anything about the management at Mine "B" being dissatisfied with P.M.A. or wanting to get U.M.W. back in the mine.

"I never heard of the P.M.A. officials doing anything wrong and as far as I knew the men were satisfied with them and the way they handled union affairs. I did not feel that the P.M.A. local was being run as a racket at Mine "B", I know P.M.A. had over 400 members there. I attended meetings only once in awhile because it was so far to go to Springfield to attend after having worked all day.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I believe the general feeling among the miners at Mine "B" was that the 33 or so miners who was sent up for bombings had been framed. I was always satisfied with the P.M.A. officials and felt it was a good local, I never suspected any of them of doing anything wrong with the money of the local. I think it was a good union.

"Between 1932 and the time of the strike in 1937 I never saw any U.M.W. men picket Mine "B". So far as I know the U.M.W. did not hand or sent out any pamphlets to the Progressives either at the mine or at the mens home. Prior to the time of the strike I was never approached to swing over to the U.M.W. and knew of no spies in the P.M.A. local, during this period as I recall things went smoth and there was no trouble. I never knew or heard anything about any parties being given by Elshoff for U.M.W. officials or men.

"I remember that in Mar. 1937 the Union contracts ran out and that we worked for awhile without a contract. As I understood it they expected to make a contract and any pay increase would be retroactive to April first. I think it was [redacted] who told us this and that he told us out at Mine "B". I knew of no reason to believe that P.M.A. couldn't get as good a contract as U.M.W. and we expected the P.M.A. would get a contract. I dont remember any complaints being made over the mens pay in April and dont recall and work stoppages or other trouble at this time.

"I didn't go to the meeting the night before the strike but as I remember it I knew the meeting was to be held. I think this was a special meeting and dont recall how I heard of it. On the morning of the day the strike started I went to work as always. I didn't hear any argument over wages that day but do remember hearing talk of some men having been expelled from P.M.A. I did not see or hear anything of cars coming up and of the mine being loaded short. When I came up out of the mine and went home that night I did not know there was going to be any strike. I came back to the mine to go to work the next day and found the mine shut down, it was then I heard that the mine was closed because the P.M.A. men refused to work with the expelled miners. A short time after the mine closed I signed a petition for P.M.A. No one forced me to sign this, and as far as I know everyone who signed it did so because they wanted to. I heard that the U.M.W. got out a petition that summer but no one asked me to sign it and I dont know anything about the methods used to get men to sign. I also remember later on signing another P.M.A. petition, I also signed this one as the other because I wanted P.M.A. as my union, I heard nothing about anyone being forced to sign this petition.

"In the summer of 1937 I heard that U.M.W. was forming a new local in Springfield, but no one asked me to join it. I did hear that

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

the U.M.W. had men going around trying to sign men up but I don't know anything about the methods they used. I once heard that during the strike Falscetti went over to the Jefferson mine to run it. I don't know anything about Fr. Elshoff owning any interest in or being a reciever for this mine.

"I have been shown by Agents of the F.B.I. an affidavit dated Aug. 25, 1937 at Virden, Ill. this affadavit refers to Charles Roth, who is now dead, telling me and others to attend a U.M.W. meeting. The information therein is true and correct and I reaffirm it and my signature. The statements in it were given freely by me and I was not forced to sign it or compelled in any way. I believe it was made at the Court House in Virden, Ill.

"I remember that mine " " was reopened in the fall of 1937, I knew it was going to open but don't recall just how I got notice of this. I believe someone phoned and told me about it. I have no recollection of the Progressives having held any meeting to decide what they were going to do. As I remember I went back the first day all ready to go to work but didn't. I think that only about 5 or 6 men went down in the mine that day. Those men as I recall were Pate Carter, Cotton Ananias, Andy Schrelevious, Tony Flotch, Dominic Pasquale, Sammy, Frank Auston, John Sirtout, Geo. & Emory Jacaway (Father & Son), Charles Bohannon and James Pale. I believe they were all in working clothes and nobody tried to stop them. I don't remember any body saying you had to join U.M.W. in order to go to work. I don't remember that these men were supposed to be U.M.W. spies but do remember that they went to work. I came on back home that day and went back to the mine the next day to help with the picketing, I helped with this for about 30 days and then got a job with

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election as I had a right to do this and intended at the time to go back to work at mine "B". As I remember this election it was fair and honest. The balloting was by secret ballot and no one tried to influence me to vote one way or the other. I voted P.M.A. because I believed in that union and still do.

"When the mine opened in Dec. 1939 I went back and worked one day then quite. I quite and went to work at the Virden Mine which is a P.M.A. mine, I am still a P.M.A. member. I quite the mine "B" because I had another job at the Virden Mine and felt I would rather work there.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

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

"Signed: [REDACTED] (signed)

Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED] /s/  
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)  
Ill. Sept. 2, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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

[REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on September 7, 1943. He appeared to be willing to answer questions put to him, but had no knowledge of pertinent facts. He would not make a good witness. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 7, 1943

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

[REDACTED]  
I presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and I am unemployed at this time.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW. I joined this union in [REDACTED] at Mine 'B'. I worked at this mine continuously from [REDACTED] to May 12, 1937, the day the mine closed down.

"I never held an office in a mine union. I am not familiar with the circumstances at Mine B in 1932 which brought about the formation of the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"I was satisfied with the UMW before 1932. I noticed no trouble between Elshoff and UMW before 1932.

"As far as I know Elshoff got along alright with the PMA until 1935 or 1936 when it appeared he began to favor the UMW. I felt Elshoff seemed to be very friendly with some of the men who seemed to be UMW organizers. I consider the following men who were working at the mine before it closed down were UMW organizers: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"None of these men ever talked to me. I heard they were UMW organizers from the other miners.

"I was satisfied with the PMA. I would still rather work under the PMA than the UMW. While I worked at Mine B. I was a coal digger.



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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

"I know nothing of the wage scale controversy.

(Continued)

"I heard about the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937.

Some miner told me about it. I was not able to go to that meeting. I heard the next day some UMW organizers had been thrown out of PMA at this meeting.

"I remember that the coal cars were shorted on May 12, 1937 but I did not know why.

"I never tried to go back to work at Mine B after May 12, 1937 when it later tried to re-open or when it did open in November, 1939. I did not go back because I was too old and my health would not let me work anymore.

"Inasmuch as my eyes are not good I have had [REDACTED] read this statement to me consisting of two pages and it is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] insisted that he knew nothing concerning activities at Mine B. He expresses himself with some difficulty and appears to have a poor memory. It is not felt that his faulty memory is the result of any contacts that might have been made with him. Although his personal appearance is satisfactory, it is felt that he would make a poor witness. He furnished the following signed statement:

"9-6-43  
[REDACTED] Ill.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] & came to the U.S. in [REDACTED]. I have been a U.S. citizen since [REDACTED]. I presently live at [REDACTED]. I joined the U.M.W. in about [REDACTED] when I started working as a miner. I have never held any office in any union. I never attended many union meetings and haven't been to any since gas rationing.

"I started to work at Mine B in 1936 and had joined the Progressive in 1932 when the state went Progressive. When I first started working at Mine B everything seemed to be going along fine. All the men were getting along with the officers and the union was getting along all right with the company.

"I was working at Mine B in the spring of 1937 and don't know anything about any wage dispute or any questions about wages. I never heard anything about any men working for United. At the time of the strike I was working in Box [REDACTED] and remember that we all worked as usual until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when they told us to go home. We didn't know anything about any strike until after the strike was called.

"I remember that a short time after the strike some Progressive men told me to sign a paper so I signed it. I don't remember any petitions being sent around to the men. I went out to the mine in the fall when the men went on the picket line and stayed there off and on until the injunction was issued in Dec. of 1937. I used to come every once in a while, especially on Saturday nights to see my wife and clean up. I didn't see any fighting and nobody said I had to stay out to the mine.

"I remember that I voted in the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937. I remember that we all marched to the Armory in groups of about 15 or 20

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

men in a group. After the strike some men came to my house and asked me to join United. I told them I didn't want to join until all the rest of the men did. I remember that Bohannon came to my house sometime in the fall of 1940 after I started back to work in Mine B and told me that the mine wasn't going to operate any more with Progressive men. Two other men were with Bohannon but I don't remember their names. They didn't hit me or threaten me in any way though. As I recall it, I started back to work at Mine B shortly after the new year started in 1940.

"I believe I joined the United Mine Workers in the winter of 1940. I wanted to keep my job and was afraid of losing my job if I didn't sign up with United. Nobody ever told me, but we all felt that unless we joined United we would lose our job. Nobody ever hit me or threatened me in an attempt to get me to join union. During the time I was at the mine I never saw anyone hurt.

"This statement of 3 pages has been read to me by [REDACTED] & it is true to the best of my memory. I am still employed at Mine B.

Signed [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] can neither read nor write English, has a very poor memory and would not make a satisfactory witness. He failed to remember any details concerning activities at Mine B and the following statement was secured from him:

[REDACTED] Illinois,  
September 2, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED], make the following signed voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as being Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to get me to make a statement. I reside at [REDACTED]."

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the U. S., in [REDACTED]. I am an American citizen. I started coal mining in about [REDACTED] and joined the United Mine Workers at that time. I have never held an office in any union.

"I went to work at Mine B about 1935, as near as I can recall, and I was working there on the day of the strike. I don't know anything about the strike, I was working in Box [REDACTED] at the time, its a long time, I don't remember.

"After the strike I signed a petition at the Union Hall in Springfield. I was at the mines on the picket line, three, four months. All the other fellows were there. I went to show I was a good member of Progressive, someone told me to go.

"The above is all I know about the trouble.

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnessed:

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

"Note: Above read to [REDACTED] by Agent [REDACTED] and he advised contents were true."

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence on September 7, 1943, by

Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] seemed afraid of something during the interview, but when asked if anyone had told him not to give information to the F.B.I., [REDACTED] said that no one had talked to him. He speaks English with difficulty and understands it when spoken slowly. He claimed to have no criminal record. If necessary, he is willing to testify. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 6, 1943.

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and I am employed at Mine B. I was born [REDACTED]. I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED].

"I first joined a union, the United Mine workers, in Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED]. I stayed in this union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I think it was before the election in February 1941 at Mine B that I rejoined the U.M.W., but I am not sure. I have never been an officer in any union.

"I started to work at Mine B about [REDACTED]. When the P.M.A. union was organized in 1932, I went along with the majority. From that time until 1937 everything was smooth at Mine B. I was satisfied with the P.M.A. union and with the leaders of that union. I would have been satisfied with U.M.W. also because it makes no difference to me to which union I belong. I just want to be with the majority in a union.

"Before the strike started in 1937 no one ever said anything to me about joining the U.M.W. I don't remember any talk about anyone trying to force any of the miners to join a union.

"I went to quite a few P.M.A. union meetings, but I don't remember a meeting on the night before the strike started. I don't

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

remember any talk about some men being kicked out of the P.M.A. because of their working for U.M.W.

"On the day the strike started I went to work in Mine B. I don't know any reasons for the strike. I think the runners were called out of the mine, by the P.M.A. officials, but I don't know for sure. I don't know if any of the men were loading their cars with short weights.

"After the strike started, I don't remember signing any petition for any union.

"I recall that I received a notice from the mine company that Mine B was going to open in September 1937. When the mine opened, I recall that the P.M.A. had a meeting and voted to picket the mine if the management tried to send U.M.W. men into the mine. The P.M.A. officials thought the U.M.W. men would try to go into Mine B. I am not certain whether the P.M.A. meeting was before or after the management tried to open the mine. I recall that I went out to the picket line which the P.M.A. started to keep U.M.W. men from going into Mine B. I went out to the picket line because I wanted to. No one forced me to go out to the picket line. I remember the federal injunction obtained by the mine company, but I don't know any reasons for it.

"In the election at the State Armory in December 1937 I voted for the P.M.A. because I was a member of that union, and I liked that union and wanted it to stay at Mine B.

"Prior to the reopening of the mine in November 1939, no one said anything to me about joining U.M.W. After I went back to work at Mine B Bohannon came to my home, and showed me a list of names of men who he said had joined the U.M.W. He did not threaten me, and did not tell me that I would lose my job if I did not join the U.M.W. However, I knew that I would lose my job if U.M.W. got into Mine B and I was not a member of it, so I joined up with U.M.W. to save my job. I think this was before the election in February 1941.

"I recall that [REDACTED] had a job as an air-checker, and I seem to recall that there was such a job before the strike started in 1937.

"Bohannon was the only man who ever talked to me about joining the U.M.W. but he never did threaten me if I did not join the U.M.W.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"In the election in February 1941 I voted for the U.M.W. because I was a member of that union at that time. It did not make any difference to me which union was

in Mine B.

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

/s/

"Witnesses:

/s/

Special Agents, FBI  
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed by [REDACTED] Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Illinois on September 2, 1943. He appeared willing to answer the questions put to him, and would willingly testify to the facts set forth in his signed statement.

The following is the signed statement of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Illinois  
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, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born at [REDACTED] I moved to [REDACTED] Illinois when I was [REDACTED] years old. I have lived in the vicinity of [REDACTED] Illinois all my life. I first joined a mine union in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Illinois. This was local 443 of the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW. The only office I ever held in any mine union was [REDACTED] I presently reside at [REDACTED]

"Approximately speaking, I started working at Mine B in [REDACTED] and continued working there until May 12, 1937 when the mine shut down. I never went back after that date for any reason whatsoever. As I mentioned above, I joined the UMW in [REDACTED] and remained a member of that union until September, 1932 when Mine B went over to the Progressive Miner Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I felt that the PMA was a very good union and believed it had capable leadership. The members of the union seemed to get along alright with their union officials. I'm speaking of the PMA.

"I do not know how Elshoff got along with the UMW prior to 1932 or his relationship with PMA from 1932 to 1937. During the time I worked at Mine B, I only attended one union meeting and that was a PMA meeting. I did not go to the PMA meeting held on the night of May 11, 1937.

"Sometime in the first part of April, 1937 some aggitators were working in Mine B and trying to get the PMA miners to join the UMW. Those men, all of whom I knew at the mine are; Joe Albanese, Cudge Bungarner, John Ananias, James Hale, Tony Flotch, Andrew Schrelevious, John Sirtout, Frank Austin, Pete Carter, Dominic Pasquale, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, and Charles Bohannon.



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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"None of these above mentioned men talked to me about joining the UMW, but I heard that they talked to other miners on that subject. These UMW organizers did threaten and beat PMA members to get them to join the UMW. I never overheard these threats or saw the fights but I heard about them from other miners. I heard also that these UMW aggitators went to the wash house and cut up the PMA miner's clothes so they could not be worn. This happened after the mine re-opened in November, 1939. I voluntarily joined the PMA in 1932 when John L. Lewis's officials stole the ballot boxes. It was my understanding from PMA officials that in 1937, Elshoff was to pay retroactive pay dating back to April, 1937, but he did not do so. I did not attend the PMA meeting on May 11, 1937 when some of the aggitators were expelled from PMA for aggitating for UMW, but I heard about it the next day at the mine.

"On May 12, 1937 the members of the PMA Pit Committee told the men who had been expelled not to go into the mine. After I had gone into the mine, a member of the PMA Pit Committee told me to load my cars short as the expelled miners had been permitted to enter the mine by Elshoff. I did not load short, but some did and the mine was shut down. The short loading was not do to the wage scale matter. I signed the PMA petition on May 26, 1937 to show I was a member of PMA. This was the only petition I signed. Since I did not attend union meetings, and was not an official of the union or have any dealings with the Operators, I knew very little about the wage scale question, or have first hand knowledge about the labor organizing.

"I saw the aggitators mentioned in this statement, enter Elshoff's office at the mine a large number of times in April, 1937. I don't know what they said, but it is my belief that the UMW bought Elshoff off to get the contract and the bargaining rights but I have no way of furnishing evidence to prove it.

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home

by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] appeared cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of what occurred during the trouble at Mine "B". [REDACTED] advised that he was a good friend of PETE CARTER, who is one of the alleged UMW spies, and that he thought these men (the spies) "were right in acting as they did". He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 6, 1943  
[REDACTED]

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to America to stay in [REDACTED]. I am an alien. I started working in [REDACTED] Mine in [REDACTED] joining the United Mine Workers of America bringing my International card [REDACTED]. I started at Mine 'B' about [REDACTED] retaining my U.M.W. membership. Between [REDACTED] and 1932 the U.M.W. and the Mine 'B' officials got along as usual. As I understand it the Progressive Union was formed because of wage trouble and the votes being stolen in 1932. I never had any part in forming this union and have never held an office in either the P.U. or the U.M.W. I joined the Progressives along with the majority at Mine 'B'. So far as I know the Progressives got along as well with Mr. Elshoff as the U.M.W. did. I don't think that the management was partial towards either union.

"I thought that the Progressive Union was fine in the beginning and favored it up to the time of the strike in 1937.

"The strike at Mine 'B' in May of 1937 started because of a dispute over wages. Mine 'B' wasn't paying as much as some of the surrounding mines. [REDACTED] signed a temporary contract but it didn't pay as much as the new U.M.W. contract. Shortly before the strike I remember Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John 'Cotton' Ananias, John Sirtout, George and Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

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and a few others were saying that they weren't going to work for less wages. I think that these men were right. These men were Progressives but they said

that they weren't going to 'scab' on the other mines. The [REDACTED] came out and said that they were going to join UMWA. I never attended any meetings at which any of the above named men were suspended or expelled. I don't recall any meeting the night before the strike.

"I didn't know a thing about the strike until we were called out by [REDACTED] in the afternoon of May 12, 1937, because we couldn't make an agreement with Mr. Elshoff. I didn't load any coal short on the day of the strike, but understand that some of the miners did load coal short that day.

"I recall that about [REDACTED] including the men named above called the Progressives 'scabs' and went on strike a short time before the big strike on May 12, 1937. After these men struck some of them were expelled by the PMA. I think that these men went on strike on April 27, 1937 after the first pay day where we didn't get a raise.

"I recall signing one petition for the Progressives before we went back to work.

"The men mentioned above formed a new UMWA local and Pete Carter, who was a good friend of mine, tried to get me to go to their meetings.

"During the 'Set Down Strike' at Mine 'B' I spent about a month picketing. While I was there I never saw any attempts to open the mine by UMWA.

"After the Government stopped the picketing I voted at the NLRB election, which was conducted very fairly. The Progressives won the election 404-25. After the election I don't know of any attempts by UMWA men to reopen the mine.

"When I went back to Mine B a couple of months after it opened I was still paying dues to the Progressives. I remained Progressive for a couple of months before I switched over to UMWA. I changed over because I thought the Progressives were losing and I wanted to protect my job. No one ever threatened or beat me to get me to join UMWA. I went down to a UMWA meeting and signed up there. If I quit Mine B the PMA told me that they couldn't do anything for me [REDACTED]. I had to join UMWA to keep my job.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]

"I voted UMWA in the second NLRB election. UMWA won this election.

(Continued)

"At the present time I prefer UMWA.

[REDACTED] has read the above three and one half (3½) pages of statements to me. The same are true and I do hereby sign my name.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED] Sp. Agt. F.B.I.

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This man speaks English with considerable difficulty and with a limited expression. He can understand only plain and simple questions. He said he is willing to testify in court, but prefers not to. He claimed to have no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 4, 1943

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am working in Mine B. I was born [REDACTED], and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized [REDACTED] at Springfield, Ill. I joined a mine union, some small local, in Pennsylvania, in [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] I joined the U.M.W. at Springfield, Ill. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, when the majority of the men at Mine B where I was working did. I didn't take any part in organizing the P.M.A. and went with the majority of the men.

"From 1932 until 1937, there was no trouble between the P.M.A. and the mine management. The P.M.A. always treated me all right, and I had no fault to find. The U.M.W. had always treated me all right, too. It made no difference to me one union or another. I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. To the best of my memory, I don't think anyone went into the mine on the day of the strike. I don't remember who it was that told me to stay out of the mine that day. I heard that the strike was called because the Mine B management said they didn't want the P.M.A. in the mine, that they wanted the U.M.W. I don't remember any more about it. I don't know if U.M.W. had any organizers or agitators in the mine before the strike or not.

"I think I signed a paper for the P.M.A. shortly after the strike, which paper said that there were more P.M.A. men than U.M.W. in the mine, that the P.M.A. didn't want to fight, they just wanted to work. Sometime, I think it was that summer, before the mine opened, two men, whose names I don't know, one an Italian and one a Lithuanian, came and asked me to join the U.M.W. I told them I wouldn't sign, and they left. They didn't threaten me, but told me that conditions would be better for me if I joined the U.M.W.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

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"In the fall of 1937, I went out to the picket line at the mine. We were told by the P.M.A. that we were picketing to keep the jobs for ourselves, and away from the U.M.W. All the men on the picket line were Mine B men. One night a man came to the mine, and told the men to leave. All left quietly.

"About two weeks after the mine opened in 1939, [REDACTED] told me to come back to work. A short while after I started work, Dominic Pasquale came to my room, and tried to get me to join the U.M.W. He told me I wouldn't be able to work at the mine if I didn't join the U.M.W. He didn't threaten me, and I never was hurt, although I did hear of men getting beat up in other boxes.

"Sometime later, before I joined U.M.W., some man, I think it was Sirtout, told me I wouldn't get my track laid near a wall and I wouldn't get a good room, unless I signed with the U.M.W. I had to lay some of the track myself. I joined the U.M.W., because Sirtout told me I would have better conditions. This is the only reason I joined U.M.W. [REDACTED] and wouldn't get a job anywhere else. I liked the P.M.A., and I was satisfied with it, although, as I said before, all unions are the same to me. In the election of December, 1937, I voted P.M.A. because most of the men seemed to want it. In 1941, I voted for U.M.W. at the election, because I was a member at that time, and because I didn't want any more trouble at the mine.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of about three pages, read to me, and I swear it is the truth to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

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

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 8, 1943, at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is very deliberate in his actions and speech, but when he wants to he can express himself so that he can be understood. He understands English, but claims to be unable to read very well. He said he was arrested once by mistake, but it was not on a criminal charge. [REDACTED] said he is not afraid to tell the truth as he knows it.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 8, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED], make the following statement freely and voluntarily to [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 live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I acquired my citizenship through my father when he was naturalized, but I don't remember the date. I am presently working at Mine B,

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. I stayed in this union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. As I recall I rejoined the U.M.W. just before the election in February 1941. I never have held an office in any union.

"From 1932 until 1937 while I was working at Mine B, everything seemed to be O.K. The P.M.A. union was satisfactory so far as I was concerned, but it really made no difference to me which union I was in because I thought one union was as good as any other.

"As I recall after the strike started BOHANNON came to my house and asked me to join the U.M.W. I did not say "yes" or "no". I just told him that I would see about the matter later. SHRELEVIOUS was with BOHANNON; the younger JACAWAY was also present. No threats were made to me at this time.

"After the mine reopened in 1939 there was a new bunch of men in the mine. Every few days a new bunch of men would come into the mine. They did not do any work, but merely walked around the mine and talked to the men. I think these men were changed frequently so that the men working in the mine would not get to know these men.

"One night after the mine reopened, Mine B I mean, a big man whose

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

name I don't know, came to my house and wanted me to sign up with U.M.W. He said that the men would have good working conditions in Mine B if they joined U.M.W., but if they stayed in P.M.A., the conditions would not be good.

"I recall that BILL SIRCOUT was always asking me to join U.M.W. He talked to me almost every day. He said that if I did not join U.M.W., I would not have any job.

"I finally joined U.M.W. because I thought I had to to keep my job at Mine B. I had no fault to find with P.M.A., and merely signed up with U.M.W. to keep my job. On the day I signed up with U.M.W. some man whose name I don't remember talked to me about joining U.M.W. down in the mine. When I came to the top [REDACTED] signed me up for U.M.W.

"I heard that some men were beat up at Mine B, but I don't know their names.

"I don't know why the strike started. I don't know if the miners were loading cars with short weights on the day the strike started. I found out about the strike after I had completed my work on the day the trouble started. I was told that the men were not working any more. I don't remember who told me this.

"I remember that I signed a petition for P.M.A. shortly after the strike started. This petition was to show that the P.M.A. had most of the miners at Mine B in their union, and that they wanted to go back to work. I don't recall any other petitions.

"I received a notice from Mine B in September 1937, as I recall, that the mine would reopen. The notice said that the mine would open with U.M.W. men only. I recall the picket line in the fall of 1937, but I don't remember how the picket line was decided upon. The purpose of the picket was to keep U.M.W. men from going into Mine B to work because we of the P.M.A. felt we had the right to protect our jobs. I remember that the P.M.A. official used to pick up the miners and take them out to the mine to the picket line. They told me to go out to the picket line, but they did not threaten me or force me to go. I only saw Mine B men in the picket line.

"In the election in December 1937 at the State Armory I voted for the P.M.A. because I liked that union as well as I liked the U.M.W., and I knew that most of the miners preferred the P.M.A. union.

"I don't remember how I voted in the election in February 1941. At this time I was a member of the U.M.W. because I knew that I would have been beat up if I had not joined when I did.



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"When BILL SIRTOUT talked to me about joining the U.M.W., I remember that he told me that it would be too bad for me if I did not join the U.M.W. I knew that he meant that I would get a beating if I did not join the U.M.W.

"When the mine attempted to reopen in September 1937, FALCETTI told the men that if they did not join U.M.W., they would not go down into Mine B, and that the company was not going to work Mine B with P.M.A. men any more. He said that they would never open Mine B under a P.M.A. contract any more, and that the mine would be under U.M.W. only.

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

WITNESSES:

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Illinois.

[REDACTED] furnished agents with the following statement and he read the same over but then said that he would not sign it unless he was in Court and was told to sign it and he also mentioned that he would testify to that in Court if he were called upon. He also advised agents the information was true. It was noted that [REDACTED] is a rather intelligent individual and readily understood the questions asked him and it was noted that he is very well versed in union matters.

The following is the statement obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ill.,  
Sept. 2, 1943.

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

"I was born at [REDACTED] and presently am a timberman at Mine B in Springfield, Ill., and I have worked there over [REDACTED] years or so. I joined some union when I was a small boy and it was called [REDACTED]

"Prior to 1932 when UMW was there at Mine B the local was just the same as any other UMW local. Everything was fine and dandy between UMW and Carl Elshoff that I know of before 1932. When John L. Lewis caused the trouble around 1932 and they turned over to PMA I did not like the idea as I never liked to see too many organizations for us miners. But when the split came I went over to PMA with the others because they were the controlling party. I did not take any active part in going over to the PMA.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"Between 1932 and the time the mine closed I never knew of any difficulty between Carl Elshoff and PMA. When I first became president Elshoff and I had an understanding that if any cases were brot up that they would be decided according to the contract which was then in force and Elshoff said he would do that and I never had any trouble with Elshoff as long as [REDACTED] and the cases were disposed of satisfactorily. I believe that Elshoff was fair. I never had any trouble with OSCAR FALCETTI then either.

"Between 1932 and the time the mine closed down there never was any trouble or strikes or slow-downs there at Mine 3 and things went along very fine and nice.

"Between 1932 and the time the mine closed I never heard Falcetti or Elshoff make any remarks that they liked UMW better or wanted them back. Neither did they do anything to my knowledge of trying to get UMW back at that time.

"I recall that [REDACTED] and up until the mine closed that there would be small fights and troubles especially around election times as the men would have too many drinks, etc. but it had nothing to do with the coal company. There would be men who wanted to see their friends in as officials and naturally they would get to arguing about the matters.

"I said then and still say now that in any local union there is too much profiteering in them. In connection with local 54 they were no more racket ridden than any other local. The local would seem to be run alright but there were a few such as [REDACTED] and several others, would try to force their will on the other members to swing something one way or another.

[REDACTED] No threats or beating were given by these men but they would just try and talk the men into something one way or another. I was very active in PMA prior to the time the mine closed and attended most of their meetings. Some of the miners felt that those PMA men convicted in the bombing cases had an injustice to them. I never had any opinion on the matter but I knew quite a few of them personally.

"Between 1932 and 1937, while I was president, there was passed a 10% levy on all miners and this was called a strike fund and was to be used for helping miners in other locals who were not working. I don't think that all of this money went to the strike fund but went toward salaries and other expenses. There was no books then and everything was on a cash basis.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

P.O. #118  
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

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not even under bond. There were 12 men on this board who took care of this money. There were no other outstanding special assessments outside of the regular dues and assessments for death etc. I know that during 1932 and 1937 a lot of the members were able to get gas coupons from the local if they had to do something on union business and a lot used to get such gas.

"The officers and other expenses and salaries all came out of the general fund of local 54. The death fund was handled O.K. as far as I know. If there was any crookedness with the money affairs it could have happened in the 10% levy but I don't know for sure if anything wrong did go on there. The local expenses were all read off at the meetings. The PMA officials however did make regular reports to the miners at the meetings as to what happened to their local funds. However, this 10% levy was not accounted for as it was a special set up. When the Special strike fund was discontinued by local 54 [REDACTED] left his job and moved to Michigan. At a special meeting in Springfield, Ill., at 8th & Washington, all but 15 men voted to remove the assessment. [REDACTED] and several others opposed it. [REDACTED]

"While we had our Progressive union at Mine B, there were rumors around that there were UMW men out trying to get the PMA to go back to the UMW but none of them ever approached me. During this period there was no picketing at Mine B by the UMW that I know of, I did see some white papers scattered along the lane leading up to the mine once but whether this was UMW literature or not I could not say. I knew nothing about any paid UMW spies or organizers being in the PMA local prior to the strike.

"I never heard of any parties given by Elshoff or Falsetti for the UMW men or officials.

"I remember when the contract between the Progressives and the operators ran out in Mar. of 1937, at that time a temporary agreement was drawn up as I recall and white slips with the substance of this agreement on them were passed around among the men, by [REDACTED]. There was no feeling at this time that the Progressives would not be able to get as good a contract as good as the UMW or anyone else. I remember no arguments or disputes over this. There was never any trouble at the mine over the wage question so far as I know. I never had Falsetti or Elshoff say anything to me about the agreement between the union and the company. I believe that the company did have some slips showing the nature of the agreement, but I don't know exactly what the nature of this was at this time.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I did not attend the meeting the night before the mine closed out. I do recall the contention over the 5 men who were to be expelled. I remember telling some of the trial board members that the charge that they had placed against these men was a serious one, a bad thing and would only cause trouble unless they had good proof of the charges made. I think that this was a special meeting of the trial board and was handled in the same way that all such matters were handled. I went to work the morning of the day of the strike the men went to work as always. As I remember it the men worked most of this day. I think that I heard that the men were being called out about 5 min. before quitting time. I do know that during that day the men were going around whispering one to the other to load the cars short. I dont have any idea who started this nor do I know what it was about. I dont know to this day why the strike started that day, some said that it was over pay, some that it was over loading the cars short, I never heard it said that it was over the men who were expelled from the union. I dont remember hearing anything about the management refusing to fire the men expelled from the union. I have often wondered why this strike was called. I believe that if every man had tended to his own business that this mine would have never shut down.

"I believe I signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937, as I recall we signed this petition out on the road in front of the mine and those that didn't get to sign it there were visited at home and given a chance to sign it. I signed because I thought as long as we had a PMA union out there we had a chance of getting a contract. I felt at this time that in a few days we would have a contract.

"I did not hear of or sign any petition for the UMW.

"I dont remember signing specific petitions but think I signed one or two these were all for PMA.

"During the summer of 1937 I read about the UMW starting a local in Spring. all I knew was what I read in the paper. I remember that Chas. Bohanon was president of it.

"I dont recall any unusual activity or events during the summer of 1937. I did hear that some of the mine B men had gone to the Jefferson Mine to work and heard that Falsetti was over there as boss of the mine. I remember signing the affidavit which has been shown me by agents of the FBI, this affidavit was made at Virden, Ill. Aug. 25th, 1937, and concerned statements made to myself and other miners about going to UMW meetings, this statement is true and the signature attached thereto is my own. Later on learning of this Mr. Falsetti told Roth that he had no power to make any

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

such statement to these men, Mr. Falsetti was pretty sore about this, I dont remember who else was present at the time Falsetti made this statement.

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"I remember the attempt to reopen the mine in Sept. of 1937. I believe that I read in the paper that the mine was to be reopened at that time. On the morning the mine was reopened the officers from both local unions were there. Mr. Falsetti stated he wanted 50 men to go to work. When Progressive men would come up to go down to work Mr. Falsetti would shake his head and not let them work, I dont remember anybody going to work that morning. I do know that the morning we started picketing no one went to work. I remember some of those who were there that morning among them "Sammy", Andy Schrevelious, Demoric Pasquale, Cotton Anarias, Charles Bohanon and James Hale. I was at the mine most of the time during the picketing, I looked after the medical supplies. There was no regular meeting held, the boys just met and said that if they couldn't go down wasn't nobody going down. I believe that the picketing started the same morning that they tried to open the mine. I never heard of there being any thugs brought in to help in this picketing, some of the fellows had men from the other mines come and visit them, this was during the day and these men took no active part. The men were just there to protect there jobs and were ready to go to work at any time. I was there when the Marshall came out to tell the men to leave the mine. When the Marshall came out the union officers ran like sheep and the committeemen also left, I called the men together and the Marshall addressed the men, he read the injunction and pinned it up. One of the men jumped up and said we didn't have to leave, I asked him how long he would give us to leave the mine, this was about 7 pm, the Marshall said he couldn't say how long he could give us but that he was going to be a very busy man until 12.30 am, I told the men that I didn't know what they were going to do but I was leaving after some discussion most of the men decided to do the same, some of them said something about breaking windows and such, but I told them not to do that. Later [REDACTED] came out and he told the men that I had told them right and that he wouldn't tell them to stay. I believe the marshalls name was [REDACTED] one of the officers said I had no business to tell the men to leave this was [REDACTED] he said I wasn't running it and that they didn't have to leave. I never know of the UMW coming out and causing any trouble at all while we were out there on strike. Everything was cleaned up and gone by 12:30 am.

"I heard about the attempt to open the mine of Dec. 13th but we did not go to the mine.

"The first labor election was held by secret ballot, no one tried to force me to vote one way or another as I remember now I voted PMA

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

although this was against my principles as I felt it would be well to go back to UMW. This was so far as I know a good honest election in every way.

"I don't recall going to the mine when they attempted to open it in Jan. 1938.

"I didn't go near the mine during this time up until the mine opened. I did not attend any meetings and took no active part in what was going on at this time. I never heard anything as to why Elshoff would not sign with PMA, or how he was able to keep the mine closed all this time.

"I got a letter telling me to come back to work in Nov. 1939, within a certain number of days, I don't remember how many. I started back to work about two days after the mine opened, this was on a Sunday. When I went back to the mine no body said anything to me. I had no understanding at all as to wages when we went back to work, we just figured it would be the regular union wage scale. I think that I joined the UMW prior to the 2nd. NLRB election, nobody approached me to join the UMW. One PMA man asked me what I was going to do. I told him I was going back. I was discusted because some of the PMA men had been able to get all they wanted from PMA relief but when I was out of a job nobody seemed to care or want to do anything for us, they did send word that there was five bars of soap but I told them I couldn't eat soap. The PMA man who approached me was the PMA local sect. a fellow by the name of [REDACTED]. He really came to talk to me about why I wasn't paying my dues to PMA. I was not threatened and don't know of anyone who was. I have heard rumors of men being beat up by UMW but I have my first time to see any of it. I don't know anything about any acts of favoritism on the part of the management for either UMW or PMA. I don't recall signing any cards for either PMA or UMW up until the time I rejoined the UMW. I did nothing to influence anyone to join the UMW.

"I voted at the 2nd. NLRB election so far as I know it was an honest election just as same as the other one was. Nobody said anything to me either way. The election was by secret ballot and as I recall the report was won by UMW.

"When I went back to work in Mine "B" it was in very bad shape. Boxes 2 and 9 have never been reopened. All of the cars and rails in these sections were lost. I don't know of any fire at mine B while it was closed. I did not hear of nor attend the meeting at which [REDACTED] was kicked out.

"I have read the foregoing statement of 3 pages and to the best of my knowledge and recollection it is the truth in its entirety. I am therefore signing the same of my own free will and initaling each page thereof.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] signed

(continued)

[REDACTED] read the same and said it was true but he would not sign it unless he was in Court and was told to sign it.

Witnessed

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

[REDACTED]  
Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)  
[REDACTED] Ill. Sept 2, 1943"



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 8, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This man speaks and understands English with some difficulty. Very simple questions must be asked of him. He said he is willing to testify in court. He claimed to have no criminal record. It is noted that his name, as used by his children in school, is also spelled [REDACTED].

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 8, 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 am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am employed at Mine B. -I was born [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] I came to the United States, and was naturalized in [REDACTED].

"In [REDACTED] I joined the United Mine Workers when I was working in [REDACTED] when I came to the United States I became a member of the U.M.W. in this country. I had to join again because I did not transfer my membership. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932. I have never been an officer in any union.

"Since [REDACTED] when I started to work at Mine B, I have worked in several mines around Springfield. When the P.M.A. started at Mine B in 1932, I had no part in the formation of that union. I just went along with the majority of the men. After 1932 things went along O.K. at Mine B, I was satisfied with the P.M.A., but I think I would have been satisfied with U.M.W. too.

"On the day the strike started, I did not hear about the strike until I finished my work in the mine. As far as I know, no one in my parting loaded their cars with short weights that day. I don't remember who told me that there was a strike at the mine.

"After the strike started I don't remember signing any petition for any union.

"I was on the picket line in the fall of 1937. As I recall I rode out to the picket line with [REDACTED]. I did not get any notice that the mine

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

was going to reopen in the fall of 1937. I recall that [redacted] told me that the mine was going to open, and that he went out to work. When he arrived there, he told me he learned they were picketing. After that I joined the picket line to keep U.M.W. men out of the mine. I only saw Mine B men in the picket line.

"In December 1937 I voted in the election at the State Armory. No one told me how to vote. I voted for P.M.A. in this election because I liked this union and wanted to keep it at Mine B.

"Bill Sirtout has tried to get me to join U.M.W. He talked with me, but did not use any rough tactics. I told him that I'd make up my mind later on this matter. I don't recall exactly when Sirtout talked to me, but it was after I went back to work in 1939.

"After going back to work, Cotton Ananias asked me to join U.M.W. He did not get rough with me. Some time after I started back to work in Mine B, Tony Pletch and Cotton came to my house. At that time I signed up with U.M.W. I said that if most of the men wanted U.M.W., I was willing to join U.M.W.

[redacted] talked to me in Mine B after I started back to work. He did not get rough, but he told me that if I waited too long before I joined U.M.W., I would lose my job, and some one might get hurt. I think he meant that I would get hurt. I heard that some men were beat up, but I never saw any of this.

"When the mine reopened in 1939, Oscar Falcetti came to my house and told me when to come back to work. I had been working on W.P.A. I don't remember the election in February 1941.

"I joined U.M.W. to keep my job. I was entirely satisfied with P.M.A., but it didn't make much difference to me which union I was in at Mine B.

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

[redacted] (signed)

"Witness:

[redacted] /s/  
[redacted] /s/  
Special Agents, F.B.I.  
Springfield, Ill."

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 7,

1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Throughout the interview [REDACTED] appeared to be extremely nervous and afraid to talk. It is not known whether this is his usual demeanor. He speaks and understands English well. [REDACTED] refused to sign the statement prepared from the interview, but admitted to both Agents that everything in it is true to the best of his knowledge. He said he preferred not to testify. [REDACTED] claimed to have no criminal record. When asked if anyone had threatened him if he gave information to FBI Agents, [REDACTED] said that no one had talked to him. Following is the statement which [REDACTED] refused to sign.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 7, 1943.

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I was born [REDACTED] I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] I was naturalized in Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED] Presently I am working at Panther Creek Mine #2, and am a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America union.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. I began to work at Mine B in [REDACTED] while working at Mine B in 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I had no part in the formation of this union, and merely joined it when the majority of the men swung from the U.M.W. to P.M.A. I have never held an office in any union.

"From 1932 to 1937 I don't recall any trouble at Mine B, either between the management and the P.M.A., or between the miners themselves. I did not attend many union meetings during this time. I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A. union, and the officers and members all treated me O.K. I have found all unions pretty much alike, and I have no preference one way or the other.

"No one talked to me about joining the U.M.W. before the strike started in 1937. I did not hear of anyone trying to organize for U.M.W. in Mine B prior to 1937. I don't think that I went to a meeting of the P.M.A. on the night before the strike started in 1937. On the day of the strike, I think that I had

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

finished my work, and when I came to the top I heard that no work would be done the next day. I don't know any reasons for the strike.

"In October, 1937, I got a job at Panther Creek Mine #2, and have been working there ever since.

"I don't remember signing any petition in 1937. I might have done so, but I don't remember. After the strike started, no one tried to get me to join the U.M.W.

"I did not know that Mine B was going to reopen in September 1937. I did not go out to the picket line and no one asked me to go out to it. I knew a lot of men who did go out to the picket line.

"I voted in the election held at the State Armory in December 1937. I don't know how I heard about the election. I was working at Panther Creek Mine #2 when this election was held. I prefer not to say how I voted in this election, but I will say that I had nothing against P.M.A. at the time of this election.

"Since the election of 1937, I have had nothing to do with Mine B or the unions at that mine.

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

"Witnesses:

[REDACTED] stated that everything contained in the above statement was true, but he declined to sign it.)

/s.

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

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Although [REDACTED]

is cooperative it is felt that due to the short time he worked at Mine B he does not possess sufficient information to make him a good witness. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 7, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of whom have identified themselves as 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 reside at [REDACTED] and was born [REDACTED]. I started mining when I was [REDACTED] years of age and at that time joined the U.M.W. I joined Progressive in 1932 and at that time was working at Panther Creek mines.

"I started working at Mine B in August, 1940 and voted in the NLRB election in February of 1941. I knew Oscar Falcetti and I went out and asked him for a job. He told me if I wanted to work nights he would put me on. I worked there about a year and one-half, until April, 1942. When I went to work at Mine B I did not belong to any union. Falcetti didn't say anything to me about joining any union. I used to belong to Progressive and I had tried to get a job through them, but I couldn't. I decided to join United, for I was a little mad about not getting a job under Progressive. When I started to work I was approached by both P.M.A. and U.M.W. men who wanted me to join their unions. No one threatened me and I didn't see anyone beaten up. After I had been working about a week I joined United. As I was working nights I didn't see much of what was going on.

"I was never active in any union and never attended many meetings.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well. He was cooperative, but his memory did not seem to be very good. He claimed to have no criminal record. If necessary, he is willing to testify.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 6, 1943

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

"I live at [REDACTED] Illinois, and am working at Mine B. I was born [REDACTED]. I joined the United Mine Workers at Springfield in [REDACTED]. In 1931 I was working at the Peabody Mine, and we went on strike. I didn't work in a mine until January of 1934, when I began work at Mine B. I had been a member of P.M.A. for some time before beginning work at Mine B. I had not paid dues in the P.M.A., but started to pay dues when I began working there. I had no part in the organizing of P.M.A., and have never held an office in any mine union.

"From 1934 until 1937, I don't remember any trouble at the mine, between the management and the union. I was satisfied in the P.M.A. during that period, and heard or saw nothing to make me think the P.M.A. was not being run fair and square. I didn't hear of any talk on the part of the management which would show a preference for the U.M.W. or against the P.M.A.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike. I went to the mine on the day of the strike, but didn't go down into the mine. I think the strike was caused because there was no contract between the P.M.A. and Mine B, and I'm not sure. I don't remember the union officials ever telling any of the men the reason for the strike. I don't remember, either, getting any explanation from the P.M.A. officials why we only had an extension agreement.

"I remember that, just before the strike, there was some agitation on the part of some men for the U.M.W., or some union. No one talked to me about joining the U.M.W. at that time, and I knew that Andy Schrelevious and Dominic Pasquale, and some others, were agitating for the U.M.W. One day I heard Pasquale and a man named [REDACTED] arguing, and I supposed the argument to be over union matters.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I remember signing a petition, I don't know just when, asking for a referendum to see which union had the majority. This was a P.M.A. petition, and I'm reasonably sure I signed one, but I can't be positive of it. I do remember that no one asked me to join the U.M.W. in 1937.

"I don't remember getting any notice that the mine was going to open up in the fall of 1937. I picketed the mine at this time, to keep the U.M.W. men out of the mine. I don't remember how I got notice of the picket line. It might have been at a P.M.A. meeting, but I'm not sure. I was not made to go out to the picket line. The P.M.A. men went out to the mine to work. I don't remember seeing any U.M.W. men trying to go down into the mine at this time. The injunction was read to us by a federal man, and was for the purpose of getting the P.M.A. men away from the mine. After the injunction was read, we all left. We were willing to leave the matter up to the P.M.A. officials, and were willing to abide by their decisions. The decisions were all arrived at after a discussion, and anyone could get up and speak his mind.

"I remember the election in the winter of 1937, at the arsenal. I don't remember how I heard about it but think I saw it in the paper. I went to the election of my own accord, and voted the way I wanted to. I got no instructions from the P.M.A. officers as to how to vote. I voted for P.M.A. because I was satisfied with that union, and preferred it to the U.M.W.

"I don't remember anyone coming to me while I was out on strike, either to join the U.M.W. or to keep in the P.M.A. I went to some P.M.A. meetings, but don't know how many, or what was discussed. In the fall of 1939, I got a letter from the Mine B management saying that the mine was going to open. They said they would let me know when a place was ready for me. I don't remember just exactly when I went back to work.

"After I went back to work in the mine, [REDACTED] asked me to join the U.M.W. by signing a referendum petition. I told him I didn't want to until I saw how the men felt. He then asked me to come to a U.M.W. meeting to see how many Mine B men were there. I went and saw about half the men from Mine B there. Around this time I heard several men saying that if the U.M.W. didn't get a contract with Mine B, the mine wouldn't stay open. I don't remember any certain man saying this, and don't know if it was a U.M.W. man or not. I joined U.M.W. at that time, because I thought that if I didn't join U.M.W., and the U.M.W. didn't get the contract, the mine wouldn't stay open. No one forced me to join, and I wasn't threatened.

"In February of 1941, at the election I voted for the U.M.W. because I figured that under the U.M.W. the men would be able to keep on working. After the mine opened up, I saw [REDACTED] walking around the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

mine. I thought he was a new boss, and didn't know what his job was. I talked with him several times, and he never mentioned anything about the union.

"I always liked the P.M.A. and don't care for John L. Lewis. I'm satisfied with U.M.W. now but liked P.M.A. when I was a member of that union, and wanted to keep that union.

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

(s) [REDACTED]

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



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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 7,

1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks English with difficulty of expression and can understand it only when it is spoken slowly. He claimed to have a poor memory, and denied that anyone had told him not to give any information to the F.B.I. He did not state whether he would or would not testify. [REDACTED] claimed to have no criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
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, of my own free will, with no threats or promises made to me.

"I live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine B. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] & belonged to that union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I re-joined the U.M.W. in the fall of 1939, and am a member of that union at the present time.

"From [REDACTED] to 1932, the conditions at the mine were all right. However, the men didn't seem to be satisfied with the U.M.W. The U.M.W. wasn't looking out for the miners, but was just interested in collecting dues. In 1932, when the P.M.A. was started, I just went along with the men and didn't take any part in starting the P.M.A. From 1932 to 1937, the conditions at the mine were just about the same. The P.M.A. union was all right, but it made no difference to me which union was in. The P.M.A. was a little better just because the dues were less. I went to union meetings once in a while, but not often. During that time I didn't hear of anything said by the mine bosses which would show that they favored the U.M.W.

"I don't remember going to a P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike in May of 1937, and I don't remember ever hearing about the meeting. On the day of the strike, I worked all day. The next day the mine was closed down. I don't know the reason for the closing down, although I think the management was looking for another union. I don't remember anything about P.M.A. men being fired, or anything about a wage dispute. I don't remember signing any paper for the P.M.A. just after the strike.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"In the fall of 1937, when they tried to open the mine, I went out to the picket line. No one told me to, and I went to protect my tools and pro-

perty from possible damage by the U.M.W. men. I didn't hear anything about trying to get U.M.W. men into the mine. I think the federal injunction was to hurt P.M.A. and help the U.M.W.

"In the election at the state arsenal in 1937, I voted for the P.M.A. because I wanted to vote for that union. No one forced me to vote either way, but voted the way I wanted to. In the fall of 1939 I got a notice from the company that the mine was going to open up, and I should report in a certain time or lose my job. I went back to work as soon as the mine opened. Shortly after the mine opened, I joined the U.M.W. I heard from several men, none of whom I remember, that I had to join the U.M.W. or lose my job. I saw other men sign, so I signed up. Nobody made me sign up with U.M.W. No one had contacted me before the mine reopened to join the U.M.W.

"I don't remember voting in the election of February 1941, and don't remember which way I voted. It doesn't make any difference to me what union has the contract.

"I remember, on the day of the strike, in 1937, that some of the men were loading short weights in protest against the fact that some U.M.W. men were working in the mine in violation of the closed shop agreement.

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

"Witnesses:

/s/

Special Agents, FBI,  
Springfield, Ill.

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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

At his residence, 914 Percy, Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] and he advised he had never been arrested in his life.

It was noted that he had some difficulty in understanding the questions and when answering the questions his answers were not clearly understood. It is felt that he will make a very poor witness unless his testimony is absolutely necessary.

After the statement mentioned hereinafter was read to him he was asked if he cared to sign the same and he asked if he had to. He was told that he did not need to and he was asked if there was any reason why he should not sign it. He thereupon signed the same without saying anything further.

He also was asked as to whether or not he had been contacted and he said that he had not been, but had heard some of the other miners at Mine B talk about the matter; that they did not seem to understand what it was all about. He was asked by Agents as to whether or not he did not understand why the investigation was being made, and he said that Agents had so told him about it.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

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

"I, [REDACTED] give the following statement to [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to get me to give this statement. I started working at Mine B in [REDACTED] and I am still there working as a coal digger. I was born [REDACTED] I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a citizen in [REDACTED] I first joined a union at Westfield, Ill., in [REDACTED] this was a U.M.W.

"Before 1932 everything was OK at mine B under the U.M.W. When they went over to P.M.A. it made no difference to me. I just wanted a job. From 1932 to 1937 the P.M.A. got along ok with Elshoff as far as I know. I never heard Elshoff or Falsetti say anything against the P.M.A. or its officers. I just worked and paid no attention to union matters. I don't know of anything wrong between the P.M.A. men and their officials. I only went to meetings for an election or something like that. I never

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] knew anything about the money matters of the Union. (Continued) [REDACTED] I don't know whether the P.M.A. men sent to jail for bombing were guilty or not, I never saw U.M.W. picket or distribute literature at Mine B. I never saw any U.M.W. organizers at Mine B at that time.

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

"I knew the contract ran out in the Spring of 1937, but I don't know what [REDACTED] did about it, one time we were going to work and the next thing we went on strike. The men understood a temporary agreement had been made and were satisfied with the way the officials were handling it.

"I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike and don't think I went. I was home the day the strike started and some fellow came to me and told me that Mine B was on strike we went over the next day and stood around. I don't know why the mine was shut down. I don't remember anything about cars ever being loaded short.

"I don't remember signing any petitions during the summer of 1937 for either P.M.A. or U.M.W.

"I don't remember the U.M.W. forming a local in Springfield in the summer of 1937.

"I went to the mine in Sept. 1937 on about the 2nd or 3rd day of the strike. I went of my own free will and we were just there to protect our jobs.

"I was at the mine most of the time the strike was on. No one was there but the local P.M.A. men, everything was peaceful and quiet. I was there when the Marshall came nothing happened except we went home.

"I heard that they tried to reopen the mine in Dec. 1937, someone told me of this but I did not go out.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election at the Armory. We went there in groups from the Union Hall, I voted P.M.A. as I belonged to that union. I voted of my own free will & the way I wanted. I think this was a good election.

"I don't recall anything about any attempt to open the mine in Jan. 1938.

"I know nothing about why Elshoff would not sign a contract with the P.M.A.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I don't remember anything about any men or Mr. Falsetti going to work at the Jefferson Mine, while Mine B was shut down.

"I got a letter from the Co. when the mine opened. I went out and saw Falsetti who said I would have to wait awhile because of falls in the mine. A fellow came and told me to come back in a few days. I used to work in box [redacted] and went back to box [redacted] as I could not get into Box [redacted]. Nothing was said about unions or wages at this time, I just went to work because that was my job.

"Nobody ever talked to me at the mine or at home about joining the U.M.W. One time I went to a U.M.W. meeting and saw a lot of the old P.M.A. over there so I signed up. When I first returned to Mine B I paid dues to P.M.A. I do not recall signing any cards for U.M.W. or P.M.A. in the summer of 1940.

"I heard talk of some men getting beat up but I never did see any of it.

"I don't know for sure whether I voted at a N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941, if I did I don't remember it now.

"When we first went to work the mine was in bad shape, but they fixed it up.

"I know nothing about any meeting where [redacted] was kicked out.

"I have had [redacted] read to me this 6 page statement as I have trouble reading. To the best of my knowledge it is all true and correct. I am therefore signing it of my own free will.

(signed) [redacted]

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI (Milw).

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI (St. Paul, Minn.)

Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 8, 1943.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was born [REDACTED] and became a Naturalized citizen of the United States in [REDACTED]. It is not believed he would make a good witness inasmuch as he has difficulty speaking English. He has no known criminal record.

He supplied the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 3, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois do voluntarily give the following signed statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have made themselves known to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind were made to cause me to make this statement.

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

"I have been employed in Coal mines ever I came to America joining up with the United Mine Workers of America at [REDACTED]. I started working at Mine B in [REDACTED] continuing my membership with U M W A. I never held any offices in any union.

"Between [REDACTED] and 1932 the U M W A and the Mine B Officials got along alright. So far as I know the Progressive Mine Workers Union was formed by some of the miners who got mad when the wage scale ballots were stolen in 1932.

"I had nothing to do with the formation of the new union but switched over when my local joined the progressives.

"There were no strikes or close downs between 1932 and 1937 and Mr. Elshoff seemed to treat the progressives as well as he had treated the U M W A. I thought that the new union was fine and that the leaders were good. The dues and assessments were about the same.

"Shortly before the strike in May 1937 about 13 men went back to U M W A. A few of these men were suspended just before the strike. The men that I remember were Frank Austin, Charles Bohannon, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, and James Hale. These same men are the ones who tried to reopen the mine U M W A while we were on strike in 1937.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(Continued)

"The strike in 1937 started because the temporary wage agreement was no good and the U M W A men mentioned above started going around stirring up the men. Before the strike we were told to load coal short in the cars. I never loaded any cars short but went home instead on the morning of the strike.

"I never attended any meeting the night before the strike nor any meeting where the U M W A men were suspended.

"The first I knew about the strike was when I got to the mine in the morning and heard the men arguing about the Co. allowing the suspended men go down in the mine. We were then told to load coal short until the management fired the men who had been suspended. I was home when the actual strike was called about 2 p m on May 12, 1937, and didn't find out about it until the miners came home.

"I remember signing a petition shortly after the strike showing that I favored the Progressives. This was a free and voluntary signing.

"I was a member of the Set down strikers for almost of two months. We never had any trouble during this time. While we were there 13 men including the ones I have named above tried to reopen the mine under a U M W A Contract and tried to get the Progressives to join up. The second day they were afraid to come back.

"When the Court said we had to quit staying at the mine all of the Progressives went home.

"A couple of weeks later the N L R B held an election which was fair and square. I voted at that election and the Progressives won 404 to 25.

"The U M W A attempted to reopen the mine in early January of 1938 but they were not successful.

"I went back to Mine B in November of 1939 under the "open shop" agreement. I was still paying dues to the P M A. I remained with the Progressives until I began to see the miners beaten up by the U M W A men and I joined U M W A to keep from getting beat up. Andrew Schrelevious and a man called [REDACTED] came to my house and asked me to join U M W A and I did to keep my job and to keep from getting beat up. I would rather remained with the Progressives and if I had a free choice today I would choose the Progressives. I like to vote for my officers.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I joined the U M W A before the second election. I voted in this election which the U M W A won by quite a majority. I voted U M W A in the second election to keep my job, but if I could have had a free choice and kept my job to I would have voted Progressive.

"I have had the above statements read to me by Special Agent [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The same are true and I do hereby sign my name."

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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



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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to speak English or remember clearly. He admits having been arrested for being drunk on two different occasions.

He supplied the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 3, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED]. I emigrated to U. S. in [REDACTED] and became a Naturalized Citizen of U. S. [REDACTED].

"I joined U. M. W. in about [REDACTED] when I began working at Sangamon Mine #2. I began working in Mine "B" in [REDACTED]. I have never been an officer in any union.

"I do not know of any difficulty or of U. M. W. being in any trouble of any kind at Mine B before P. M. A. was formed.

"I joined P. M. A. in 1932 because the leaders of my union told me I had to join P. M. A. to work.

"I know of no trouble between Elshoff and P. M. A. before the strike in 1937. I was working as a digger at Mine "B" when the strike occurred. I did not see any one trying to organize or change the miners from P. M. A. to U. M. W. at that time. I remember the mine closed down in 1937 and the P. M. A. committee told me that it was because twelve men had been working for U. M. W. and that we would strike. I do not recall loading any cars short the day of the strike.

"Sometime in the summer of 1937 ANDRE SCHRELEVIOUS and DOMINIC PASQUALE came to me at my house to get me to join U. M. W. but I said no.

"I remember picketing at Mine "B" for 56 days and nights, then the U. S. Marshal served an injunction on us.

"I voted in the M. L. R. B. election held in the Arsenal. As far as I could see it was a fair election. I know P. M. A. won the election.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"Shortly thereafter I heard the mine was going to reopen and I worked oneday with Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, John Cotton, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale. [REDACTED] stood on the road and watched us go to work. The next day I was told word had come from Washington, D. C. that only P. M. A could work at Mine "B" so I didn't get to work anymore. I made \$7.10 that day.

"Sometime later I joined U. M. W. and went to work at Jefferson Mine in August 1938. I worked there 5 months and each pay I had to give Brewerton \$10 or \$20 a month. He kept this amount out each pay because he said his expenses were too high to pay the full amount of our pay so in order to keep the mine open I had to give them \$10 each pay. The last two pays I did not receive any pay checks at all and the mine closed down. These last two pays amounted to \$117.15.

"I went to work on P. M. A. until Mine "B" opened in 1939. I went to work then as U. M. W. and am still working in Mine "B" as U. M. W. I voted U. M. W. in the second P. L. R. B. election in 1941.

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

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

At his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] and he advised he had never been arrested in his life. [REDACTED] understood the questions asked him and his answers could be understood. However, it appeared that he was not well versed with the union affairs of the period under investigation, but it is felt that he would make a fair witness if his testimony is needed in Court.

The following signed statement was received from [REDACTED]

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

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. am making this free & 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 presently am a coal digger at Panther Creek #5 & have been since year ago last April 16th. I started at Mine B in Springfield, Ill. around 1933 or 1934 & I didn't work any after May 12, 1937.

"I was born [REDACTED] and came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] & became a citizen in [REDACTED]. I first joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] in Illinois and I never held any office. P.M.A. was at Mine B when I started & I joined over then. In 1932 I worked in Mine 5 at Peabody & was P.M.A. then so just switched over. Before Mine B closed I believe Elshoff & P.M.A. got along O.K. Before Mine B closed I never heard Elshoff or Falcetti say anything about P.M.A. officials or men being crooked. I never heard them say they wanted U.M.W. back.

"Before strike P.M.A. men felt PMA leaders were O.K. & I never heard anyone kicking about a thing. P.M.A. local was run by the men and questions were settled from the floor. I didn't go to many meetings [REDACTED]. Regarding the P.M.A. men sent to jail in the bombings I gave up bond for [REDACTED] altho I never knew him & we felt they were not guilty. P.M.A. officers made reports of money matters to me & I never suspected anything wrong. We had no unusual special assessments except death assessments. Before Mine B closed U.M.W. never picketed the mine nor did I see any literature. Just before Mine B closed 2 or 3 men started some trouble & they would argue & Falcetti would not do a thing about it. They would argue about not being with U.M.W. One was

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MINES WITH  
(continued)

Dominic Pasquale I recall & he was for U.M.W. Others were [redacted] & he has several names; Andy Schrelevious, and Tony Plotch, was active later on. These men would argue a lot amongst themselves before the strike. I never heard of any parties for Elshoff or U.M.W. I recall when contract ran out in Spring of 1937, [redacted] told us at the Mine B that he had an extension of the old contract & that it was retro-active, but I later heard on that the company denied it.

"We PMA miners felt our PMA officers would get us as good a contract as U.M.W. could get. On pay days no one seemed to be sore as we felt we would get back pay when contract was signed. The men I mentioned above were active just before Mine B closed. Mine B never said a thing about the wage agreement that I know of. Just before Mine closed I did not attend a meeting & don't recall of hearing about it.

"On May 12, 1937 I did not know of a strike till I came up on top that afternoon & that morning I never heard a thing about it. I didn't hear a thing that day about a pay increase & I don't recall of any members being expelled. I did not load any cars short but I saw some half loaded & no one told me to load any short. I came up on regular quitting time but I did not get notice ahead of time of strike and I was in Box [redacted] then & came up & I first heard that a strike was on from the other miners. I don't recall what was said as to why there was a strike. I went home and a few days later I helped picket Mine B for a short time and while out at the Mine B on picket I signed a P.M.A. petition and no one forced me to sign it and it was to show what side we belonged to. If I recall we signed 3 different sheets as company got one and P.M.A. kept one. I heard about a U.M.W. petition I never was contacted in regard to it. I most likely signed another PMA petition that fall in 1937 & I believe I signed it at the meeting and no one forced me to sign it. I heard about U.M.W. forming a new local but no one contacted me but I heard of men going around in reference to it. In summer of 1937 I don't recall of anything else happening. I also heard that some Mine B men & Falcetti were at the Jefferson Mine & that Falcetti was a boss there, and I believe I also heard something about Elshoff being connected with it. In fall of 1937 I heard thru other P.M.A. men that the mine was going to reopen & that I should be out at the mine and I went to the Mine but did not go down. Falcetti came down by the shaft and told a bunch of that if we wanted to go to work we would have to sign up with U.M.W. as he said the Company had a contract with U.M.W. None, but 8 or 10 men went down & they were of that old group who were against P.M.A. I didn't go to any meeting later that day. The same morning we started to picket & were there about 7 or 8 weeks. I was out there almost all of the time & no one forced me to go out & I went of my own free will and no outsiders were there and it was a quiet & peaceful strike & no U.M.W. men came out later on. When the Marshall came out I

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

was home that night. I heard several days later that they had tried to reopen the mine but I did not go out as I wouldn't join the U.M.W. I voted in 1st N.L.R.B. election & it was by secret ballot and I voted for the side I wanted and it was an honest election. No one forced me to vote. We went over in groups to the Armory. I did not see any men giving out literature on way to Armory. We were not told at meeting of P.M.A. as to how we should vote.

"I did not go out to Mine B when they re-opened it again. In Jan. 1939, 2nd of month, I got a job at Barr Mine & worked there 3 yrs. & 3 months. In 1938 and 1939 I don't recall of anything unusual happening. I don't know why Elshoff would not sign a contract with P.M.A. In fall of 1939 I got a registered letter from Mine B & I went back to see how I stood & Falcetti said when my turn came he would send me a letter & in a month or so I got a letter to come out but I never went out as I felt I didn't want to work under U.M.W. & I still am a Progressive. I never have been back to Mine B since. I have had Agent [redacted] read this 6 page statement to me and it is true and correct to the best of my recollection & I have signed it of my own free will.

(s) [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted] Spec. Agt. FBI, (Milw)

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

Springfield, Ill. Sept. 6, 1943. "