

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

# THE BLACK VAULT

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

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 13, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] reads, speaks and understands English sufficiently well to testify in court. However, he seemed to have a poor memory, especially when one considers that [REDACTED] at Mine B. [REDACTED] said he is willing to testify but noted that he is in business for himself [REDACTED] which would be affected seriously if he were called to court for a day or two. He claimed to have no criminal record. [REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 13, 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 am living at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., and [REDACTED] Springfield. I was born [REDACTED] I joined the United Mine Workers at Springfield in [REDACTED] and was a member of that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I began work at Mine B in [REDACTED] and worked there until December of 1940. [REDACTED]

"While I was an officer of the P.M.A., I had no trouble with the management of Mine B, and, in the period from 1932 to 1937, I knew of no trouble between the union and the management. I had no part in the formation of the P.M.A. and, [REDACTED] knew nothing about conditions down in the mine, [REDACTED] and had no knowledge of anything down in the mine. Along toward spring of 1937, I heard that conditions between the union and the mine weren't so good, but I don't know what the disputes, if any, were about.

"Just before the strike in 1937, some P.M.A. men had joined the U.M.W., and were agitating among the men to pull them away from the P.M.A. Some of these men were Pasquale, Carter, Austin, Shrelevious, Bohannon, Hale and Plotch. I was under the impression that these men were paid by the U.M.W. to pull men away from the P.M.A. I don't

re. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

know any other reason why men with good working conditions would try to cause trouble. None of these men ever talked to me, but I saw them talking to some of the other men. I think that these fellows set up a U.M.W. local of their own, with Bohannon president, shortly after the strike. The P.M.A. expelled these men at a union meeting just before the strike. I wasn't at the meeting, but heard about it the next day. The P.M.A. officers had a discussion with the superintendent of the mine the morning of the strike. The P.M.A. had a closed shop contract, and the super refused to keep those men from going to work. As far as I know, that is the only reason for the strike.

"I don't remember signing any petitions for the P.M.A. or any other union in the summer of 1937. In the fall of 1937, I heard that the mine was going to open up, and went out the first day. I don't remember how I heard about it. When I got there, I heard that the management wanted to operate the mine with U.M.W. men. The U.M.W. didn't have enough men to operate the mine, and the P.M.A. men wouldn't work with the U.M.W. The P.M.A. began to picket the mine to keep the U.M.W. men out. The federal injunction was gotten by Elshoff, perhaps to protect the property, and perhaps to keep the P.M.A. away.

"In December of 1937, in the election at the state arsenal, I voted for P.M.A. because I felt that was the better union for me, and was best for my benefit. [REDACTED] were appointed by the P.M.A. to help the N.L.R.B. man count the ballots. Both sides could have had representatives, but there were no U.M.W. men there as I remember. I saw nothing irregular, and to me, the election was as honest as it could be. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] just did what the N.L.R.B. man told us to do, and nothing more. Sometime, while the mine was shut down, some man, whose name I can't remember, but who had an artificial leg, came to my house and tried to get me to join the U.M.W. No threats or anything were made, but I told him I didn't want to.

"In the fall of 1939, I went back to work at the mine when it opened. I don't remember how I got word, that the mine would reopen. No one ever contacted me at the mine about joining the U.M.W. after I went back, although Tony Blutch worked with me at the tippie. In December of 1940, [REDACTED] and have never been back to Mine B [REDACTED] time.

"To go back, when the fellow with the artificial leg came to see me, he told me that if he got enough men to join U.M.W. at Mine B he could go back to work there. He had been hurt in an accident at the mine, and there was some dispute over his accident claim. He was fired, and was told he could never work there again. After a while, he joined the U.M.W., and

Re. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

began organizing for them, and was rehired at Mine B, after he joined U.M.W. He is still working there, I think.

"I don't remember telling Falcetti, in the fall of 1937, that U.M.W. clean up men couldn't work the mine unless they were P.M.A. I don't remember anything about a conversation with him, I don't remember [REDACTED] ever asking me to attend a U.M.W. meeting, although I know [REDACTED] was a U.M.W. member.

"Some time after the election of February, 1941, which I didn't vote in, I went back to Mine B. I had recovered from [REDACTED] and wanted to go back to work. I asked the super, and he said I could have a job if I got a U.M.W. card. I tried to get one from Bohannon and a U.M.W. board member, but Bohannon said there wasn't any room for me because I was too good a Progressive.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 11, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is employed at Mine B [REDACTED]. He stated he has worked for Elshoff and Falcetti for over [REDACTED] years and they are both fine people.

[REDACTED] related he was satisfied with the manner the PMA was operating Mine B, and that he was aware that UM organizers were trying to organize for UM in Mine B in May, 1937. These statements were put in a written statement as he gave the statement and he corrected the statement in his own handwriting as well as initialed two pages of the statement.

At this point in the interview [REDACTED] and several members of the family interrupted the interview and told him he would have to leave the house with them due to a death in the family. [REDACTED] excused himself and made another appointment for 6:15 P.M. September 13, 1943 to complete the interview. This latter appointment was kept by the interviewing Agents at which time [REDACTED] stated he had changed his mind about making a statement, that he knew nothing of interest, and would not discuss the matter further. He denied he had been instructed not to make a statement.

The following two pages of a written statement were executed by [REDACTED] and witnessed by interviewing Agents.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 11, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed at Mine B, Springfield. I was born [REDACTED]. The first union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UM. I joined this union in [REDACTED] at Mine B., Springfield. I worked there until [REDACTED] returned to Mine B in [REDACTED] and worked there continuously until the present time, with the exception of the time the mine was out on strike. [REDACTED]

"I have never hold an office in a mine union. Prior to 1932, as far as I know, Elshoff got along well with the UM and the same applies to his relations with the PMA from 1932 to 1937 when the mine closed. I voluntarily joined the PMA in 1932 at Mine B when that union obtained the bargaining rights.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] bargaining rights.

"I was satisfied the the PMA was well run when I worked under that union at Mine B, although that union was strict regarding the enforcement of their by-laws. As far as I know, both Elshoff and Falcetti were impartial as to which union had the bargaining rights. I have worked with them for [REDACTED] years and I think they are both fine people.

"It is my understanding that on April 1, 1937 the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA through their officials signed a contract with Elshoff for a \$5.50 a day wage scale with no retroactive clause pending a permanent settlement. At that time as I understand it, the U.M.W. had a wage scale which amounted to \$6.00 a day. Therefore the miners working at Mine B were dissatisfied. I know that I was. Due to this, many miners wanted to go over to the U.M.W. to get the extra money.

"I know that there was a group of men, whose names I do not recall, who were try\_\_ to organize for the men to join the U.M.W. A bulletin was posted at the mine calling for a special PMA meeting on May 11, 1937. I did not attend this meeting, but the next day at the mine I heard some men had been expelled for organizing for the U.M.W.

[REDACTED] of the PMA and a Board member of that union, told the miners the PMA had a contract with a retroactive clause and they would get back pay. Falcetti handed the Secretary of the local, [REDACTED] (phonetic), a copy of the contract and had him read it to the men to prove there was no retroactive clause. I do not know what [REDACTED] replied to that.

WITNESSED:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F. B. I.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was cooperative but it is not believed he would make a good witness inasmuch as he ceased working at Mine "B" at the time of the strike in 1937 and therefore did not possess knowledge of pertinent facts in this case. He is native born and is employed [REDACTED]. He has no known criminal record. [REDACTED] submitted the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 8, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED]

"I began working in the mines when I was about [REDACTED] yrs. old. I started at Peabody #6 and joined U.M.W. at that time. I began working at Mine 'B' about [REDACTED]

"I joined P.M.A. in 1932 when Local 54 was formed. I changed from U.M.W. to P.M.A. because my whole union changed over and I went with the majority.

"I have never held any office in either union.

"As far as I know there were no strikes, closedowns or any partiality shown toward either union by the mine officials and everything went along smoothly until the strike in 1937. I attended union meetings of P.M.A. about once a month but took no active part in the discussions.

"I was working as a 'cager' at the mine and therefore I did not contact many men and I was not approached by anyone to join U.M.W.". In the job I was doing I had to be down in the mine about an hour before the rest of the men and I had to stay until all of them were out at night. I did not see any literature being distributed at the mine by U.M.W. and I did not know of any organizers or spies in the mine while I worked there. I do not know what caused the strike in 1937 except that

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

on the day of the strike I saw several cars come out that were only partly loaded and it was my job to get as much tonnage out of the mine as possible. That afternoon when the cars were loaded short the men all came out about 2:20 o'clock and I came out and brought my clothes home and never went back.

"I then went to work for [REDACTED] and while I worked there Emory Jacaway came to me to get me to sign a petition to go back to work as U.M.W. but I did not sign. Another man asked me to sign a petition for P.M.A. and I think I signed it but I don't recall who brought it to me.

"I am now working at [REDACTED] and have never worked in the mine since Mine 'B' went on strike except for about 3 months in 1943 when I worked at Mine 'B'. I quit then and don't intend to go in the mines again. When I went back to Mine 'B' in 1943 I joined U.M.W.

"I have no choice of any union and would join whichever union was at the mine if I ever went back to the mine.

"I have had this 2½ page statement read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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



re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was very cooperative and should make a good witness and appeared to be able to withstand cross-examination. He was active in the formation of P.M.A. and held the office of Board Member [REDACTED]. He was convicted along with the others in the bombing cases. He has since been working [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] He appears to have a little above average education.

[REDACTED] supplied the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 11, 1943

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

"I was [REDACTED]. I came to America with my parents in [REDACTED]. I am a naturalized citizen of U. S. such citizenship having been derived through my parents.

"I first began working in the mines in [REDACTED] near [REDACTED] and joined U.M.W. at that time.

[REDACTED]

"I was working at Peabody Mine #9 when P.M.A. was formed. I was instrumental in forming P.M.A. which was started because of a revolt of the miners against the reduced wage scale proposed by John L. Lewis. U.M.W. in Ill. was placed on a provisional basis in about 1925 and then the miners were deprived of their autonomy at that time. Under this regime the elected officials lasted only so long as they followed the directives of John L. Lewis and his henchman. This also caused the men to break away from U.M.W.

"I took an active part in organizing for P.M.A. [REDACTED] After organizing at other mines in the state and obtaining a following we petitioned for a recall of the officers of U.M.W. which was ignored. Then we asked for a

Re. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

the ballots were stolen.

convention which was also ignored. Then we had a referendum vote which was going against the proposed scale and another vote was taken later and it also showed that we were winning and then

"F.M.A. grew out of a convention held in Gillespie in Sept. 1932.

F.M.A. managed to get the independent operators to rally behind our new union and temporary agreements were signed and later each local sanctioned the set state scale.

"The miners in F.M.A. appeared to like their officers and willingly gave any special assessments which were made to take care of the bombing trial and cases.

"My first contact with Mine "B" was into about 1935 when I was an alternate F.M.A. Board Member and later while I was Board Member. That contact amounted to settling disputes and grievances. I had some difficulties in settling these differences because Mine "B" officials were antagonistic most of the time. As an example, Falsetti was continually requesting the  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour clean up period which only U.M.W. had and which was meant for the hard coal regions in Penn.

"After my elective office of Board Member ran out in February 1937, I asked Falsetti for a job and he gave me a job as pardon tender. I was working with Tony Flatch, Cotton Ananias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway and Bill Crompton in the pardon.

"At the time I began working at Mine "B" Charles Bohannon, Pete Carter and Frank Austin were denouncing the officials of F.M.A. about large sums of money being misappropriated and policy of F.M.A. and were spreading U.M.W. propaganda. About 5 weeks after I started working at Mine "B" I started driving mules extra and was working with Bohannon, Carter and Austin and hearing them talk a while, I accused them of being U.M.W. organizers and Bohannon said, 'I'm going to get mine while gettin is good' and by that statement I understood that he was being paid by U.M.W. About this time the wage scale agreement ran out and [redacted] signed a temporary agreement with Oscar Falsetti. This contract failed to contain a retroactive clause but [redacted] claimed that such a clause was understood to be a part of the contract by tacit agreement between F.M.A. and the mine officials. Bohannon and Carter found out about this omission and began to inform the men that they weren't going to get any back pay because they had seen the contract and it wasn't in it. This argument proved to be true because when payday arrived the men did not get any back pay. This caused some unrest among the men. I personally talked to [redacted] about it and told him that he had made a mistake but he wouldn't admit it to me.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I never attended any meetings at which U.M.W. organizers were expelled but understood there were two meetings at which at least nine men were expelled and I believe that at the first meeting Bohannon, Carter and Austin were expelled. The P.M.A. attempted to get Elshoff to fire those expelled men but he refused claiming that he could not legally do so under the Wagner Act as it would show discrimination. After the company refused to abide by the oral agreement to pay retroactive wages and to fire the expelled organizers a suggestion was made and adopted by about 70% of the miners that cars would be loaded short and thereby cause an increase in the production costs and in this way Elshoff would be forced to come to an agreement.

"About two days before the strike Falsetti called me into the office and showed me the temporary contract and asked me if I could see anything in it about retroactive wages. I told him no but said that I knew that there was a tacit understanding between him and [REDACTED] that retroactive wages were to be paid. He flatly denied any verbal agreement said his company could act only on written contracts. He also told me that the company could not go on operating with short loads being sent up and asked me if I could do anything about it.

"On the morning of the strike [REDACTED] and I discussed the controversy and I told him under no circumstances should he strike the mine and advising him that we could bring Elshoff to his knees by our present methods.

"On the day of the strike everyone was called out and I didn't know whether it was a strike or shut-down. I found out when I came on top that it was a strike called by [REDACTED]. When I came out I ran into Falsetti and he asked me what I thought about it and I said 'He played right into your hands' and he said if I had been the board member it never would have happened.

"I recall signing a P.M.A. petition about two weeks after the strike which was circulated to show that P.M.A. was in a majority and should have the bargaining rights.

"I was at the mine when Frank Austin and those organizers who were expelled tried to open the mine and that morning Falsetti said the company had signed a contract with U.M.W. and if we wanted to work we would have to join U.M.W. The men refused and began a sit-down strike which lasted until they were put off the mine property by an injunction.

"I recall voting in the N.L.R.B. election which P.M.A. won by a large majority. This election was fair and square as far as I know.

Re: JOEN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"Shortly after the election a committee of three Italians came to see me at my home and tried to get me to organize at Mine "B" for U.M.W. saying that they would make it worth my time. These three men were Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale and the third has since died but I don't recall his name. About a month later Andrew Skrelevious, Joe Albanese, and Dominic Pasquale, came to see me at my home and tried to get me to organize for U.M.W. saying that I would go on the payroll as of that day. We didn't agree at all and they left.

"I never returned to Mine "B" again until Jan. 1940 when I tried to get my old job back and I was told I would have to join U.M.W. and I refused.

"If I had a free and voluntary choice of joining either union, I would choose F.M.A. I have read this 7 page statement and it is true.

(signed)

"Witnessed:

(signed) Special Agent, F.B.I.

(signed) Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 12, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] understands and speaks English sufficiently well to testify, but he claims to be unable to read English. He exhibited a lack of interest in union activities. [REDACTED] said he has never been arrested. He executed the following statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 12, 1943

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

"I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine B. I was born [REDACTED], and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I became a citizen in [REDACTED]. I joined the U.M.W. in Springfield, in [REDACTED], joined the P.M.A. in 1932 at Mine B, and rejoined the U.M.W. at Mine B in June, 1940.

"When the P.M.A. began in 1932, I went along with the men. The union was all right, treated us as best they could, and I was satisfied with it. I didn't go to very many meetings, because I don't understand very well, but everyone at the meetings had a chance to get up and say what they pleased. As far as I know, the union got along OK with the management. I don't remember any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike, and probably didn't go, because I had been sick and didn't go out much. On the day of the strike, I worked all day long. Then I came up from work, all the miners said there wouldn't be any work the next day. I don't know the exact reason for the strike, but I heard that the mine management wanted the U.M.W. and not the P.M.A. I don't remember signing any petition or paper for the P.M.A., or any other union, that summer. No one asked me to join the U.M.W. that summer.

"I don't remember how I heard that the mine was going to open up in September, 1937. I didn't go out the first day, but the second, when I went out, all the men were there ready to go to work. There were a bunch of U.M.W. men there too. We didn't go down into the mine. I don't know the reason for this. I was on the picket, went out by myself, no one forced me to. I was on the picket line to protect my job against men who might be brought in to work the mine.

"In the election of December, 1937, I was told by the P.M.A. union that the vote was to be in the armory. The union officers didn't tell us

Re: JOHN L. LEIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

how to vote, just said to vote any way we wanted to. I voted for the P.M.A. because I was a member of that union. It didn't really make any difference to me which union had a majority in the mine.

"In the fall of 1939, I got a notice from the company saying that the mine was going to open up. In July of 1940 I joined the U.M.W., because I thought the majority of the men had joined that union. No one forced me too, and no one threatened me. I thought that the majority of the men had joined from conversations with them. No one ever told me that, and no one ever spoke to me about joining.

"In the election of February, 1941, I voted for the U.M.W. because I was a member of that union. It still didn't make any difference to me which union I was a member of, I just wanted to be with the majority.

"In the week after Labor Day, 1943, some men were out at the mine, telling all the men that they didn't have to talk to federal agents if they didn't want to. I was in the wash-house, and didn't hear him. Some of the men told me about this.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witness:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was interviewed in his residence on September 13, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English fairly well. He professed a lack of interest in union activities. If necessary he will testify. He said he has no criminal record.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 13, 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 live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and employed in Mine B. I was born [REDACTED] I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized in [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, when I started to work in Mine B in [REDACTED]. I stayed in this union until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. in August 1940. I have not held an office in any union.

"As far as I am concerned, the P.M.A. was a good union from 1932 to 1937. I don't know of any trouble it had with the Mine B management. I liked P.M.A. because the majority of the miners liked it. That is why I joined the P.M.A. in the first place. I always wanted to be with the majority of the miners. It really makes no difference to me to which union I belong. Prior to 1932 I had been satisfied with U.M.W., and after that I was satisfied with P.M.A.

"Prior to the start of the strike in 1937, I don't remember hearing about the activities of any U.M.W. men at Mine B. Nobody contacted me about signing up with U.M.W. I attended P.M.A. union meetings about once a month, but I don't remember any discussion about throwing some men out of the union because of their disloyalty to P.M.A. I did not know anything about the P.M.A. meeting on the night before the strike started.

"On May 12, 1937, I recall that I worked all day. I was working in the parting at that time, and know nothing about miners loading the cars with short weights. As I recall, when I finished working

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

that day the local president of P.M.A., who I think was [redacted] told me that we weren't going to work in Mine B any more until the company signed a contract with P.M.A.

"I did not sign any petitions or papers in the summer of 1937. I saw in the newspapers that Elshoff was going to reopen Mine B in September 1937. I did not go to Mine B the first day. A couple of days later, when I went to Mine B, I learned that Elshoff wanted to work with U.M.W. and I heard in general conversation among the miners that he had signed a contract with U.M.W. In the fall of 1937 the P.M.A. men picketed at Mine B to keep U.M.W. men from going into the mine. [redacted] I did not go out to the picket line much. Nobody forced me to go on to the picket line. I saw only Mine B in the picketing group. I wasn't at Mine B when the injunction was read to the miners. We were at Mine B at this time so Elshoff could not bring in U.M.W. men to work the mine.

"In the election in December 1937, I voted for P.M.A. I saw the notice of election in the newspaper. A group of us went to the State Armory from the P.M.A. hall. No one told me how to vote, and I voted for P.M.A. because I thought it was the best union for me. It was more peaceful and quiet at Mine B with P.M.A. there than it was when U.M.W. was there.

"I received a letter from Elshoff about the reopening of Mine B in November 1939. I went back to the mine on the third or fourth day, but had to wait for a job for a couple of weeks because no room was ready for me.

[redacted] talked to me about joining U.M.W. He said that I should join U.M.W. because everyone else was joining U.M.W. I myself knew that I would lose my job at Mine B if I did not join U.M.W. I told [redacted] that I had been working at Mine B for a long time, and liked it there and wanted to stay there. I told him that I would join the U.M.W. when the majority of the miners joined. [redacted] was supposed to be an air inspector, but really he did nothing but attempt to organize Mine B for U.M.W. No other person talked to me about joining U.M.W.

I went to a U.M.W. meeting in 1940, and saw a great many Mine B men there. I thought that there was a majority of the miners there. At the next meeting of the U.M.W., I signed up with Tony Plotch who took my application. No one threatened me so as to make me join U.M.W., but I felt I had to join to save my job.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"In the election in February 1941, I voted for P.M.A. because I liked that union. I thought that John L. Lewis in the U.M.W. was too much of a crook.

"On Tuesday, September 7, 1943, I heard the men at Mine B talking about some man having been at Mine B. They did not tell me what he said. Because I was late in getting to work that day, I did not hear the man myself.

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

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., was interviewed in his residence on September 11, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] does not speak English too clearly, but he understands it well enough to be questioned on a witnessstand. He is a man who is not afraid to say what he knows, and stated that he is willing to testify. [REDACTED] claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 11, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I became a citizen in Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED]. I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, and am working at Mine B, where I have been employed since [REDACTED]. I joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] and rejoined at Springfield when I came to this country in [REDACTED]. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, and remained a member of that union until shortly before February, 1941, when the U.M.W. won the election at Mine B.

"I was always satisfied with the P.M.A.. The dues were lower than U.M.W., we would vote for any man we wanted in the P.M.A., while in the U.M.W. the same men were in office all the time, and, at P.M.A. meetings, we had a chance to take the floor and say what we pleased at any time. Everything at the mine was satisfactory between 1932 and 1937, as far as I knew.

"On May 12, 1937, I heard from my buddy, [REDACTED] that there had been a meeting of the P.M.A. the night before. I didn't go to the meeting, but he told me that they had kicked some men out of the union, and were going to ask Elshoff to fire them. If Elshoff wouldn't fire them, no P.M.A. men would work the mine. These men were, Schrelevious, Austin, Bohannon, Albanese, Pasquale, three Sirtouts, Ananias, Carter, Hale, Plotch and George Jacaway. I had heard talk at several meetings of the P.M.A. about what to do with the U.M.W. sympathizers at Mine B, but didn't know the final decision until [REDACTED] told me. None of these men had ever approached me before the strike to join U.M.W.

"On the day of the strike, we worked a full day. In the morning, an

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Italian fellow, whose name I don't know, told me that the men on top were deciding to load short because Elshoff wouldn't play the game, and fire the men who had been kicked out of the U.M.W. I started loading cars short, and most of the men I saw were doing the same. When I came up from the mine, I asked what the trouble was, and I was told there was a strike. I think Elshoff's failure to fire these men was the very reason for the strike. Elshoff wanted trouble at the mine, didn't want to sign a contract with P.M.A. but wanted to sign with the U.M.W.

"I remember signing a P.M.A. petition shortly after the strike started, probably at Progressive Hall. We wanted to show Elshoff that P.M.A. had a majority in the mine. I signed voluntarily. No one forced me to.

"In the fall of 1937 I heard that Elshoff tried to open the mine with ten or twelve U.M.W. men. I went out there the next day. There were many P.M.A. men there that day, but hadn't been many the first day, because none of us knew of Elshoff's attempt to open the mine. When we got there, John Schneider and other P.M.A. Committeemen told us not to let any U.M.W. men down into the Mine. We stayed on the grounds until the federal injunction in 1937 December. The purpose of the picket was to keep U.M.W. men from working the Mine, and to keep them from damaging the Mine. Elshoff got the injunction to get us off the property, and not to protect it, because we were guarding the property. I went out to the picket line of my own accord. I didn't see any but Mine B men there.

"In December of 1937, I heard of the election down at P.M.A. headquarters. We had a meeting the day before, and we were told where the election was to be held. On the day of the election we went in small groups from Progressive Hall, and voted. I was not told by anyone how to vote, and voted for the P.M.A. because I liked that union and wanted to keep it. As far as I know, it was an honest election.

"In November of 1939, when the Mine opened up, I went back and worked for seven days. I had not been contacted by anyone about joining the U.M.W. up to this time. After I had worked seven days, I had to quit. The room I worked in ran into an old entry. My entry ran south, and old man Sirtout had an entry going west near mine. Falcetti told me he wanted the entry driven west, and I was told to stay home until Falcetti called me back to work. I was out for two months, before Falcetti called me back, and I got my old entry back.

"After I went back to work, some time later, around May of 1940, [REDACTED] not the P.M.A. man, [REDACTED] and another man came and sat behind me in my room. They were there three days, and sat there all day long without saying a word to me. They were trying to scare me, but didn't say anything to me. The next day, [REDACTED]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] came into my room. [REDACTED] my buddy, knew him, having been raised with him in [REDACTED] Illinois. [REDACTED] told me that he'd gotten a telegram from Ray Edmundson to come to Springfield right away. He told me he was being paid by Edmundson to organize all Frenchmen at Mine B for the U.M.W. He told me he didn't want to force me to join the U.M.W. because I was a smart fellow, but I knew that I'd have to join U.M.W. or lose my job, because Lewis was a big shot. He was only in Springfield a week, and said he didn't want to kill himself here, but wanted to get back to [REDACTED]. He talked to both [REDACTED] and me several times, and told [REDACTED] to sign up or he'd lose his job. He said that Elshoff would have an election as soon as U.M.W. had a majority, and then the P.M.A. men wouldn't have any jobs, so we'd better sign up. [REDACTED] told me that [REDACTED] was a gunman and an organizer and the U.M.W. sent him wherever they had trouble.

"After [REDACTED] left, Albanese came to my home one day with [REDACTED] not the P.M.A. man, and tried to get me to join the U.M.W. I told him he had no business coming to my house, and he went away. He came back a second time, and said I'd better sign up or I'd lose my job. A couple of days later, [REDACTED] told me that he was getting so many docks he was going to sign up with the U.M.W.. He did sign, and didn't get any more docks. I joined with U.M.W. the day after [REDACTED] did. I had been getting a lot of docks, but after I joined the U.M.W., Falcetti took them away. After I signed up just before the election of February, 1941, and signed only to keep my job. In the election of February, 1941, I voted for the P.M.A., because I liked it better, and didn't like the rotten business of the U.M.W.

"After I went back to work, [REDACTED] was working there as an air checker. He just wandered around the mine from place to place, and talked to the men. He never talked to me about the U.M.W. On day, I saw an old man, a crippled fellow named [REDACTED], get beat up in the washhouse by [REDACTED] and two young fellows I didn't know. On the same day I saw Bohannon and [REDACTED] beat up a young Italian fellow in front of the office.

"One day in the Mine, [REDACTED] made a shot too high. He was fired for it, and an Italian fellow, [REDACTED] tried to take his case to a U.M.W. meeting for him. Bohannon told him to sit down, and I heard, that after the meeting, he was beat up. I didn't see it, and don't know anything more about it.

"On Tuesday, September 7, 1943, at the Mine, I heard some lawyer whose name I don't know, talking to all the men. I just heard the end of the meeting, but I heard him say that this is a democracy, that the miners didn't have to sign papers for the federal agents. On the next

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] day, Wednesday, Tony Plotch asked me if the federal agents had been to see me. He said Cudge Baumgarner wanted to know.  
(continued)

"When the P.M.A. was at Mine B, my coal cars would weigh between 3600 and 4000 pounds. Now, for the same ammount in the cars, it never weighs more than 3200 pounds. Falcetti says the scales are ok, but that the check-weigher may be wrong. I think the scales might be all right, but I know the check weigher isn't.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of approximately nine pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was inter-  
viewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED] seems to be a very excitable person and told  
his story in a very illogical manner as is apparent from his statement. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] stated he had a very poor memory for dates and it took a great deal  
of prompting on the part of Agents to elicit information from him. It is  
believed he would be a poor witness. There is set forth below the signed  
statement executed by [REDACTED] at the time of this interview:

[REDACTED] Ill.

Sept. 11, 1943

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

"I was born on [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in [REDACTED]  
and became a citizen in [REDACTED]. I have been a miner all my life and joined  
the U.M.W. in about [REDACTED]. I have never held a union office.

"I started working for Mine B in about [REDACTED] and was working there  
at the time of the strike in 1937. I joined Progressive in 1932, but  
didn't have anything to do with the formation of progressive. Things went  
along about the same under progressive, but I think progressive officers were  
all good men & everything was fine.

"In the spring of 1937 I recall that the question of a new contract  
came up, but my memory is rather bad as to any of the details of the contract  
question. I didn't go to many meetings as [REDACTED] the meetings  
were in Springfield.

"I recall that some of the men in progressive were supposed to be  
working for united, but I do not remember anything they were doing. I heard  
later they were kicked out of the union though. I went to work as usual on  
the day of the strike in May of 1937. I was then a digger in box [REDACTED]. I do not  
remember any disputes or fighting that took place the last day the mine was  
in operation. As I remember it, I worked that whole day as usual and can't  
even remember as to when I first heard the mine was on strike.

"I remember that a couple of weeks after the strike the progressive  
union got out some kind of a petition, but I don't remember whether or not I  
signed it. I also recall that we had a picket line at the mine and I was  
out there for about four or five weeks when I had to go to the hospital.  
I voted in the NLRB election in Dec. of 1937 and everything was quiet at that  
time. I saw a man passing out some kind of bills, but forget what they were

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] about. I didn't go back to the mine again until the mine opened in Nov. of 1939.  
(continued)

"I believe it was in the paper that the mine was open so I went back and started in working again at my old job. I guess I had been working a few months when Bowling Green, [REDACTED] and a man whose nick name was [REDACTED] attacked me. One day at the mine, on top of the mine, [REDACTED] said he wanted to talk to me. He started pushing me and then these men all jumped on me and hit me until I passed out. These same men had been to my house several times trying to get me to join united. They told me I should sign because everyone was going to sign. Every time they came to my house there was about 5 of them. When I was beaten up by those men I had already signed up with united-- in fact I had been a member for about a month. I want to clarify this beating. My room had caved in at the mine several days before the beating and I called the boss in to see my room. He wanted me to clean up my room, but wouldn't promise to pay me for the labor. I went to work the next day and the boss still said he wouldn't pay me so I just sat around. The next day I came to get my line check and Oscar Falcetti said I was fired. I tried to get the pit Committee, headed by Baumgartner, to take up my case. Baumgartner & Bowling Green were supposed to have inspected my room & they sent my tools up. I went back a few days after I was fired & it was at that time that they beat me up. I never worked at Mine B after that time. I was out of work for about two years and now work for Panther Creek #2. After looking over my statements I see now that I left Mine B in about June of 1941 so I must have been a member of the United union for some time before the beating. I have a bad memory for dates, however, i never saw anyone beat up at the mine.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill.,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence on September 10, 1943, by  
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
speaks English with difficulty and can understand it only when it is spoken  
slowly and plainly. He has no objections to testifying in court. [REDACTED]  
said he has never been arrested. It is noted that [REDACTED] has been reported to  
the Springfield Field Division as being [REDACTED], but no  
information is available that he is a member [REDACTED]

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 10, 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 live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and at present  
I am unemployed. I was born [REDACTED] In [REDACTED] came  
to the United States, and I became a citizen of the United States in [REDACTED]  
at Springfield, Ill.

"I first joined a union, the United Mine Workers, in [REDACTED] when I  
was working in [REDACTED] I began to work in Mine B about  
[REDACTED] In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America  
with the rest of the miners. I had no part in the formation of this union.  
In the fall of 1940 I rejoined the U.M.W. I have never held an office  
in any union.

"While I was a member of the P.M.A. I was treated alright. I was  
treated alright by the U.M.W. too when I was a member of that union. I did  
not see much difference in the two unions. I don't remember hearing about  
any men trying to get members for U.M.W. before the strike started in 1937  
at Mine B, and no one tried to get me to join the U.M.W.

"I think that the strike started because Elshoff refused to sign  
a contract with P.M.A., and wanted to sign with U.M.W. The P.M.A. union  
struck to try to make Elshoff sign a contract with them.

"In the fall of 1937 I heard Falcetti say that if the men joined  
the U.M.W. they could go to work in Mine B, and that if they did not join  
U.M.W., they could not work in the mine. I think about 13 men went to work  
in Mine B at this time.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "In the fall of 1937 I was in the picket line at Mine B. Only Mine B were there. The purpose of the picket line was to keep U.M.W. men from working in Mine B.  
(continued)

"I voted in the election in December 1937 at the State Armory. The P.M.A. officials told me about the election but they did not tell me how to vote. I voted for the P.M.A. because I was a member of that union, and because most of the miners seemed to want that union in Mine B.

"Before I went back to work after the mine reopened in 1939, no one tried to get me to join the U.M.W. After I had started back to work Bohannon came to my house one night with Frank Austin. They said that I had better sign up with U.M.W. because I could not win staying with P.M.A. I told Bohannon that I would think it over. They did not threaten me or say that I would lose my job.

"An air inspector, [REDACTED] also talked to me about U.M.W. He came to my room in Mine B. He told me that I had a good room, and that I better join U.M.W. if I wanted to keep that room. I told him that I would join U.M.W. when most of the miners did. He told me to come to a U.M.W. meeting. I went to the meeting, and saw a great many miners joining U.M.W. so I joined U.M.W. too. I did this to stick with the majority of the miners. I knew that I would have to sign up with U.M.W. to keep my job at Mine B. I knew I could not get a job anywhere else.

"I don't remember signing any petition for P.M.A. or any other union. I heard that some miners were beat up, and I saw two men who had been beaten, but I don't know their names. Later at a meeting of the U.M.W. union, an Italian fellow tried to say something at the meeting. Cudge Baumgarner told him to sit down. After the meeting in an alley I saw Cudge beat this Italian fellow. I don't know his name.

"In the election in 1941, when the U.M.W. won, I voted for the U.M.W. No one made me vote. I voted for U.M.W. because most of the miners, so I thought, were members of the U.M.W. and so was I.

"I quit working at Mine B in March 1943 because I was getting bad rooms and could not make any money, and also because I wanted to get out of the mine because my health was going bad.

"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.

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnesses:

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Special Agents, FBI

"Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, who is employed as [REDACTED] was interviewed on September 9, 1943 at his place of business by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well. He is willing to testify if necessary. He claimed he has not been arrested. [REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 9, 1943.

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

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

"In [REDACTED] I joined the United Mine Workers when I was working in a coal mine in [REDACTED]. I stayed in this union until 1936, as I recall, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America when I was working in the [REDACTED] at Springfield. I first started to work at Mine B some time after I became a member of P.M.A. I never rejoined the U.M.W. After Mine B shut down in 1937 I worked for a time in the [REDACTED] of Springfield, Ill. [REDACTED]. I was working at the [REDACTED] mine most of the time Mine B was closed down.

"When I first started to work at Mine B, everything seemed to be O.K. However, soon I heard from general conversation of the miners that trouble was brewing. Some men were alleged to be paying dues to both the U.M.W. and the P.M.A. Some of the men that I heard about doing this are: Bohannon, Sammy (Joe Albanese), Frank Austin, Pete Carter, and Tony Plotch. It was common talk among the miners that these men were trying to work their way into the leadership of P.M.A. so that they would be in a position to turn over P.M.A. to U.M.W. Prior to the start of the strike in 1937 no one ever approached me about joining the U.M.W.

"I don't recall a meeting of the P.M.A. on May 11, 1937, and I don't recall seeing any notice of a meeting. On the day the strike started, I saw many of the coal cars going out of the mine with short weights. At this time I was employed in Mine B as a timberman. I know

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

that the miners were dissatisfied, but I don't know whether they were loading the cars short of their own accord or because they had been told to do so by the P.M.A. officials. I do know that the P.M.A. men were objecting to the presence in Mine B of those men I named above and others who were trying to pull for U.M.W. I think that the miners hoped to force the mine management to fire these men from the mine. That day I heard that some men had been kicked out of P.M.A. because they were not loyal members.

"On the day of the strike I think that the men quit working about 2PM. As I recall the Pit Committee said that the men were not to work in Mine B when U.M.W. men were working there. I don't think that the wage scale problem had anything to do with the strike. The miners had confidence in the P.M.A. officials and thought they could get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. After I came out of the mine on the day of the strike, I heard the men saying that they would not work with U.M.W., but I did not hear any conversation about wages.

"I recall that I signed a P.M.A. petition in 1937, and I think the petition was to find out how many loyal members the P.M.A. had at that time.

"In the summer of 1937 I read in the papers about the forming of a new U.M.W. local, but no one approached me about joining it.

"I don't remember how, but I recall that I heard that Mine B was going to reopen in the fall of 1937. I went out to the mine, I don't remember the exact day, and got ready to work. Then I saw that there was going to be some trouble. The P.M.A. men refused to work with the U.M.W. men who also showed up for work. I was told to stick around the mine which I did. I was in the picket line formed by P.M.A., but I would have preferred to be at home. The purpose of the picket line was to keep the U.M.W. men from over-throwing the P.M.A.

"I think that the federal injunction was obtained by the mine management to break the strike, and not to protect the mine property. The P.M.A. men at the mine had done no damage to the mine and were really protecting it. I saw only local men in the picket line.

"I voted in the 1937 election at the State armory. I voted for P.M.A. in this election which I think was fair in every respect. I was not compelled to vote in this election. I voted for P.M.A. because I thought that was a better union than U.M.W. In the P.M.A. a man had a chance to run for office, and a chance for election. In the U.M.W. it seemed that one

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

man always held office, and there was no chance to beat the machine. The P.M.A. seemed to me to be more righteous.

"In the summer of 1937 a man by the name of [REDACTED] my former boss, tried to talk to me about joining U.M.W. and asked me why I did not join it. I told him I was not interested, and that was the end of that.

"I don't recall how I received that Mine B was to reopen in 1939. I went back to work shortly after the mine opened. I worked there until I was hurt in March. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I figured that the company was trying to force me out of a job because I had not joined the U.M.W. On one occasion Bohannon asked me why I did not get wise and join the U.M.W. He talked like the U.M.W. was going to control the mine, but he did not threaten me.

"I never have rejoined the U.M.W., and if I had a job in a mine today I would prefer to be in the P.M.A. because I think it is the better union.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 9, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has a keen memory of incidents which happened while he was employed at Mine B. He understands English very well and can express himself intelligently and coherently. In the interview he related most of his experience voluntarily without being questioned specifically on each point. [REDACTED] is anxious to testify because he feels that he has been injured by the actions of individuals at Mine B. He stated that he once spent three days in jail for an incident which happened near a mine when a state of martial law was in effect, but he said that he does not know what charge was placed against him. He claims that he was merely a bystander on a public sidewalk, and when he refused to move on the request of a soldier at the mine, he was taken to jail. [REDACTED] has in his possession a letter from C. H. ELSHOFF dated January 27, 1941 in which ELSHOFF states that the mine company will not be responsible for medical bills 'in connection with the occurrence at this mine on January 25, 1941', the day on which [REDACTED] was attacked by [REDACTED] and others.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 9, 1943.

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

"I live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, and am not working at the present time. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I became a citizen at [REDACTED]. I joined the United Mine Workers at [REDACTED]. In 1932, while working at Mine B, I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I never held an office in any union. I started work at Mine B in 1929, and worked there until January of 1941.

"In 1937, just before the strike, twenty-five men at Mine B switched from the P.M.A. to the U.M.W. Some of these men had held minor offices in the P.M.A. union, such as members of pit committees, grievance committees, and things of that nature. These men worked on the P.M.A. too strongly, and were removed from their positions. In April of 1937, ELSHOFF refused to sign a contract with the P.M.A., but

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

in spite of this, the men worked until May 12, 1937. ELSHOFF was intending to hire U.M.W. men to work the mine, while the P.M.A. men wanted to continue working the mine.

"In the fall of 1937, ELSHOFF tried to start up the mine again. He didn't want the P.M.A. in the mine, but wanted the U.M.W. The P.M.A. stayed at the mine for 55 days, ready to work. He guarded the mine against damage from others, and also to protect our jobs. The U.M.W. tried to bring in men from other places, not only those who had been P.M.A. men at Mine B, to work the mine. After a time, ELSHOFF got an injunction, and the P.M.A. men had to leave the mine property.

"In November of 1939, ELSHOFF opened up the mine again. I heard that ELSHOFF, the superintendent, and some of the bosses had gone to miner's homes, and tried to get them to go back to work as U.M.W. members. I don't know how true this was. I heard that some of the men were intimidated about the time the mine reopened, but no one approached me. About that time, [REDACTED] came by my home one day, saw me outside, and asked me to return to work. I had been sick, and went back around the 15th of November.

"In 1940, a drive was started at Mine B to organize the men in the U.M.W. At first, just the original 25 men, who had been members of the P.M.A. were agitating the men, but after a while, when they didn't seem to be getting anywhere, U.M.W. organizers from the outside were brought in. The trouble in the mine began about this time. They asked the men to join the U.M.W., saying that company would shut the mine down if the U.M.W. didn't sign up the majority of the men. I heard that the mine bosses were saying this too, but I never heard any of them say it. The men were scared, needed their jobs, and joined the U.M.W. to save and keep their jobs. The men who joined U.M.W. were told to bring out their sons, and the sons would get jobs too. After a while, if the men didn't sign up, their tools would be stolen, some men having as many as three sets stolen. Finally, the slugging began. One man, [REDACTED] had his arm broken in the mine. I didn't see it happen, and don't know of anyone who did. The men were talking about being threatened, but no one threatened me at this time.

"Various men came to my room several times, asked me how things were going. On Jan. 16, 1941, [REDACTED] came to my room, and asked me if I were still a member of the P.M.A. He asked me if I didn't think I should join the U.M.W., and I said no, that I was satisfied with the P.M.A. Nothing happened, and nothing more was said about it at that time. The 16th day of January, the day [REDACTED] came to see me, was the deadline set by U.M.W. for the men working at Mine B to join the U.M.W. On January 17, 1941, [REDACTED] came to my room

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

again, and had some U.M.W. buttons with him. He asked me if I had changed my mind, and I said no. He said that he had come to my room as he had just gotten a supply of U.M.W. buttons, and wanted to give me one. He then left, and nothing more was said.

"On January 25, 1941, I rode to work with the usual bunch of men. The driver was [redacted], who lives [redacted]

[redacted] When we got to the mine, we split up and went about getting ready to go to work. I saw [redacted] get beat up at the washhouse.

[redacted] and a fellow named [redacted] all were working on him, and beating him. When this bunch got tired of beating [redacted] they went into the washhouse, and jumped on [redacted]

"I didn't want to have anything to do with this, so I went on into the office to get my supplies. On my way there, I saw a [redacted] something, coming from the direction of the office, bleeding, and looking as though he had been beaten up. After getting my supplies, I went to the tipple, got my bucket, then went to the wash house to fill it. When the bucket was filled, I went to take it outside & put it in line, to show the order in which I was to go down into the mine after I had changed my clothes. From the wash house to the bucket line it was necessary to go through a narrow space. There were a lot of men trying to get through, and it was crowded. We moved very slowly, a step at a time. [redacted] got right behind me. I don't know where he came from. He was working at Mine B at that time, but I had known him before, and knew he was an organizer for the U.M.W. He had been fired from the [redacted] for making trouble. I didn't say anything to him, and he began jerking on my coat, and kicking at my legs. I looked around and he grinned at me. This went on until I got through the narrow place, and went and put my bucket in the line. I thought that he would be looking for me to come back into the wash house that way, so I went around the building, and went in another entrance. I sat down on the bench, and started to change clothes, to go to work. Just as I bent over to take off my shoe, [redacted] came in, cursed me, and kicked me in the head. He kicked me several times in the head, and then others started beating on me too. I don't know who the others were, because I was on the floor, and put my head under the bench to try to protect myself. However, I think some of the others were a [redacted] who had just come over a short time before from the Jefferson Mine, [redacted] not the old P.M.A. member, but a new U.M.W. man from another mine, and one of [redacted] boys. After they got tired of working on me, they started on a [redacted] who was in the wash house. He had signed up for the U.M.W. about two or three weeks before, and they kicked and beat

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

him because he wasn't going to U.M.W. meetings. Right after they stopped beating me, the Sheriff and his deputy came in the wash house. I told him who had beat me up, and he left. I saw [redacted] get beat up near the wash house by the same bunch.

"After I saw the Sheriff, I got dressed in my street clothes, went to the office, and got a slip from the office to go and see the company doctor. I went to see him on that day, Saturday, and the next two, Sunday and Monday. He treated me, his name was Dr. DIEHL, but on Monday he told me that ELSHOFF had told him I was to get no more medical attention. I then went to see a Dr. MOUNT on Capital Avenue, who finished treating me. When I got home from the doctor on Monday, there was a letter from ELSHOFF, saying that I wouldn't be paid for medical treatment, that the company was not liable. Later I got a bill from Dr. DIEHL for \$5.50, but paid no attention to it. When I got a second bill, I went to see the doctor, and told him I wouldn't pay it because the company was liable, that I had been hurt on company property, while I was going to work. I told him that the company had given me a slip to go to see him. Dr. DIEHL told me that Mine B had told him they were not liable for my injuries. I told him that he had taken the company's orders when he had accepted the slip they gave me for medical treatment, and that I wouldn't pay. I told him to collect from the company. I haven't heard anything about it since that time.

"On the day we were beaten, we swore out warrants against the men who beat us. When we went down to the hearing, we saw them coming out, and found out they had been released under \$250 bond apiece. I don't know who made the bond for them. The Justice of the Peace, who had the hearing, and released them on bond, was a man named DUNN. He was not re-elected in April of 1941, and when he left office, he turned over his books to another J.P., whose name I don't know, and whose office was at 218½ South 6th St., Springfield. I waited to hear of the indictments against the men, but heard nothing. In June of 1941 I heard that the case against them had been dismissed. I went to see the Sheriff, and found that a warrant had been issued by DUNN. The Sheriff didn't have it, so finding out about DUNN'S successor, I went to see him and found that the case had been dismissed. I did not know anything about it before this time, and even though I was one of the plaintiffs, I had never been notified that it was to be heard. I went to see the state's attorney, and he told me he couldn't prosecute, because there wasn't enough evidence, that he didn't have enough proof. I told him that others had seen it happen, but were afraid to talk.

"Just after the beating in January of 1941, I was subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury as a witness, on that matter. Several of us were there, but none of us were called, except [redacted], who came in in the afternoon. He had been beat up that day, and went in and



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

testified. None of the rest of us were called. I asked GREENE, the state's attorney, about it, and when we would be called. He said that that was the last day, and the Grand Jury wouldn't meet again until February. I told him I would be there to testify, but when I did appear at the next Grand Jury, I wasn't called. I saw the state's attorney again, and he said he didn't have enough evidence to present to the Grand Jury. I made an appointment to meet him later, when I could get all the men who had been beaten. A few days later, all of us who had been beaten met with the state's attorney. He still claimed that he didn't have enough evidence, and we all got pretty hot. Finally, GREENE, the attorney, invited all of us to have a drink. I took it and told him I might as well as that's all I'd ever get back for the beating I took.

"Just before 1932, when the P.M.A. was formed, the U.M.W. was not functioning any too well. There was a lot of racketeering going on, and, in 1930 or 1931, there was some trouble between JOHN L. LEWIS and FISHPURK. At that time JOHN WALKER was district head of the U.M.W. He had been connected with the state employment service, and took a cut in salary when he went with the U.M.W. from \$8000 to \$5000, I think. At this time, the district office of the U.M.W. was not paying death claims to the locals. A resolution was passed in the local not to pay the per capita share to the district until the district would pay the death claims.

"In 1932, there was a strike within the U.M.W. The contract with the mine operators had expired, and the men refused to work until a new one was signed. At this time, LEWIS signed a secret contract with the operators, calling for a reduced wage for the miners. The men had voted against the proposed cut in a referendum. A second vote was called, and the miners were against the cut again. However, the officials at the district office of the U.M.W. said they had voted for the contract with the reduced wage. The men demanded a recount of the referendum ballots, and the district officials finally submitted to the demand for a recount. About one-half the ballots were counted, and the vote to there showed a stronger protest against the contract than the first referendum had shown. It was agreed to put the ballots in a bank vault until the next morning, when the counting would be completed. The next morning, the ballots mysteriously disappeared, between the bank and the U.M.W. building. They were supposed to have been placed in a car, and driven off by a tall, slender fellow, answering ED HUNTER'S description, and another, answering the description of Fox Hughes, a U.M.W. officer, now dead. I don't know if ED HUNTER, or who, was sent to get the ballots.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"Shortly before this occurrence, EDMUNDSON had started his own union, called the 'Rank and File Movement', and it seemed to be progressing pretty well. In fact, when the first split occurred in the U.M.W., the local at Mine B was considering joining EDMUNDSON'S organization. I think EDMUNDSON must have made some kind of a deal with WALKER, because the 'Rank and File Movement' seemed to lose ground, finally quit, and EDMUNDSON got a position with the U.M.W. I don't know if EDMUNDSON & WALKER had any agreements about what to do with the ballots. However, just after this, WALKER had an injunction against LEWIS in Illinois lifted, and LEWIS came back and signed the secret contract.

"About two weeks after I got beat up, I got a letter from BOBANNON, saying he wanted to see me, and for me to come to U.M.W. hall. I was afraid that they might do something to me if I went down, so I didn't pay any attention to it. I didn't hear anything more about it, and don't know the purpose of the letter. One day, about two weeks before I got beat up, and two days before payday, I happened to come up from the mine a little early. When I came up in the cage, I was the only P.M.A. man in the cage, all the rest being U.M.W. When we got to the top, I saw [redacted] standing there with a lot of money in his hand. The U.M.W. men, who were on the cage with me, circled around him, and he seemed to be paying them. I don't remember all the men in the group, but I did see [redacted], TONY PLOTCH, BILL SIRTOUT, and [redacted], the new man, not the P.M.A. man, as well as [redacted]. I don't know why [redacted] was giving them money, but I had noticed that the men who had been imported to organize for the U.M.W., never got any statements from the company. The company usually gave out the statements two days before pay day, and all the men go to the office to get their statements. I noticed that these imported organizers never went to the office to get any statements, and I thought that perhaps ELSHOFF wasn't paying them but the U.M.W. was. Later, they began getting statements, probably because the company wanted to have a cover for them.

"Before I was beaten up at the mine, men came to my house twice to get me to join the U.M.W. One time, [redacted] and two others I didn't know, came to the house and asked me to join the U.M.W. He told me that the U.M.W. would get control, and, if I didn't join, I'd lose my job. A month or so later, I don't know just when, JOE ALBANESE, and DOMINIC and ERNIE DI BARTOLOMEO came to the house and asked me again. I didn't give them any satisfaction at all. I think this was sometime in 1940.

"I had no leading part in the organizing of the P.M.A. I swung over with the majority. There were really no leaders to the change

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

over from U.M.W. to P.M.A. It seemed as though the local went over as one body. Even the honorary members of the local, those who were old and not working, but had charter memberships, swung over. I don't know of anyone who led the move. U.M.W. held meetings in the Leland Hotel and the K.C. Hall. One Sunday they were having a meeting in the K. C. Hall, to try to sign up men to go to work. A fight began, and Detective PORT WILLIAMS of the Springfield Police Department was killed. I don't know how it all started. [REDACTED] was arrested for it and put in jail, but as far as I know, it was all hushed up. The police got a truck load of guns and ammunition out of the Leland Hotel. A few days later I heard that [REDACTED] was taken out of jail, because they were afraid somebody might try to get to him. He was taken away, and I don't know what ever happened to him.

"On April 5, 1935, the P.M.A. held a meeting at headquarters, at 6th and Washington. During the meeting, U.M.W. men circled the block in automobiles. When the meeting was over, and the men leaving, several shots were fired, and EDWARD MAYBE was killed. He had told me sometime before that EDMUNDSON and others had offered him money to turn from the P.M.A. to the U.M.A. I heard the shots, and looked out the window of the union hall, and saw men running. The shots which killed MAYBE were fired from EDMUNDSON'S car. There were three men in the car, and while looking at MAYBE on the sidewalk, EDMUNDSON'S car ran into a truck at a stop sign, and locked bumpers. The men in the car couldn't get away, and had to take out on foot, leaving the car. One of the men was found in a rooming house on Adams St., with a revolver and ammunition. Another was arrested on Washington St. Edmundson gave himself up in Taylorville. ED BURKE was his lawyer. No one was ever prosecuted for this case, either.

"When the mine opened up in 1939, I went back to work a few days after it opened. I don't have any facts, but I feel that the U.M.W. furnished ELSHOFF with men and money to clean up Mine B. I know it must have cost quite a bit of money to clean up the mine, and I don't think ELSHOFF had enough money to do it himself. Shortly after this, I heard that the U.M.W. men at Capital Mine were saying that the U.M.W. had a gold tippie at Mine B. I don't know just when I heard this, but I think it was just after the mine opened. Since I've been out of work, since January of 1941, I've talked to a lot of U.M.W. men, and they are pretty generally dissatisfied. At the Peabody Mine, I know that the company pays the check off directly to the National headquarters of U.M.W., and not to the local. The National gives the local as much as they want to give.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"Just before the strike in May, 1937, ELSHOFF was bargaining underhanded with the U.M.W. He refused to sign a contract with the P.M.A., saying that he wouldn't make a wage adjustment retroactive. I think he used that question because he wanted to prolong the disagreement, so the U.M.W. could organize, and get enough men to work the mine, so he wouldn't have to work it with P.M.A. men. There had been a rumor around in May of 1937 that ELSHOFF was going to bring in U.M.W. men to work the mine. After the strike, no U.M.W. men showed up, so the P.M.A. men didn't stay around the mine. I had heard, in some union meetings, some discussion of what to do with some men who were accused of collaborating with the U.M.W. I don't remember the exact details, but I think that a referendum was had, and it was voted that the men be suspended or expelled from the union. On the day of the strike, the grievance committee went into see ELSHOFF, and after a while, came out, said they couldn't reach an agreement, so we wouldn't work the mine. I think the strike was called to force ELSHOFF to sign the contract, and not especially to force him to fire the men suspended from the P.M.A., but I can't say positively which it was. I know the <sup>were</sup> men loading cars short either the day of the strike, or the day before. The reason for this was that the company wanted to produce a lot of coal, and told the drivers to bring up cars in a hurry regardless of whether or not they were filled. The drivers would pick up the cars before the diggers could fully load them. As I remember, this was the reason for loading short, and I don't remember having anything about loading short as a protest against the management.

"From 1932 to 1937 no one approached me or asked me to join the U.M.W. Nobody really approached me on it until 1940, after I had gone back to work. Right after the strike, [redacted] and didn't know of anything happening at Mine B. I don't remember signing any petitions for P.M.A. or any other union. In the fall of 1937, I went out to Mine B to go to work, when I heard it was going to open up again. When we got out to the mine, we found out that ELSHOFF was going to have U.M.W. men work the mine too. When we heard that we decided that we wouldn't work the mine with U.M.W. men, and we wouldn't let the U.M.W. men try to work the mine. There wasn't any trouble, because the 25 U.M.W. men there couldn't work the mine, and went home. When they left, we saw ELSHOFF and offered to work the mine, but he refused to allow us. We stayed at the mine for 50 to 55 days, to protect our jobs and see that ELSHOFF didn't get any U.M.W. men to work the mine. We were more like guards than pickets, and wanted to keep the U.M.W. men from destroying the property. I think ELSHOFF got the injunction to get the P.M.A. off the property, and allow the U.M.W. men to work the mine. The P.M.A. men weren't hurting the property, and really left it cleaner than before they came.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"The notice of the election in December of 1937 was published in the paper. I went to the election voluntarily, and all but 25 men voted to retain the P.M.A. as the bargaining union. I voted P.M.A. because I wanted to keep that union, it was the best one for me. U.M.W. had two drunks handing out pamphlets at the election and one of them told me he had been paid \$2.00 to distribute them. The election was supervised by the N.L.R.B., and it was a square election. In the election of 1941, I voted for the P.M.A. again, because I wanted that union. The U.M.W. men told the miners that they would lose their jobs if they didn't vote for the U.M.W. Also, if a man turned U.M.W. he was told to bring relatives to work, and they would find jobs for them.

"After the mine opened in 1939, members of the P.M.A. pit committee told me that they couldn't get ELSHOFF to do anything for them. They didn't have a contract with him, and couldn't make him do anything. After I went back to work in 1939, [REDACTED] talked to me quite often. He never mentioned U.M.W. to me, although I know he was organizing for U.M.W. in the mine. He posed as an air inspector in the mine, but had nothing to do. There was no such position before the strike.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of approximately seventeen handwritten pages, read to me, and state it is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED]  
"Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 14, 1943, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] at his home, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. [REDACTED] was entirely cooperative at the time of this interview and expressed his desire to help the government in any way possible. It is to be noted that during the interview it was observed that [REDACTED] appeared to have a good deal of trouble understanding the questions and gave vague and rambling answers rather than answering the question directly. It is felt that he tried to do the best he could to be helpful, but that he would not be a good witness due to his rambling tendencies and lack of understanding. He advised agents that he had no criminal record.

The following signed statement was given by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 14, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] give the following statement to [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this statement. Last Monday or Tuesday, after Labor Day, some man from U.M.W. District Office spoke to us and says we don't have to talk if we don't want. This man said you fellows don't have any right to question us miners. I heard that 12 men went to the Regional Bank Bldg. or U.M.W. Bldg. & they were supposed to have taken their signatures off what they signed. This is what I heard from the other miners. I also heard these men were to get paid \$7.00 a day but I don't [REDACTED] by who they were to get paid. I am willing to talk to you men anyway but I hope I don't get in any trouble over this as I never been in any trouble in my life.

"I have been at Mine B since [REDACTED] & am still there as a digger. I was born in [REDACTED] & I came to U. S. in [REDACTED] & became a citizen in [REDACTED] I first joined U.M.W. in Ill. in [REDACTED] & I never held any office. Till 1932 U.M.W. was a good union & we could speak like we wanted to and I don't know if U.M.W. officials got along with Mine B before 1932 or not. After Elshoff came in there always was a lot of little troubles around. Before 1932 U.M.W. at Mine B was the strongest local there was. In 1932 I went with majority to P.M.A. & it didn't make any difference to me & I did not help organize over to P.M.A. Between 1932 & till Mine B closed P.M.A. had little troubles with Elshoff like U.M.W. did. In 1932 I heard that the Communists were going to be strong in P.M.A. but they never got in at all & I heard they, for years, were not sure which way they wanted to go & I heard they then went back to U.M.W. & took tales to Ray Edmundson. I never heard Elshoff say anything that he wanted U.M.W. back. Between 1932 & 1937 P.M.A. was like old U.M.W. local & it was

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

a mens union & I trusted the P.M.A. officials. In all unions I don't know anything about money matters. I went to P.M.A. meetings once in a while. P.M.A. local 54 was alright & I never saw anything wrong with it. Before Mine B closed no U.M.W. men bothered me & I never know of any U.M.W. men being there till last day. In regard to parties by Elshoff for U.M.W. I heard Elshoff had been at office once for parties. I heard men say that [redacted] made a wrong agreement with Mine B when the contract ran out in spring of 1937. There was no trouble at all at Mine B because of this contract running out. I did not know if Elshoff & P.M.A. were going to get together & sign a contract. I did not go to any meeting before Mine B closed. On day Mine B closed I was on parting when I first heard of strike in afternoon. I heard that some men loaded cars short but no one said anything to me about it. That same afternoon Jim Hale asked me what was going on & I asked him what he meant & he did not answer me. I also saw Andy Schrelevious & Bowling Green (Chas. Bohanon) ride out with the mule together that afternoon & they were not supposed to do that. I heard that trouble was over the fact that the men did not get fired who were expelled & I heard this several days later while on picket on the road near the Mine B. While on picket I heard that some P.M.A. men were in the corn field with guns & that one was Cudge Baumgarner & other was Italian named 'Tony' from Pawnee, Ill. I also heard that some P.M.A. men at Mine B were getting money from U.M.W. I don't know if I signed any P.M.A. petition or not in summer of 1937 & I heard that U.M.W. had a petition out but I never signed it & was not asked to sign it or join U.M.W. In summer of 1937 nothing happened to me & it was all quiet. In fall of 1937 I went to sit down strike & was forced to go otherwise P.M.A. would fine us \$5.00. I think I was out at Mine B on first day they tried to re-open in fall of 1937 & we were all ready to go to work. The sheriff was out there too. The U.M.W. men did not go back to work. I spent most of my time out there. No outsiders were brot in to help but just local men. It was a quiet & peaceful strike. John Schneider tried the best he could to keep us out there. I think he was right in what he did & even tho he was sick he stuck it out with us. I was there when Marshall came out & some wanted to stay & he said they would have to leave & we all left quietly. We felt sad about it as we thot we lost out. Mine B shut off our water and lights but [redacted] helped put switches back again for us miners. We got coal from Mine A to keep us warm. I don't remember of going out to Mine B when they re-opened again in 1938. I voted at N.L.R.B. election the way I wanted to & no one forced me to vote & it was by secret ballot. All of us had made up our minds to stay with P.M.A. In fall of 1937 I got a letter from Mine B telling me to go back to work & I did as I heard a union lawyer told P.M.A. to go back to work otherwise we would lose. I don't know why Elshoff would not sign a contract with P.M.A. About a year later I was beat up at local U.M.W. meeting in Springfield, Ill. & this was after I signed over to U.M.W. U.M.W. had us lay track & paid us \$1.00 extra an hour & I & others were against it & I opened my mouth at the meeting that it was not right & [redacted] talked against me on it. Same evening I tried

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH ██████████ to talk to other men & Bowling Green Chas. Bohanon,  
(continued) ██████████ president, fined me 50¢ because I was talking to those  
men & another man came up to me & said I should go to  
██████████ treasurer, & we went & man told ██████████ to take  
the fine off & then this man left & ██████████ hit me while I had my glasses on  
& while on the floor he kicked me & beat me up. At a later meeting charges  
were placed against me for talking about U.M.W. officials & I never did it &  
they fined me \$150.00 & I had to pay it in 3 payments. I appealed to Ray  
Edmundson & he said that something would have to be done & next day at  
Mine B Jack Falcetti changed my statement to \$5.00 instead of \$150.00. This  
all took place after I had joined the U.M.W. union.

"After Mine B opened in 1939 ██████████ came in to see me while  
at work but he did not ask me out right to join U.M.W. One morning too  
my air was bad. Also once ██████████ came to my house & asked  
when I was going to join over to U.M.W. & I told them I would sign when  
the majority did. Later on Bowling Green Charles Bohanon came to my  
neighbor's house while we were playing cards & I signed over because a lot  
had signed over already. I heard that men did get beat up & I heard some  
hollering for help but I never saw them get beat up.

"I signed an affidavit against Bill Sirtout as he was my driver  
& he was doing everything he could to make it uncomfortable for me & I cried  
many times over it. The affidavit I signed then was made by me of my own  
free will & the information in it is true. I saw a lot of new men at  
Mine B & they would hang around in groups & I guess they were U.M.W. men.  
In summer of 1940 I did not sign any cards for P.M.A. or U.M.W. I paid  
P.M.A. dues but not when Mine B reopened in 1939. I voted in next N.L.R.B.  
election & it was like first one & I voted way I wanted to. I think U.M.W.  
won because the men were tired & I also heard that Mine B would not run  
again with P.M.A. I joined over to U.M.W. in 3 or 4 months after Mine B  
opened & I didn't pay dues at first & they all 'backed' me then. I had a  
bad room too when I went back & I figured they tried to get rid of me but  
I stuck it out. Mine B was in bad shape in 1939, & I never heard of a  
fire at Mine B in 1939. I did not attend a meeting when Jack Glasgow was  
kicked out. I have had Agent ██████████ read this six (6) page statement to  
me & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge. I am signing of my  
of my own free will.

"Signed ██████████ (signed)"

"██████████ (signed)  
Special Agent, F.B.I.  
St. Paul, Minn.

██████████ (signed)  
Special Agent FBI (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill. 9/14/43"



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 and 9, 1943.

On September 8, 1943, Agents went to the residence of [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, and his wife advised that he still is employed at Mine B and she said he gets home around 4:45 P.M. However, she said she did not know for sure if he would be home that evening as he might go to a U.M.W. meeting that was being held.

On September 9, 1943, Agents, about 4:40 P.M. went to the residence of [REDACTED] and upon identifying themselves to him, he said that he hadn't much to say and supposed it was in regard to that investigation and he was told it was. [REDACTED] then told Agents that they would have to see his Attorney, FITZGERALD and that he had nothing to say to Agents. He admitted, however, he was working there at Mine B when the strike occurred but he said nothing happened that he knew of. He further told Agents to just go and see FITZGERALD, his Attorney. He also stated to Agents that FITZGERALD personally told him to have Agents go and see him, FITZGERALD. This was in response to a question as to whether or not all the men all the men had been told this at Mine B or at a meeting. [REDACTED] was then asked by Agents what the full name of FITZGERALD was and he said he didn't know his first name but that he is a little old fellow. [REDACTED] was also asked where FITZGERALD has his offices and he said the offices are in the Farms Building, on top of Walgren's and it is on the ninth floor. [REDACTED] further remarked that he would not answer any questions and said for Agents to go and see his Attorney.

It was noted by Agents that [REDACTED] appeared to be somewhat intelligent and was not illiterate and spoke the English language alright.

Stenographic notes of Agent [REDACTED] are being retained in the exhibit section of this case.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

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

at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, agents interviewed [REDACTED] who advised he has never been arrested in his life. [REDACTED] although somewhat old, understood the majority of the questions very readily and his answers were understandable and it is felt that he would make a fair witness if his testimony is necessary. He furnished agents with the following signed statement:

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

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. make this free and voluntary 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 give this statement.

"In July 1941 I was laid off at Mine B as they think I was too old & I should go on pension. In June [REDACTED] I first started as coal digger at Mine B at Springfield, Ill.

"I was born [REDACTED] & came to U.S. in [REDACTED] & became citizen in [REDACTED] I was a miner in old country but did not belong to any union. I joined U.M.W. at Springfield, Ill. when I first came here & I never held any union office.

"Before 1932 ELSHOFF & U.M.W. got along fine and everybody was happy and we got what we wanted & it was a union for the men. When the split came in 1932 I went with the majority & was glad to go over & no one forced me to join P.M.A. & I didn't take any active part in going over. Between 1932 & 1937 P.M.A. got along fine too with ELSHOFF & there were no strikes or troubles. ELSHOFF & FALCETTI never said to me that P.M.A. was no good & I never heard of them saying anything against P.M.A. We P.M.A. miners felt our officers of P.M.A. were alright. P.M.A. was run by the men & they were O.K. I would go to meetings only once in a while. We men could say what we wished to say & no one stopped us. I never knew a thing about those bombings by P.M.A. men & I don't believe they did it & I think there was something crooked there. Once in a while there was a special assessment for a convention or something but they were not often. The P.M.A. officials always told us at the meetings what they did with the money. Before Mine B closed U.M.W. never

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

picketed Mine B & I never saw any literature being given out by them. Before Mine B closed there were some P.M.A. men, about 15 or so, who were for U.M.W. Some was CHAS. BOHANNON, BOILING GREEN, TONY PLOTCH, COTTON ANANIAS, JOHN & BILL & JOHN JR., SIRTOUT, GEO. & EMORY J. CANNAY, Sam the Italian, ANDY SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMONIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK JUSTIN & JIM HALE. That was the bunch. I never heard of any parties by ELSHOFF or U.M.W. In Spring of 1937 we were told in the Mine that we were working on a temporary agreement like old contract. I just dont recall if anything was said about back pay. We felt that our P.M.A. officers could do as good for us as U.M.W. Just before Mine B closed there was no trouble about the wages. PLOTCH & "COTTON" came to my home before Mine B closed and they told me that we could not work without an agreement but that U.M.W. could get an agreement. I told them I would not sign my name to anything. Mine B never said to me anything about the wage agreement. Before Mine B closed I did not go to any meeting but there might have been one. I worked in Box [redacted] on day Mine B closed and I loaded 2 cars & had no more coal & came up to parting and saw some old man who also did not know of any trouble. No one came to our section & said mine was to be closed. After I got on top I heard all the men were called out. I heard the trouble was because an agreement was not signed. That is all I know about it. I heard that in some parts they were loading short but in my part we all loaded full cars. Next day after Mine B closed I don't remember if they picketed or not at Mine B. I never signed any U.M.W. Petition in summer of 1937 & I don't know if I signed one for P.M.A. or not as I still was Progressive. No one asked me to join U.M.W. local & I heard they had opened it from the papers. During summer of 1937 I don't know of anything happening. I also heard that some men from Mine B went to work at Jefferson Mine & I also heard that FALCETTI was there too & I also heard that ELSHOFF was running it for a while. In fall of 1937 I went out first day & they wouldn't let any P.M.A. men go down but did let that same bunch of 15 or so go down & next day we started the strike that lasted for some time. FALCETTI let them go down. I went out to the strike about half the time & I would go home when I wanted to. No one forced me to go out. The men were all from local 54. I went to protect my job as I had \$25.00 worth of tools in the mine. I don't see any U.M.W. men at Mine during the strike. It was a quiet and peaceful strike. We protected mine property & took 3 hr. watch each night. We had no guns. I was not at Mine B when U. S. Marshall came out as I had left 3 days before. I did not go out to Mine B later as I read in paper they were going to open it as U.M.W. & I didn't go out. I voted at first N.L.R.B. election at Armory in Springfield, Ill. & I voted for P.M.A. I was in meeting hall & we went over in groups of about ten. No one told me how to vote. We were told to get our ballots at the Armory. Between Armory & our hall I saw several men giving out papers but I did not take any. It was by secret ballot & it was a good election - no

DR. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

trouble at all. I heard that later Mine B was to be re-opened but I didn't go out. I heard that ELSHOFF would have nothing to do with Progressives even tho they won the election. In fall of 1939 I think I got a letter telling me to go out to work. I went out after [redacted] came to my house & said I had to go out in 3 days & I went out on second day & I was told my place had caved in & that they would let me know in a week or so & some one later told me to go out & I did. I paid to P.M.A. \$33.00 in dues after I returned to work. After I worked a while TONY BAUMGARTEN asked me in the wash room at Mine B when I was going to sign over to U.M.W. & I did as I figured I had better sign before some one punched me. He just told me it was better to join. This was about Jan. or Feb. 16th, 1941 when I signed up. At Mine B, BILL SIRTOUT, who is now in the army, asked me almost every day when I was going to join U.M.W. but he never threatened me. This was before TONY saw me. No one hurt me or did damage to my coal. ELSHOFF & FALCETTI never asked me to join U.M.W. I didn't sign any card for U.M.W. in summer of 1940 but I saw SALLY go around in Mine B with some kind of cards but I never signed. I belonged to P.M.A. so didn't have to sign any cards with them. I voted at second N.L.R.B. election at armory. Before we had to go to big meeting at Redman's Hall & Edmundson & [redacted], was there & we had to go & vote in groups of ten. I did not pay any attention to their speeches & I still voted for P.M.A. It was a good election. U.M.W. had men all around the election booth. U.M.W. brot all kinds of new men to Mine B and they came from all places & that is how U.M.W. won as they got more men in at Mine B. No one forced me to vote at second N.L.R.B. election. When I returned to Mine B they had bad air. Box [redacted] was in good condition but Box [redacted] never were opened. I never heard of a fire at Mine B while it was closed. After I joined U.M.W. they fined me 50 cents for not going to a meeting & I complained to BOHANNON about it because I was too old to go. I don't think I attended a meeting where [redacted] talked.

"I have had agent [redacted] read this seven (7) page statement to me and it is correct to the best of my recollection & I have signed it of my own free will.

"Witnesses:

[redacted], Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)

[redacted] Special Agent, St. Paul, Minn."

Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 8, 1943."

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 8th and 9th, 1943.

On September 8, 1943 inquiry was made at the residence of [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, and it was ascertained that he was at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Agents were advised by [REDACTED] that he has been [REDACTED] since September 1, 1943 [REDACTED] and that he was well and would answer questions of Agents.

He stated he had never been arrested in his life. It was noted that although he is rather old he readily understood the questions and answered them intelligently, and if it were not for his illness, he would make a good witness if necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

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

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. make the following free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] I have been suffering [REDACTED] but I feel all right and well enough to talk. No threats or promises have been made to me to procure this statement.

"I was born [REDACTED] I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a citizen about [REDACTED] I first joined a mine union at Springfield in [REDACTED] I have never held a union office. I first went to work in Mine 'B' about [REDACTED] and worked there until 1937 since which time I have not worked at all except for one month in 1939 after the mine opened. Prior to 1932 the U.M.W. at Mine B seemed to get along OK with Elshoff so far as I know. In 1932 I joined the P.M.A. when all the others did I felt then that there should be only one union for the miners, I took no active part in changing to P.M.A. just went along with the rest.

"During the 5 years from 1932 to 1937, the P.M.A. and the Mine 'B' officials had no unusual trouble, there were no shut-downs or work stoppages during this time. Neither Elshoff or Falsetti

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

ever said anything to me about wanting to get P.M.A. out at Mine B and getting U.M.W. back. I heard that the union officials had some trouble with Elshoff over the contract and his wanting to get U.M.W. back.

Before 1937 the P.M.A. seemed to get along OK with their own officials. P.M.A. did not seem to have any more trouble with crooked leaders than any other union, there are always some men in every union trying to get something out of it. I heard at this time there were some men in P.M.A. carrying stories to the Bosses about what happened in the union. I did not go to P.M.A. meetings because I lived out in the country and under the agreement did not have to. I would attend election meetings and that was about all. There was never any question in my mind as to the dealings of P.M.A. officials with union money, assessments in P.M.A. were about the same as in any union. From 1932 to 1937 I don't recall the U.M.W. ever picketing at Mine 'B' nor do I remember any U.M.W. literature being distributed at the mine. I don't know whether there were any men in the P.M.A. trying to organize for the U.M.W. Before the mine closed I heard some P.M.A. board members say they did not want the mine to close. There were 12 men in the P.M.A. before the mine closed organizing for the U.M.W. they never asked me to join over but I heard of their activities, I don't recall their names now. I never knew about Elshoff giving any parties for U.M.W. officials or they for him.

"I remember hearing about the contract running out in the Spring of 1937. I heard they had a temporary agreement, but never heard anything about back pay. I was satisfied with the way our union officials were handling this matter. The miners were mad about there being no contract but there were no fights or other trouble. I never heard anything about what the Co. had to say about the wage contract.

"I did not go to any meeting the night before the mine shut down. I heard about it and about some U.M.W. men being chased out of the union. I worked on May 12, 1937. I did not know anything about the fact that there would be a strike on that day. I worked all day and found out when I came up on top that the mine was shut down. I heard the mine was closed because Elshoff wanted the P.M.A. men to join U.M.W. but they would not do that so they closed it down. I heard of cars being loaded short the day the mine closed down, but I did not do this myself.

"I did not sign any petitions for either P.M.A. or U.M.W. the summer the mine closed down.

"I knew nothing about the U.M.W. forming a new local the summer of 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I did not return to work when they tried to open the mine in Sept. 1937. About two weeks after the strike started John Schnieder and a couple of men came and asked me what kind of a union member I was not to be at the mine. A day or so later another member took me out and I stayed for 4 days and then ran off and went home. I asked this other man to take me out after Schnieder and the others had called to see me. I would not have gone if it hadn't been for this. They did not threaten me just talked kind of rough. The men I saw at the strike were all local 54 men. I don't know of anyone else who was made to go to the mine. I was not at the mine when the marshall came and chased the men out.

"I did not go to the mine when they tried to open it in Sept. 1937. I don't know whether I knew about it or not.

"I voted in the first N.L.R.B. election. I went from home to the Armory, nobody forced me to go. It was a good honest election by secret ballot. I think I voted P.M.A. I never saw any U.M.W. men near the Armory when I went to vote.

"I did not go to the mine when they tried to open in Jan. 1938.

"I heard the reason the mine was not opened after P.M.A. won the election was because Elshoff didn't want P.M.A. I heard the reason Elshoff could keep the mine closed was because John Lewis was paying him. I heard something about Elshoff opening up the Jefferson Mine and not being able to make it so he closed.

"When the mine opened in 1939, [REDACTED] came to my room and said I had to come to work in two days or I would loose my job, I was sick at that time. I had previously had a letter telling me to come back to work but had not gone. I went out after [REDACTED] came to see me, I was sick and walking with a cane. Falsetti let me go back I went back in box [REDACTED] as box [REDACTED] where I had worked was caved in. I made 444 for 4 days work just before I quite as I was unable to work. After I went back to work nobody asked me to join the U.M.W. I did not vote at the second N.L.R.B. election as I was out when this was held. When I went back to Mine 'B' I guess the mine was in fair shape. I never did rejoin the U.M.W.

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

Signed [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED] Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)  
[REDACTED] Special Agent, F.B.I. St. Paul, Minn.  
Springfield, Ill. Sept. 9, 1943

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 13, 1943, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] at his home, Springfield, Illinois. During this interview it was observed that [REDACTED] is an intelligent person and possesses a very good memory. [REDACTED] was most anxious to cooperate in every way possible. He impressed Agents as being a thoroughly honest and reliable sort of person, and it is believed that the information given by him is the truth. [REDACTED] furnished some very interesting information and it is believed that he would make an excellent witness. [REDACTED] advises that he has no criminal record. The following signed statement was furnished by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 13, 1943.

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

"Since Dec. 1938 I have been a digger & company man at Panther Creek #6. I started at Mine B in 1934 & worked till May, 1937 when it closed. I was a member of P.M.A. when I started at Mine B. I was born [REDACTED] & came to U. S. in [REDACTED] & became a citizen in [REDACTED] I first joined U.M.W. around [REDACTED] in Illinois & I never have held a union office. Between 1934 & 1937 I think P.M.A. miners got along fine with P.M.A. officials & officials of Mine B. I remember that some time before Mine B closed I had a cold & I went out to Mine B & told them I wasn't going down to work. While I was in the wash-house, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN & a few other men all of whom favored U.M.W. were also in the wash-house & after the P.M.A. miners went down when the whistle blew OSCAR FALCETTI came into the wash-house & I saw him wink at FRANK AUSTIN & he said "It didn't work" & AUSTIN said, "we will get them tomorrow." I told this later to the P.M.A. officials. I don't recall of anything happening that day but I think CARTER & AUSTIN had been expelled from P.M.A. already. Between 1934 & 1937 to the best of my knowledge most of the P.M.A. minors were satisfied with local #54 & it was run by the men & not by a few. I was not active but did go to a lot of the meetings. In regard to the men sent to jail for the bombing I & others felt that they were railroaded & were not guilty. P.M.A. officials made reports as to what they did with the money. Once they had a 10% assessment but otherwise there were no outstanding special assessments. Before Mine B closed U.M.W. men never picketed the Mine B. But before Mine B closed there was a group around Mine B who were for U.M.W. and they were SAMMY; ANDY SCHOELEVIOUS; PASQUALE; CARTER; AUSTIN; TONY PLOTCH; "COTTON" ANANIAS; 3 SIRTOUTS; GEO. & EMORY JACAWAY; BOWLING GREEN & JIM HALE and I heard that these men were trying to get the Mine B closed & were supposed to have said that if the Mine didn't go over to U.M.W. it would be closed and I heard they had gone around



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] & talked to men but they never contacted me. I guess about 6 or 7 of the above were expelled from P.M.A. as I heard (continued) about that. I never heard of any parties ELSHOFF gave for U.M.W. but I used to see lot of whiskey bottles in the rear of the office of Mine B & I heard that ELSHOFF & FALCETTI did have parties at Mine B for U.M.W. men.

"In spring of 1937 I recall that the contract ran out & we were told we were working pending a settlement & that it would be retro-active to April 1st & that the contract would be based on the Illinois contract. The P.M.A. committee of [REDACTED] and others told us this. I thot things would be as they always were in regard to the contract. I never heard any men complaining about their wages over this contract & there were no slow-downs over it. I heard that some of the above expelled men were not fired & that FALCETTI told the P.M.A. Committee that he would not fire them. I never heard management say a thing about wages.

"I don't recall if I attended a meeting on 5-11-37 or not. I did not know there was to be a strike when Mine B closed on 5-12-37. That morning there was some rumor around that there might be some trouble. If I recall P.M.A. was supposed to see ELSHOFF about these expelled men. I loaded full cars but because of a fall the driver took out several short cars. No one told me to load any short nor did I know it was being done. Around 2:30 or 2:45 p.m. our driver told us it was quitting time & we came out. After I got on top I heard the mine was on strike. I heard [REDACTED] wated to have the Company re-instate the contract & they wouldn't so he called the men out. I did not hear it was over those expelled men. For several week the mine was picketed. I never signed any petition for U.M.W., but I did sign one for P.M.A. as there was a rumor that U.M.W. was claiming a lot & petition was gotten up to see how many were for P.M.A. & I signed it at union office of my own free will. I heard of a U.M.W. petition being out. I recall of signing a P.M.A. petition in the fall of 1937 & no one forced me to sign it. I heard of U.M.W. forming a new local & I heard they were going from home to home but I never was approached. P.M.A. held their regular meetings as usual in summer of 1937 & I don't recall of anything unusual happening in summer of 1937. I heard tho of a fellow named [REDACTED] getting beat up by CHAS. BOHANNON & another fellow. I heard that some Mine B men & [REDACTED] worked at Jefferson Mine while Mine B was closed. I think I heard too of FALCETTI being there. In fall of 1937 I went to Mine B first day they tried to reopen & I heard from the other miners I would have to sign up with U.M.W. in order to go down so I didn't go down as I would not sign over to U.M.W. I had not attended any previous meeting when they decided what to do. I read of Mine B re-opening in the papers. I heard a cago or two of men went down. Both JACAWAYS went down & I think TONY ILOTCH too as I saw them myself. The law was out there too but things were quiet. Next morning the sit down strike started & the group who went down first day were in office & sheriff lot them go out.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] I went out for 1st week of sit down & then went to Detroit for a month & then returned to sit-down for few days & Marshall came out & told us to leave & there was no trouble. (continued) [REDACTED] shall came out & told us to leave & there was no trouble. I saw no outsiders -- just local #54 men were on sit-down strike. No one forced me to go out. I that ELSHOFF might get tired of us & sign a contract. It was quiet & peaceful. There were rumors that U.M.W. were going to bring men in but it never took place. I heard of re-opening the mine in Dec. 1937 but did not go out because of the injunction being served on us. I voted at N.L.R.B. election in Armory. It was by secret ballot & I voted because I wanted to be with P.M.A. & no one forced me to vote & it was an honest election. I think we went to union hall first & then went over in groups. We had heard U.M.W. might have some men out so we went in groups. A meeting was held & [REDACTED] explained purpose of election & he said to us we can vote the way we wanted to & he did not say to me to vote for P.M.A. Across from Armory & on inside I saw a few U.M.W. men & FRANK AUSTIN was on inside but I did not see them give out literature & they did not bother us. I heard again that they tried to re-open it in Jan. 1938 as U.M.W. & that was why I didn't go out. I heard that ELSHOFF would not sign any U.M.W. contract & another rumor was ELSHOFF got money from U.M.W. I went to work in Dec. 1938 at Panther Creek Mine. I don't recall of getting a letter from Mine B saying for me to come to work. I later went out to Mine B to get my tools & FALCETTI asked me if I was coming back & I told him I never would under U.M.W. & he just grinned at me.

"I never had anything more to do with Mine B since then. Altho I can read English I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this seven (7) page statement to me & it is true & correct to the best of my recollection and I also recall that in August, 1937 I & [REDACTED] were walking along [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. I saw a car containing OSCAR FALCETTI; [REDACTED] (ph); [REDACTED] (ph) & [REDACTED] & another man. OSCAR FALCETTI called both of us over to the car which was parked & we asked him what he was doing & he said they wanted to see how many men were going to the U.M.W. meeting & he asked us why we were not up there & we told him we had no business up there & he wanted to take us out to buy us a drink but we refused. I have had read to me this additional information too & I am signing this of my own free will."

"Signed -- [REDACTED]"

WITNESSES:

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

[REDACTED]  
Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw.)

Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 13, 1943"

PERSONS EMPLOYED AT MINE "A" AFTER NOVEMBER 6, 1939

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois on the [REDACTED] afternoon of September 7, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] would not make a good witness due to a poor appearance, and a poor memory. He does not express himself very well. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 7, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born at [REDACTED]. I make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who have identified themselves to me to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No promises, threats, or consideration of any kind has been made to me to have me sign this statement.

"I started to work at Mine B in July 1940. My father was working there at that time and took me out to work. I had been working at the Jefferson mine before I went to Mine B. It was a UMW mine, and I was a member of the UMW when I went to work out there at mine B. The Jefferson mine was the first mine that I had every worked at.

"While I was at Mine B, I did not see any violence or fights of any kind. I did not hear anything about organizing at Mine B. I thought it was already a UMW mine, and I did not talk to anyone about switching, and no one talked to me about the unions. I did not see any organizing on company property. I heard about such things going on, but do not know of it personally. I voted at the election held for mine B at the Armory in 1941. That was a fair election as far as I know. I never saw any preference or favoritism of the company for one union over the other. I never saw any violence out there by either union.

"I have read the above statement on this page. It is all true and accurate.

(Signed) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Special Agent FBI

[REDACTED]  
F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at [REDACTED]

He is about average in intelligence but appeared cooperative. If deemed necessary, he would be a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement:

[REDACTED]  
Sept. 8, 1943

"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 or been made to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born in [REDACTED] and presently reside at [REDACTED]. I have been a miner off and on since [REDACTED] when I first came to the U. S. I became a citizen in [REDACTED] and joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED]. I have never held an office in any union. I first started working at Mine B in about July of 1940 as a timberman. I worked as a Timberman at Peabody #59 from about 1930 until 1940. I had not been getting along very well at Peabody, which was a United Mine, and decided I would go over to Mine B to get a job. FALCETTI had promised me a job at Mine B in about 1928 or 1929, but I never got the job then. I knew OSCAR FALCETTI of course, but didn't know him very well.

"Then I went out to see FALCETTI about a job in 1940, he asked me what kind of a job I wanted, and I said I had been a timberman, so he said he needed timbermen, because the mine was in bad shape. FALCETTI didn't ask me what union I belonged to and didn't say anything as to what union I should join. About the next day after I started work at Mine B, one of the Committeemen from United asked me what union I belonged to. Since I was a member of the U.M.W. at Peabody in good standing I told them I was a U.M.W. man. I then signed some kind of a card and they had my card transferred from Peabody over to Mine B. I worked at Mine B until January of 1942 and quit at that time because I was on a night shift and didn't like to work nights. I got my old job back at #59 then because I could work days. I am still employed at #59.

"While I was at Mine B I never had any trouble with any of the men about union activities. I don't know anything about any trouble at the Mine - I heard about men fighting, but I didn't see any of it. I was never a member of Progressive, but always got along fine with the member of Progressives. I've always been friends with

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

everybody and didn't care what union a man belonged to as long as he was a friend of mine.

(continued)

"I voted in the election of February 1941 while employed at Mine B. This election was at the Armory and was peaceable as far as I know. I do not know anything about the strike at Mine B in 1937.

"This statement of 3 pages has been read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true to the best of my memory.

"Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] and that he was presently making his residence with [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had not mentioned instant investigation to him and that in his opinion it was a bad situation at the mines. [REDACTED] stated that he had always been an independent thinker and had joined the U.M.W. because he wanted to and not because of any threats.

[REDACTED] speaks good English and is above average in intelligence, although his information is rather limited. There is set forth below the signed statement executed by [REDACTED] at the time of this interview.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 8, 1943

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

"I was born at [REDACTED] and my home address is [REDACTED]. I have been in the United States Army for the past two years. As I recall I started to work at Mine B in about August, 1940. My father, [REDACTED] is a miner and had worked at Mine B for a long time. I had been working for [REDACTED] and was only making about seven dollars a week and I thought I could make more money in the mines. [REDACTED] I had never belonged to any union before working at Mine B, and I joined U.M.W. I do not remember whether I joined as soon as I started to work or whether it was later.

"I was not threatened in any way nor did I see anyone else beaten or threatened. I joined U.M.W. because my Dad belonged to that union. I worked at Mine B until the latter part of September, 1941 at which time I left to go into the Army. I am now assigned to the [REDACTED]. I am now home on leave.

"I do not remember who hired me at Mine B. I just went to some man and told him that I wanted a job. He put me to work as a digger. No one told me I had to join any union in order to work. I don't know anything about any union trouble at the mine, I never paid any attention to it.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

correct to the best of my belief.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agents, F.B.I.  
U. S. Dep't. of Justice."



RE: JOHN L. LEVIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois; was cooperative and appeared willing to talk. He could be used as a witness, if necessary, although the information furnished by him is not particularly pertinent. His statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 9, 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 induce me to make a statement.

"I was born on [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in [REDACTED]. I became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED] and I now reside at [REDACTED]. I started mining about [REDACTED] and at that time joined U.M.W. I started at Mine B on August 9, 1940 and prior to that I had worked at the [REDACTED] years. The Old West Mine shut down and I thought I would go to Mine B and see if I could get a job. I went to see OSCAR FALCETTI, went to see him two or three times, and he gave me a job. I had been out of work for about two years. I had belonged to Progressive when I was at the [REDACTED]. I got a job as timberman at Mine B for two or three months, and then I started to dig coal.

"When I went to Mine B I was a member of Progressive, I went every month and registered when I was out of work.

"When FALCETTI hired me he didn't say anything about any union. After I had worked for about two or three days. "Sammy" came and asked me to join U.M.W. I told him I would and I signed up with U.M.W. I joined because I thought the majority belonged to U.M.W. I heard that there were fights at the Mine but I never saw any and no one ever bothered me.

"I voted in the NLRB election at the State Armory in 1941. The election was quiet and there was no trouble of any kind. No one told me how to vote or threatened me in any way. I have never held an office in any union.

"I never saw FALCETTI at Panther Creek Mine, but I did see him at a picnic about [REDACTED] years ago. When he hired me he

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

did not know me, I told him I had met him at a picnic but he said it was too long ago, he couldn't remember.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

[REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], who resides at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of employment, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] would make an excellent witness to testify to those matters set out in his statement. He is friendly toward the government and related how his father, many years ago was "railroaded" into the penitentiary by John L. Lewis. He further related confidentially that he knew Lewis and Edmundson and that neither were "worth the powder to blow them to hell".

[REDACTED] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 8, 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 was born on [REDACTED]. I have worked in coal mines for [REDACTED] years, and joined the U.M.W. in about 1927. I never held any office in any union. I started at Mine B in December, 1939 or January 1940 and got a job as a digger. I had been sick before that and hadn't worked for a year or so.

"I heard that Mine B was hiring men so I went to Oscar Falcetti and asked him for a job. I didn't know him before this. He asked me what union I intended to join and I told him I didn't think it was any of his business, that when the time came I would make up my mind. He did ask me if I was a member in good standing in U.M.W. and I told him that I wasn't. However, he gave me a job.

"After I had been there for about a month I was approached by both unions, each wanting me to join. The U.M.W. men told me they had a majority but I was not threatened or intimidated in any way by either group.

"After about six or eight weeks I finally joined U.M.W. The reason I joined this union was because I had been a United Mine Worker before, I had no personal likes or dislikes for either group.

"I worked at Mine B for about six months and during this time I had consulted a doctor concerning some trouble I had [REDACTED]. The

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] doctor told me I couldn't work in the mines anymore, so  
[REDACTED] I quit Mine B.  
(continued)

"I know nothing directly concerning the strike in 1937 and  
at no time was I ever subjected to any violence or abuse of any kind.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and  
correct to the best of my memory.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agents, FBI  
U. S. Dep't. of Justice"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 7, 1943. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED]. He started working at Mine "B" in the summer of 1940 and claims to know nothing of union activity at Mine "B". He understands and speaks English well. [REDACTED] advised that when a young man he was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge for being drunk, and spent several days in jail.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 7, 1943 -

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I first started working in coal mines [REDACTED] years ago in [REDACTED], when I first joined the United Mine Workers of America Union and I have been a member of UMW ever since. I have never been a member of any other union.

"For about [REDACTED] years before the summer of 1940 I didn't work and in the summer of 1940 I came to Springfield, Ill., [REDACTED] whose name I cannot spell, but who is a good friend of mine, sent word to me near [REDACTED] where I was living on a farm, that Mine "B" was hiring and I would get a job. So I came up to Springfield and went to work in Mine "B". No one ever said anything about me working there because I was UMW. I've been working at Mine "B" ever since.

"During the time I have been employed at Mine "B" I have never seen any efforts on the part of either UMW or PMA, the Progressive Union, to organize at Mine "B". Back in 1940 I heard there were some fights, but I never have seen any.

"I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Board election in Feb. of 1941 when UMW beat PMA. I was not forced or threatened in any way and I believe it was a fair election.

"I have never held an office in any local around Springfield, and I do not false any interest in union activities and I attend very few UMW meetings.

"I think the UMW is the best organization in the world, altho I do believe some of the officials are not true to the organization. I would not work in the mines under any other union.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I am certain I know nothing of any organizing or union activities at Mine "B", especially from the time I went to work there until the NLRB election.

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

SIGNED -

WITNESS

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that he had been rejected by the Army due to poor health and that since that time he had not been interested in any type of work. [REDACTED] seemed to be highly resentful of this fact and it is believed he has a rather distorted view point toward life in general. Although he stated he had never been arrested, [REDACTED] stated he had been accused on several occasions of stealing tools at the mine. It is believed he would make an unreliable witness. There is being set forth below the signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 8, 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] Springfield, Illinois and was born in [REDACTED]. I have lived in Springfield nearly all of my life. I left high school after two years, in about [REDACTED] and did odd jobs for a couple of years. My father, [REDACTED] was working at Mine B and had been there for about [REDACTED] years prior to his retirement about two years ago.

"As I recall I went to work at Mine B in August, 1940 and worked there until about April, 1942. I had been working at [REDACTED] and just before I went to work at Mine B I had been working in [REDACTED]. My father asked me if I wanted to go to work at Mine B, and I thought I would, so I went out with him. When I started to work my father belonged to U. M. W. I don't remember who hired me, but I guess it was the Superintendent. I went to work as a digger. I don't remember just when I joined U. M. W. but that was the union I joined. The reason that I joined U. M. W. was because I felt that U. M. W. was in the majority. I was never beaten or threatened in anyway to get me to join any union. The only fights I was in at the mine was about some tools I was accused of stealing.

"I voted in the NLRB election in the Armory, probably in February 1941, but there was no trouble and no one told me how to vote.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(continued)

"I have read the above statement and it is true to the best of my memory. I don't know anything about the strike or what caused it, and I have never been aware of any union fights. I was never bothered in anyway by either union and didn't have to join any union to get my job at Mine B.

[REDACTED]

"Witnessed:  
[REDACTED]

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appeared [REDACTED] cooperative and indicated his willingness to assist the government. Although the information furnished by him is not believed to be particularly vital, it is felt that he would be a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement which he furnished:

"Springfield, Ill  
Sept\_ 8, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED], and came to the U. S. in about [REDACTED]. I became a U. S. [REDACTED] in about [REDACTED] and presently live at [REDACTED]. I started mining in about [REDACTED] and joined the U.M.W. at that time. I worked for Elshoff when he operated the [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] on and off except when [REDACTED] was shut down. That mine closed down about in [REDACTED] but I had left that mine in [REDACTED]. I worked at the Jefferson Mine for about three years and worked there during the time when Elshoff was the receiver for the mine. We were only paid about 75% of our wages and the 25% was kept by the mine or Elshoff. I saw Falcetti around there a lot and I guess he was the manager of the mine.

"After I left the Jefferson & Brewenton mines I worked one winter for the [REDACTED] mine. After that I got a job at [REDACTED] for about 3 months. I quit that place and was out of work until about August of 1940 when I got a job at Mine B. I have been at Mine B since that time. While we ran the Jefferson mine on a cooperative basis there was no union, but when it was taken over by Elshoff it was progressive. When the mine was operated by Brewenton he kept \$10 back from each pay check & he was supposed to give the men a deed for some land. I think there were five trustees elected; [REDACTED] who now works at Peabody 59; and the other three men's names I don't remember. These men handled all the details & I believe they were to receive deeds for oil or mineral rights in return for Brewenton keeping \$10 from each pay check.

"In August of 1940 I went to see Falcetti about getting a job at mine B. I had been on the pit committee at [REDACTED] before [REDACTED] & I was also trustee for the U.M.W. local at Mine B for two terms, that is up until the last election.

"I had seen Falcetti several times in 1940 before he finally gave me a job as a digger in August of 1940. When I first got my job there was no check off and nobody said I had to join a union. I had always been a

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] strong united men, although I did belong to progressive  
(continued) [REDACTED] for a short time. When I started at Mine B I was  
not a member of any union, but I think I signed up  
before I started to work. I believe it was Albanese  
or Cotton Ananias who asked me to sign a U.M.W. card so I signed it. I  
don't like the idea of two unions in the coal business and I don't believe  
I would have joined progressive even if they were the only one there. I  
was not forced or threatened in any way to join any union. I never was  
involved in any arguments at the mine & never saw any fighting during the  
time I've been there.

"I haven't seen much of Falcetti since I started at Mine B and so  
I can't say if he favored any union at the mine.

"As I recall it now, the Jefferson mine was first run by [REDACTED]  
and then was operated by Elshoff under receivership, and during the time  
Elshoff was there it was progressive. After that, [REDACTED] got a loan  
from the government and the mine was run by U.M.W. men.

"I used to be quite active in union affairs, but since the last  
union election in about July, I haven't been attending union meetings.

"After reading this statement I want to correct it by stating  
now that Elshoff didn't start operating [REDACTED] until about 1917.

"I have read over this statement of 4 pages and wish to state it  
is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appeared cooperative but possessed no information of value. He could be used, however, if desirable, to testify to those matters contained in the following statement, which he furnished.

"Sept. 9, 1943  
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. As I recall it now I was first employed by Mine B in the early spring of 1940 and quit in the spring of 1942. I was working at [REDACTED] just before I went to work at Mine B and wanted to quit [REDACTED] because I wasn't making any money at the [REDACTED] I went out to see Elshoff quite a few times before I finally got a job. I never knew Elshoff very well, in fact I never really knew him until I saw him at the mine [REDACTED] Elshoff finally called in Falcetti and told him to give me a job. I was given a job working nights as a clean up man. I had never been a member of any coal miners union before I worked there.

"As I recall it now, I worked there about two weeks before I joined the U.M.W. I believe Bohannon was president of the local and a man by the name of [REDACTED] asked me to join. I was not threatened in any way by anyone to join any union. I was not approached by anyone from Progressive to join their union. I figured U.M.W. were in the majority and joined them because of that fact, and also because I was asked to join progressive. I heard there was a lot of fighting after I first started but since I was working nights I didn't see many of those men. After I worked there for about six months I was given a job as digger.

"Since I was a roofer by trade I decided I would try and get a job at that business. After the fire at Mine B in 1942 I decided that was a good time to quit so I got a job with the [REDACTED]

"I voted in the NLRB election in 1941 and as far as I know everything was all right. I do not know anything about the strike in 1937. When I first started at Mine B there was nothing said by either Elshoff or Falcetti as to what union I should join and I never saw any acts of favoritism by them towards either union.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I have read over this statement of 3 pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] does not speak very good English and stated he never paid much attention to union activities; that as far as he was concerned they should only allow one union to operate and that union should be the U.M.W. It is believed that [REDACTED] would be a poor witness. There is being set forth below the following signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

"September 9, 1943  
Springfield, Illinois

"I, [REDACTED] residing at [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 induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [REDACTED] and came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] I became a U.S. citizen in [REDACTED] I started coal mining in about [REDACTED] and at that time I joined U.M.W.

"I started at Mine B in August of 1940. I had worked at Peabody #53 for many years and I had to quit there because of a rupture. I had an operation several times for this and didn't go back to Peabody.

"I worked on W.P.A. for a while and then I thought I could get a job at Mine B. [REDACTED] was working there but I didn't say anything to [REDACTED] I went to Oscar Falcetti and asked him for a job. I know Falcetti, but not very well. When I asked him for a job as digger he told me to bring my tools. He asked me where I had worked before, and I told him. Falcetti didn't say anything to me about joining any union.

"Nobody said anything to me about joining any union but I wanted to join U.M.W. so I did. No one asked me to join, or threatened me in any way. I had always been a United Mine Worker so that is why I joined again.

[REDACTED] had worked at Mine B for a long time but I don't think that is why I got the job. They needed men and hired me. I never saw any fights at Mine B, or had any trouble of any kind. I know nothing about the strike in 1937.

"I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct to the best of my memory.

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home, September 9, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] has a difficult time understanding and speaking English and would be a poor government witness as he is a member of long standing in UMW.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 9, 1943.

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

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

"I became a member of the UMW in the U. S. in [REDACTED] and I have been a member of UMW since that date.

"I am not active in the union and I have never held office.

"In 1940 I was employed at the [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. This mine was only working a few days a week. I heard that Mine "B" was working every day and for that reason I went to Mine "B" to obtain employment. In the Summer of 1940 Oscar Falcetti gave me a job at Mine "B". I was not asked by Falcetti if I was a member of a union, but I showed him my UMW card as I was a member of UMW at the Capitol Mine.

"I did not see an attempt to organize anyone at Mine "B" nor did I see any fights over union matters. No one contacted me as I was a member of U.L.W.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 for UMW. So far as I know the election was fair.

"No one attempted to get me to join PMA.

"I stopped working at Mine "B" in May 1943 and returned to [REDACTED] as the [REDACTED] Mine was working every day and the

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

work at the [REDACTED] Mine was not as hard as Mine  
"B", since [REDACTED] Mine is [REDACTED], whereas,  
Mine "E" is a hand mine.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:-

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] who is still employed at Mine B, [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Illinois. He was unable to furnish any information of value. In addition, he does not understand questions clearly and it is not felt that he would be a desirable witness. The following signed statement was obtained from him.

[REDACTED] Ill.  
Sept. 11, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] and came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] I have been a U. S. citizen for [REDACTED] years. I presently live at [REDACTED]

"In about August of 1940 I went to see Falcetti about a job at Mine B. I had not worked in a mine for about 12 years, but before that time I had worked in the South Mine for many years. I joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] and never belonged to any other union besides the U.M.W.

"I had been on the W.P.A. just before I got my job at Mine B. I knew both Oscar & Jack Falcetti when they were working at the [REDACTED] mine about [REDACTED] years ago. I heard they were hiring men so I went out to Mine B and saw Oscar. He didn't ask me anything about unions & told me to come to work the next day. I worked there a day or two when one of the United men came to me and asked me to join United. Nobody asked me to join the progressive union. I never saw any fighting while I was at Mine B and nobody forced me to join United. I do not know anything about the strike at Mine B in 1937.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] at Rochester, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stated his story in a calm and collected manner and seemed to have a good recollection of events at the mine during the time he was employed. [REDACTED] seems to be of average intelligence and stated he would be willing to testify as to the facts related by him. It is believed he would be a good witness for the government.

Subsequent to the time he executed his statement, [REDACTED] stated that he had appealed his discharge before a committee of union and company representatives, at which time he was reinstated. [REDACTED] stated further that about ten days later Falcetti rehired him and sent him to a section in box [REDACTED] referred to by the men as "Progressive Row". [REDACTED] stated this particular section had only dirty coal when found, and if found the drivers couldn't pick it up. [REDACTED] said further he was in this section with about ten men including a man and his son from [REDACTED] that men who had been vigorously in favor of Progressive were sent to this spot. After working about ten days in this spot, and after receiving numerous "locks", [REDACTED] stated he decided to quit Mine B.

There is being set forth below the following signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ill.  
Sept. 9, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and presently reside on [REDACTED]. I have been a member of the U.M.W. union off and on for the past [REDACTED] years. At the present time I am working [REDACTED].

"I had worked at the Brewerton Mine before I went to work at Mine B. I had heard that Falcetti was at the Brewerton mine, but he left before I started and I never really knew Falcetti until I went out to Mine B. I left the Brewerton mine in about 1939 [REDACTED]. After the Brewerton mine closed, I didn't do very much work as I was sick for about 6 months after it closed.

"I believe I started at Mine B in the fall of 1940 and left in about May of 1941. I was on U.P.A when I heard that Mine B was going to hire men. I saw [REDACTED] at the mine and asked for a job driving. [REDACTED] told me to wait until Oscar came in so when Oscar came in I talked to him about a job. I am pretty sure I told him about my being at Brewerton and [REDACTED].

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] This information was volunteered by me and Falcetti never asked me as to what union I was going to join. I was given a job and told to start the next day.

"Within a day or two after I started at the mine I talked about my union status with Bohannon, Plotch, Cotton and a few others. They had known me for some time inasmuch as they all worked with me at Brewerton. They said they would reinstate me with union local at Mine B and thus I would save the \$10 initiation fee. I was issued a card by the U.M.W. local at Mine B and I was appointed by Bohannon, President of the local, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I believe this was about about 30 days after I started work. I kept that job until I was discharged in May of 1941.

"I know that there were some fights at the mine, but never actually saw any of the fighting. I did see some men who had been beaten up. I was quite active at the Mine in trying to organize for the U.M.W. I had gone around to various employees and tried to get them to join the union.

"After the election in Feb. of 1941, the company didn't seem to be living up to their contract as far as the men were concerned, that is laying off track, etc. I got up at a union meeting and said the men shouldn't have to lay their own track. The union committeemen were standing for it and the Progressives were raising the dickens. I said at the meeting that the U.M.W. had promised the men better conditions, etc; that we should try to help the Progressive men who had joined our union. [REDACTED] said after the meeting, to me that I would have to do as I was told if I wanted to work at the mine. He had said in the meeting that Falcetti wanted it that way, so I told him after that it wasn't living up to the contract to work like that and I wouldn't work unless we worked according to the contract.

"I resigned my union office at that same meeting, but they told me to put it in writing which I did. I turned in my resignation and at the next meeting they refused to accept it, so I said I wouldn't go to any more meetings until a new [REDACTED] was appointed.

"About a week or so after I was told by the company that I had set a "kinky shot". One morning I went to start work and was told to report to the office and get my line check. Falcetti said I had a bad shot the nite before; that it had blown off a couple doors and almost killed a man. Falcetti said the mine examiner had determined it was my shot. He said he wouldn't let me go down into the mine so I could see for myself that it was my shot. Falcetti said I had been talking too much anyway and that he had to fire me. [REDACTED] was working with me at the time and he is now in Africa with the army. They never did fire [REDACTED] and he told me afterwards that he didn't think

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] I had set a windy shot. I haven't worked as a miner since that time in this district. I did work as a miner in [REDACTED] since that time however.  
(continued)

"I feel that I was fired by Falcetti on orders of [REDACTED] after [REDACTED] saw he couldn't get me out of the union. I also feel that the U.M.W. men knew exactly who had voted for Progressive in the election of 1941 and that they decided they would work hardships on those men and thus get them docked or fired by the company. Instead of letting things go along smoothly I believe the United men were determined to get rid of all those who had been progressive.

"I have attended a lot of the meetings of U.M.W. which meetings were called to discuss organizational plans during the membership drive before the election in 1941. [REDACTED] usually took charge of those meetings and I believe [REDACTED] used to act as his bodyguard and [REDACTED] was usually the one who would be sent to convert those progressives who were hard to convince. I know that he was given orders to get rough if he had to to get the men to join United. I know that I never threatened anyone and scared them into joining United, but I know it was done. It was generally understood by all of the organizers and officers of United that Falcetti and the company favored the U.M.W. union. We used to hold meetings of the organizers and United officials in one of the small halls in the union building. Sometimes they were on special nites and other times they were after the regular meetings. I know that Falcetti, Elshoff, [REDACTED] Bohannon and some of the others all used to hang out at a saloon on Fifth Ave. near the Lincoln Hotel, but I never attended any of those gatherings. When I said that I saw men beaten up I meant that I saw both progressive and united men beaten up.

"I have read over this entire statement of 6 pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 11, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] would not make a good government witness as he cannot remember important data and is a loyal member of U.M.W.

[REDACTED] provided the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 11, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED]

"I am now employed at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. and have been employed at [REDACTED] since April 1942.

"I was employed at Mine "B" in either the Summer of 1940 or the Spring of 1941. My father [REDACTED] obtained the job for me at Mine "B". I was unemployed at the time my father got me the job. I never worked in a mine prior to the time I went to Mine "B". A few days after I was employed at Mine "B" I voluntarily joined U.M.W. through Judge Bungarner. No one asked me to join, so far as I remember Mine "B" was a U.M.W. mine at the time I went to work. I did not see any organizing for either U.M.W. or P.M.A. when I was employed at Mine "B", nor did I see any fights over union matter.

"I do not remember voting in a N L R B election in Feb. 1941 and cannot remember if I was employed at Mine "B" at the time of the election.

"I stopped working at Mine "B" in April 1942 as it was destroying my health in the mine.

"I am at the present time a member of the U.M.W. union at [REDACTED] and I think it is a very good union.

"I have read this statement consisting of two pages and it is true

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/

"Witnessed: -

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at [REDACTED] Illinois by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 8, 1943. [REDACTED] is able to speak and understand English well and would make a fair witness.

[REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statement:

"Illiopolis, Ill.  
September 8, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I am now employed at the [REDACTED] Ill. as a [REDACTED] and I have been employed [REDACTED]

"I was employed at Mine "B" in the fall of 1940. Prior to that time I was employed by [REDACTED] at \$18 per month. I was employed at Mine "B" in order to make more money. My father, [REDACTED] deceased, got me a job at Mine "B", helping him dig coal. I joined U M W a few days prior to the time I went to work at Mine "B". My father gave me the application card so that I could join U M W. My father joined U M W about the same time I did. I do not know whether my father joined U M W so that I could get a job at Mine "B" or not. Union matters were never discussed between my father and I.

"When I went to work at Mine "B" I thought almost all the miners were members of U M W. I heard that some of the miners were threatened and beat because they did not want to join U M W, but I did not see them threatened or beat.

"I took no interest in union activities and I never worked in a mine prior to the fall of 1940.

"I did not vote in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 as I was sick at the time and it made no difference to me whether I voted or not. My father died about two weeks after I went to work at Mine "B", therefore, he never furnished me any information about the union activity. After my father's death I was employed at the mine after my father's death as a trapper. I stopped working at Mine "B" in the Spring of 1942 as the conditions in the mine were not good for my health.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I did not take any interest in union activities and it made no difference to me what union I was a member of. I only became a member of U. M. W. because my father told me join U. M. W.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home September 10, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record, [REDACTED] cannot speak or understand English very well and would make a very poor witness.

[REDACTED] refused to sign a statement because he could not read English. [REDACTED] stated he would only sign a statement upon advice of an attorney which could be provided by UMW.

[REDACTED] furnished the following information in the form of a statement which he refused to sign, although he admitted the information contained therein was correct.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 10, 1943

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

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

"I became a member of UMW in Ill. in [REDACTED] at which time I started mining coal in the U. S. I remained a member of UMW until 1932 when I became a member of PMA because my local UMW union changed to PMA.

"I was employed at Panther Creek Mine #4 until about June 1939 at which time the mine closed. I obtained a job at the [REDACTED] Mine in Oct. 1939, which mine did not have a union. In Jan. 1940 I attempted to return to Panther Creek Mine #4 in Springfield, Ill., but I was not allowed to work as PMA, of which I was a member, would not accept my dues because I worked in a non-union mine during the time Panther Creek Coal Mine #4 was closed. I returned to [REDACTED] and worked until April 1940 when the mine closed as they no longer had orders for coal.

"In July 1940 I asked Oscar Falcetti the supt. at Mine "B" for a job and I was put to work as a timberman. Oscar Falcetti did not ask me what union I was a member of, nor did anyone ask me to join any union. About three days after I went to work at Mine "B" I joined UMW through Joe Albanese as I wanted to be a member of a union and PMA prevented me from working at Panther Creek Mine, therefore, I did not wish to join PMA.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I have never seen anyone attempting to get anyone to join either UMW or PMA at Mine "B", nor have I seen any fights at Mine "B" over union matters.  
(continued)

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 for UMW. I think the election was fair and I voted the way I wanted to.

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

"Witnessed:-

"This statement was read to [REDACTED] September 10, 1943 at which time he stated the contents was true, but refused to sign the statement without a lawyer of UMW advising him. [REDACTED] stated no one told him not to sign a statement concerning union matters at Mine "B".

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

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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, on September 9, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and is employed at Mine "B", being a member of UMW. He speaks and understands English well, but is definitely lacking in mental ability and would therefore make a poor witness. He advised he has never been arrested.

The following signed statement was executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 9, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] In about Nov. of 1939 "Bowling green" Bohannon came to our house and asked my father to join the United Mine Workers of America Union and he could get a job at Mine "B". My father told Bohannon he would join if Bohannon would get me a job. Bohannon told my father and me that if I would join UMW he could get me a job at Mine "B". It was on a Saturday that Bohannon talked to us at our home and the next Monday I went to Mine "B" and [REDACTED] gave me a job as digger. Nothing was said to me there about any union. But after seeing [REDACTED] I saw Bohannon who told me to sign up with UMW, and I did. I was not threatened in any way, but I knew I would have to join UMW to get my job. That was the first time I ever joined any mine union and the UMW is the only union to which I have ever belonged. I have never been an officer in any union.

"I worked at Mine "B" for almost a year and then quit to get a job at [REDACTED] While I was working in Mine "B" during this time I know UMW was organizing there, but I saw very little of it. I knew [REDACTED] was organizing and I saw a fellow named [REDACTED] whose last name I do not know, after he was hit by some UMW men to get him to join UMW, but I do not know who hit him and I did not see anyone hit him.

"I voted in a National Labor Relations Board Election held

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

in about February of 1941, when UMW won. I was not forced or threatened in any way and I thought the election was fair.

"Four days ago I started working at Mine "B" again and I still am a member of UMW.

"My father, [REDACTED] had been a member of Progressive Mine Workers of America but he joined UMW to get work at Mine "B" and so I could get work there. My father had been working at Mine "B" when it closed down in May of 1937.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witness:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed on September 8, 1943, by Special Agents  
[REDACTED] in Room 110 at the

[REDACTED] is employed there as a [REDACTED]. He speaks and  
understands English well but is rather nervous. He has advised he has no  
criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ill.  
Sept. 8, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I presently  
work at [REDACTED]

"I first started working in coal mines in Springfield, Ill., when  
I was [REDACTED] years old. I then joined the United Mine Workers of America  
Union. I only worked in the mines for about [REDACTED] years when I left to go  
to school. I did not return to the mines until about 1936 when I went to  
work in Mine "B" with my father, [REDACTED]. I applied to join the  
Progressive Mine Workers of America Union at that time and while they were  
deciding they found out I was over 21 years of age and could not work there-  
fore as an apprentice under my father, and so they refused me membership in  
PMA. As a result of this I could not work in Mine "B" with my father. I  
had worked at Mine "B" for about two months before I had to leave.

"In the Spring of 1940 Joe Albanese and some other men whom I  
cannot remember, except one was Dominic Pasquale, came to me at my home and  
asked me if I wanted to work. I was not working and so I said yes. Joe  
said if I'd help him organize for UMW I would get a job in Mine "B" when  
there was room. Joe, and others, said the Mine "B" would not stay open  
unless it would work under UMW. I was told to go around to all the men  
who were working at Mine "B" and get them to sign up with UMW. I was told  
by Joe to tell these men that the mine would not stay open unless UMW had  
the majority of the vote. I was to contact all men whom I knew, especially  
the Italians. We would travel together, that is I have been with Joe  
Albanese, Dominic Pasquale, Tony Chapolus, whose name I cannot spell, and  
sometimes Bowling Green Bohannon. I saw all of these men organize for UMW.  
We were able to get rather many of the men to sign UMW. I went to work in  
Mine "B" in June or July of 1940. I was told by Joe Albanese and [REDACTED]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Bowling Green and Cudge Bumgarner and others  
to keep on trying to organize for UMW at Mine "B".  
(continued)

"I would see [REDACTED] and Bumgarner go into the office of the company every morning and talk with either Oscar Falcetti or Carl Elshoff. I assumed they were talking about UMW organizing progress at Mine "B".

"I tried to organize the following men for UMW while I was working at Mine "B" - a fellow named [REDACTED], whose real name I do not know, [REDACTED] whose name I cannot spell, and many more whose names I cannot remember. I tried to organize both at the Mine "B" and by talking with the men at their homes. I was not able to get [REDACTED] to join UMW but later [REDACTED] got him to join UMW.

"While the organizing was going on I know many men were beat up. One morning a bunch of men were beat up in the wash house. One of the men beat up was [REDACTED]. A man named [REDACTED] was one of the men who beat [REDACTED] up but I cannot remember who else did the beating. Bowling Green might have been there but I am not sure. These men would ask [REDACTED] if he was going to join and when he would not answer they would hit him. There were many miners around & I could not see too well.

"While the Mine "B" was operating, I saw the following men organize for UMW at Mine "B": Bowling Green Bohannon, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Dominic Pasquale, Joe Albanese, Tony Chapolus, and [REDACTED] and Cudge Bumgarner.

"I was never paid to organize for UMW. I did it to get my job at Mine "B". I never hit a man out there while organizing. I worked for about nine months at Mine "B" and then I got hurt. I filed suit against the company and then they gave me a job I couldn't do. They wanted me to go back as digger, so I quit. I have never gone back into the mines since that time.

"While I was working at Mine "B" I noticed that the men who were organizing for UMW and those who would sign for UMW would get good rooms. Those who were strong PMA would get bad rooms. While I was organizing I had a good room.

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

[REDACTED] (signed)

"WITNESS

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] speaks good English and appears friendly and cooperative. If desirable he could be used as a witness, although the information furnished by him in the following statement, is not particularly pertinent.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 9, 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 was born on [REDACTED] and came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED] I reside at [REDACTED]

"I started coal mining in Illinois in [REDACTED] and at that time joined U.M.W. I have mined ever since. Prior to [REDACTED] I held offices in the U.M.W. but not since.

"I started at Mine B in July, 1940 but I had not worked for over a year prior to that. When I went to Mine B I did not belong to any union. Prior to going to work there I had seen a friend of mine downtown, a fellow called [REDACTED] possibly [REDACTED] and he told me they were hiring at Mine B. I went out and saw Oscar Falcetti about a job and he told me I got to work on the night shift.

"I went to work nights as timberman and joined U.M.W. right away. Two or three men saw me, one was Bohannon, and they asked me to join U.M.W. They were nice about it and didn't threaten me in anyway. No one from F.M.A. approached me. I worked nights for about a year and wasn't around when most of the men were there.

"I voted in the NLRB election in February, 1941. I am still at Mine B and am now digging coal at that place.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I have read the above statement and declare it to  
be true and correct to the best of my memory.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent F.B.I.  
U.S. Dept. of Justice."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was contacted September 11, 1943, by Special Agents  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his home.

[REDACTED] stated he was employed at Mine "B" sometime in 1940 as  
a timberman; that he did not see or hear of any organizing for UMW.

[REDACTED] stated he would not furnish any information without advice of  
UMW attorneys; that he would furnish any information desired to UMW attorneys,  
who could in turn furnish the information to the F.B.I.

[REDACTED] stated he is at the present time employed by UMW [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] as an organizer.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] at which time it was noted he had a great deal of difficulty understanding the English language. [REDACTED] stated his information was limited as to anything that took place at Mine B. It is believed he would make a poor witness. There is being set forth below the signed statement executed by [REDACTED] at the time of the interview.

[REDACTED] Ill  
Sept. 11, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to 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 became a citizen in [REDACTED] I now reside at [REDACTED] I joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] for about two years and then went into the Army. After that I went to Panther Creek #1 and then to Peabody #54. I first met Falcetti in about [REDACTED] when he was [REDACTED] Mine which is no longer operating. I used to see him quite a bit at that time and used to see him a lot after the mine shut down. I have never worked in a mine operated by progressive men. When the state went progressive in 1932 I was in a C.C.C. Camp and never joined their union. I went for over 8 years without working in a mine--I just worked at odd jobs. In the early part of 1940 I went out to see Falcetti three or four times before he finally gave me a job as a digger, and I'm still working at Mine B. Falcetti didn't ask me if I belonged to a union. He knew me quite well and knew I had been in the U.M.W. I believe I had worked there a few days when Sammy Albanese came to me and asked me to sign a U.M.W. card, which I did. I was never asked to join the progressive union. I heard about a lot of men being beaten up, but I never saw any fighting while I was there. Nobody ever threatened me or beat me up or forced me to join any union. I attended my last union meeting about a month ago.

"I worked at Panther Creek from about [REDACTED] and during that time Falcetti did not work for Panther Creek.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], also known as [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] September 8, 1943. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] would not make a good witness as he has a very difficult time speaking and understanding English.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 8, 1943.

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

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

"I became a member of UMW in [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. and I have been a member of UMW since that time.

"I was employed at the [REDACTED] Mine, Springfield, Ill. in about [REDACTED] and worked at that mine as a member of UMW until the strike at the mine in about 1937.

"I was unemployed from about 1937 to July 1940 at which time I obtained a job as a digger at Mine "B". I went to Mine "B" in July 1940 and obtained a job from OSCAR FALCETTI the mine supt. I was not asked what union I was a member of, but I showed my UMW union card to someone at the mine. I had the UMW card as I was a member of UMW at the [REDACTED]

"I have never seen anyone organizing for UMW at Mine "B" nor have I ever seen any fights at Mine "B" over union matters,

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 for UMW. I think it was a fair election and I voted for the union I wished.

"I am at the present time employed at Mine "B" as a digger.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

WITNESSED: -

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

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