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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. This man neither reads nor writes English, and cannot sign his name. He professes to remember little or nothing of events in the past years. He expresses himself poorly and should not be considered as a witness. The following statement was secured; read to him; and acknowledged by his mark:

August 28, 1943  
Springfield, Ill

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

"I was born [redacted] and came to the U. S. in [redacted]. I am not a citizen of the U.S. and presently reside at [redacted]. I can not read nor write English. I joined the U.M.W. a long time ago & I cannot remember the exact year. I have worked at Mine B for about 4 years and am now employed at Mine A. I was working at Mine B in 1937 when they had a strike, but I don't know why the mine was shut down. I have never held any office in any union and have never been interested in any of their activities. I cannot read nor write my own name and do not recall ever signing any petitions. I have no information about any union activities at the mine.

His (X) mark.

Above read to him and admitted true.

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

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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*Not at Bureau*

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on August 26, 1943 at his home at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, telephone [redacted]. He advised that his correct name was [redacted] but that he always signed his name as [redacted]. His Social Security Card, Number [redacted] carried his name as [redacted] which is incorrect. He has also been known as [redacted] which is also incorrect.

He was born in [redacted] and is presently [redacted] in Springfield. He entered this country in [redacted] and became a citizen in Federal Court, Springfield, on [redacted] Petition Number [redacted] Certificate Number [redacted]. He was arrested in Springfield in [redacted] under the name of [redacted] for illegal possession of liquor, and paid \$100 fine.

*Sumner*

He is very cooperative, is willing to testify, and will make a good witness.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois  
August 26, 1943

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

"I live at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, and am employed at [redacted]. I was born in [redacted] and came to the United States in [redacted] and became a naturalized citizen in [redacted].

"I joined the United Mine Workers at [redacted] in June of [redacted]. The Mine there was a closed shop, and had to join if I wanted to work. I came to Springfield in [redacted] and got a job in the Mines here. I was still a member of the United Mine Workers. Except for a short visit back to [redacted] I worked in coal mines around Springfield from [redacted] having returned to [redacted] in [redacted]. From [redacted] when the Mines closed down, until [redacted] I didn't work in the Mines, except one winter in a small country Mine, but just did odd jobs. In [redacted] I became employed at Mine B, and joined the P M A. I had not paid any dues to the United Mine Workers since [redacted] as I had not been working in Mines. The Progressive Mine Worker of America had a closed shop agreement with the Mine, and I had to join the P M A to work in the Mine B. No one tried to

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

get me to join the P M A, and I did it on my own accord so I could work there.

"When the P M A was organized, I wasn't working in the Mines, so didn't take any part in the organization. I sympathized with the P M A, because I think Lewis gave them a raw deal. A new contract was to be made, and Lewis wanted the men to have a lower wage. The miners had a referendum, and rejected the lower wage scale, but even so, Lewis went ahead and signed the contract. I sympathized with the men organizing the P M A because of this action by Lewis, and the miners got a raw deal.

"I joined the P M A in April of [REDACTED] and became a member of Local 54, I think that was the number. A month or two after I joined, there was a meeting for election of local Officers, which I attended. In May of 1937 there was some trouble at the Mine, but there was no trouble between the time I began working and that time. The Mine was not closed down at any time, either by a strike or by the Management.

"In May of 1937, when I went on strike with the others, the reason given me for the strike was the fact that there was no contract with the P M A and the Mine, and the men didn't want to work without a contract. The contract had expired on April 1, and no new one had been signed. On that morning, before any men went down into the mine, groups were talking and saying that they didn't want to go down in the mine without a contract. Some of the men went down into the Mine, about half of them, I think, but the rest, including myself, just hung around for a while and then came home.

"I never went back to the Mine again, and I left my tools and everything there. A few days later I heard a story that the United Mine Workers were paying some men to try to organize a U M W local in the Mine, and that was a reason for the strike. I didn't know anything about these men at the time. I went out on strike. I went out because I didn't want to work without a contract. I knew that there was a temporary agreement between the Mine and the P M A.

"I was not dissatisfied with the P M A, nor were the majority of the men. I knew that the United could not get any better contract than the P M A, and was satisfied with the P M A. I was not a strong union man, and didn't have any preference between the United and the Progressive. Some time later an election was held, in the winter time. It was held in the state arsenal, and although I was working at [REDACTED] at the time, I went to the election. I voted for the P M A because the biggest majority of the men were for the Progressive. I knew this because of conversation in the various groups, and the feeling of the men was for Progressive. When I had been working at the Mine the biggest feeling was for the Progressive.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

"Before the strike I had heard nothing of any United Men working at the Mine, although some men working may have be-

longed to both unions. As I said before, the feeling of the men was in favor of the Progressive. In the year that I worked at the mine, I went to only one Progressive meeting, because I wasn't interested in Union meetings, and not because I might have been interested in United. I just wasn't interested enough in either one. When a meeting was to be held, a notice would be placed on the bulletin board at the Mine. These union meetings were generally held about once a month. I can't remember now whether or not a notice of a meeting to be held the nite before the strike was posted or not. Anyway, I can say that I didn't know anything about such a meeting.

"I don't remember ever signing any petition to the mine saying that the majority of the men were in favor of P M A, although I might have signed one. I know that if a petition such as that was made up, I would have signed it, because, as I said, I later voted for P M A in the election. However, as I said, I can't remember whether I signed one or not. I don't remember whether anyone from the United Mine Workers ever came to me and asked me to sign a petition, but I know that if someone had I would not have signed it because I believed the majority of the men were in favor of the Progressive, and I was willing to go with the majority. After leaving the mine, except for the time I voted, I don't remember any petitions of any kind being given me to sign, and I can't remember any conversation about any petitions that I might have had, or heard about.

"After I went on strike I heard that the United was trying to organize a local, but no one ever came to me and asked me to join the United, and, even if they had, I know I wouldn't have joined, for the reasons given above. After the strike, I heard that United had set up a local, but I don't know of any meetings that either the United or the Progressive may have had.

"I heard that there was trouble among the miners when the mine was reopened, or attempts made to reopen, but I was not there, so know nothing about it. No one ever asked me to go out to the mine to help, and I never went out. I heard that the sheriff was called at one time, but know nothing further about that. I heard that United was trying to get men from other Mines and put them to work at Mine B, but I don't remember where I heard it, or anything else about it. I did hear that the P M A got men from other Mines around Springfield to help picket, but I don't know whether the story was true or not.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I did hear something about the injunction placed by the federal court, but as I was no longer interested in the Mine, and didn't ever see any of the men, I knew nothing about it.

"I don't know any reason why so few men showed up for work when they tried to open the mine, except I knew that most of the men were still in favor of the Progressives. I heard at the time, but don't know where or how I heard it, other than that I heard it from members of the P M A that a reason the P M A men didn't show up at the reopening of the mine was because they felt the Management of the Mine was trying to get the United local in the Mine and keep the Progressive out. I don't know anything more about this, as I wasn't working there, but I know that some of the men felt there might be a deal between the Management and the United. I don't know what the reason for their thinking was, nor do I ever recall hearing what the deal might have been.

"I got a letter from the Mine company telling me that the Mine was going to open again, and saying that the same job was open to every man who had worked there at the time of the strike. I don't remember when I got the letter, and I don't remember whether I got more than one.

"After I left the Mine, I lost just about all contact with the Union and the Mine and the Men. Aside from that first election at which I voted, I had nothing more to do with it. A couple of years after I left the mine, a miner whose name I can't remember, but who I know was a Progressive, told me that there was going to be another election, and asked me if I wanted to come and vote. I told him I wasn't in the union any longer, and couldn't vote because I had dropped my membership.

"Before the election of which I voted, I heard that both the United and Progressives were active in trying to get votes. No one came to see me and told me to come down and vote. I saw in the papers that an election was to be held and went down of my own accord. I never heard of any strong-armed methods being used by either unions and do know that no one approached me in regard to it. As far as I know it was an honest election, because it was run by the labor board.

"I have had the foregoing read to me consisting of approximately eight pages, and state that everything I said herein is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection."

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on August 28, 1943, by agents [redacted] and [redacted]. He was in an intoxicated condition, and was apparently very frightened. He repeated several times that if his name appeared in the paper, he would be killed. He refuses to testify, and refused to sign a statement. He would not make a satisfactory witness. He advised he was arrested in Springfield, date not known, for a traffic violation.

The following statement was taken from [redacted]

"Auburn, Ill.  
August 28, 1943

"I, [redacted] and [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I give this information freely, and no promises have been made to me, and no threats have been used.

"I live at [redacted] Ill., and am employed at the Mine B Coal Company. I was born in [redacted] I came to this country in [redacted] and was naturalized in [redacted]

"I don't want to say anything about the conditions at Mine B, because I'm afraid for my life if anyone knows that I said anything. If the United men knew that I said anything about it, I'd not only lose my job, but would get shot. I will say that I was forced to join the United Mine Workers, when I would much rather have stayed with the Progressive union. I was forced to join the United men, whose names I won't tell, came to me and told me that if I didn't join United I would be shot, or beat up.

"I was satisfied in with the Progressive union and wanted to stay Progressive. In union meetings, if I wanted to, I could get up and say whatever I wanted to, and in the United meetings, if I tried to get up to say anything, I wouldn't be allowed to talk. I'm afraid to say anything, because there are men around the mine with guns all the time, and I'll not only lose my job, but I'll get shot.

"I have read the above, consisting of approximately one and one quarter pages, and state that it is true to the best of my knowledge. I do not want to sign it, however, because I'm afraid of what might happen to me if anyone should know about it.

"The above statement was read by [redacted] and acknowledged

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

to be true in all respects by him.

[REDACTED]  
Special Agents, FBI,  
Springfield, Ill

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted], Illinois,  
[redacted] was jointly interviewed at his residence on

August 29, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted].  
He resents the tactics of the UMW, but had little specific information  
other than hearsay. He executed the following written statement.

*Handwritten note:*  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] Illinois  
August 29, 1943

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary state-  
ment to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be  
Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. De-  
partment of Justice.

"I was born [redacted] Illinois and first  
joined a mine union about [redacted] which I believe later became the  
United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter  
as the UMW. I worked at the [redacted] Coal Company [redacted] Illinois.  
From [redacted] I worked at different mines near [redacted] Illinois  
including the [redacted] Mine, and the [redacted] Mines, the lat-  
ter being near [redacted] Ill.

"At the [redacted] mines I worked as a  
member of the UMW. In about [redacted] I started working at Mine 'B',  
under the UMW. I left mine 'B' in May, 1937 and I never made any  
attempt to return to that mine to work, inasmuch as I got a job  
working at the [redacted] Mine, [redacted] Ill. in August or September,  
1937.

"In 1932 I started working under the Progressive Mine  
Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.  
At this time I was working at Mine 'B' and I was a member of Local  
#54 of PMA.

[redacted] have never held an office in any union. I am now working  
at the [redacted] Mine as a member of the PMA. I never want to return  
to the UMW. I played no part in organizing PMA. My job at Mine 'B'  
was driving mules.

"I was always perfectly satisfied with the way PMA was being  
run, and I feel that the troubles and the strikes at Mine B was  
caused by a group of miners who were trying to get the men  
to change to UMW, before May, 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(Continued)

"I never attended but two PMA union meetings in the eleven years I have been a member of that union.

"I do not know enough about the twelve men who were supposed to be trying to get PMA men to go UMW to say that some of these men should have been thrown out of PMA, but I think that they should have been ejected if it was shown that they were doing this, because PMA had a closed shop agreement with Elshoff and I think Elshoff should have discharged these men if asked to do so by PMA.

"I do not remember anything about the wage scale question in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not know anything about the meeting of the PMA on May 11, 1943. I left work on May 12, 1937 and never returned. I figured I would rather work nearer [REDACTED] Ill.

"I may have signed the PMA petition of May 26, 1937. I don't remember anything about it.

"I have not liked the UMW ever since the time in 1932 John L. Lewis claimed the ballots were stolen after a vote was taken on the question of reduction of wages.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witness:

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

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

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] was interviewed at his residence, [redacted] Illinois, on August 28, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] appeared to be cooperative and answered the questions propounded to him without hesitation. It is believed that he would make a good witness to testify to the facts as set forth in the following signed statement:

*Page not at 6. here*

[redacted] Illinois  
August 28, 1943

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

"I was born [redacted] Illinois and still reside in [redacted] Illinois on [redacted] which is not numbered.

"I first joined the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW at [redacted] Illinois in [redacted]. At that time I was employed in the [redacted] Coal Co. mine at [redacted] Illinois, and continued to work at that mine and mines around [redacted]. At this time I went to work at [redacted] Illinois for the [redacted] Coal Co. working under UMW contract.

"In December, 1933 I first worked at Mine "B" as a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. This union will be referred to hereinafter as PMA. The last day I worked in Mine "B" was about May 12, 1937 the day the mine shutdown due to the strike. I was unemployed from May, 1937 until November, 1937 at which time I went to work at the [redacted] Coal Co. at [redacted] Illinois. At this mine I worked under a PMA contract.

"I have never held an office in any union and I was not working at Mine "B" when it started working under a PMA contract.

"I never attended any PMA union meetings, and I was always satisfied with the manner in which the PMA had been operated.

"My job at Mine B was digging coal. Relative to the relations at this mine they were always good between PMA officials and PMA rank and file.

"I know practically nothing about the twelve miners who were alleged to be sympathetic to UMW, and who may have been members of UMW while they were working at mine "B" as PMA members prior to May, 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I was not in this vicinity on September 27, 1937 when the mine attempted to re-open after it had closed-down in May, 1937. I was visiting in [redacted] at this time. Later I went out to Mine "B" on several occasions in September, 1937 and helped picket for the PMA on the mine premises. I was unemployed at this time. I returned to Mine "B" property again about November, 1939 when I got a form letter from Elshoff stating that the mine was to re-open and I had to report to work by a certain date if I wanted my job back. I reported, but never went back to work there and have no additional information concerning this matter.

[redacted] (signed)

\*Witness:

[redacted] (signed)

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

[redacted] (signed)

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

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was jointly interviewed by [redacted] Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Illinois, on September 2, 1943. He appeared willing to answer questions put to him and furnished the following signed statement:

[redacted] Illinois  
September 2, 1943

*Interviewed at Chicago*

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

"I reside at [redacted] Illinois, [redacted] I am not now employed. I was born at [redacted] Illinois on [redacted] I first joined a mine union about [redacted] 11, which was working under the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I worked in the local mines as a member of UMW and started working in Mine B about [redacted] as a member of the UMW. I worked there continuously until May, 1937, at which time the mine closed due to the strike, and I never went back to work in this mine. I never tried to work there after the mine re-opened. I remained a member of the UMW until September, 1932 when the PMA, meaning the Progressive Mine Workers of America, was organized. I worked in Mine B as a PMA member from September, 1932 to May 12, 1937, the day the mine closed. I have never held an office in a union.

"I voluntarily joined the PMA in September 1932 when the UMW announced that the ballot box had been stolen, in connection with the vote on the wage scale. I felt that the PMA was a good union and I still think it is a better union than the UMW. I wanted to get away from John L. Lewis as I never liked his methods of operation.

"From May to December, 1937 I worked off and on at the PMA picket line to protect my job. I did not picket after the issuance of the Federal Injunction of December 9, 1937. I do not recall the facts of the wage scale controversy.

"I heard that prior to May, 1937 a number of UMW organizers were working in the mine secretly to get the men to join UMW, but they never contacted me, and I never heard them talk to other miners. I never saw them beat anyone.

"I think Elshoff and Falcotti favored the UMW, but I don't know why they preferred them. I attended very few union meetings and did not keep up with union affairs. I voluntarily signed the PMA petition dated .

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] May 26, 1937 to show I was a PMA member. I never worked in Mine B after May 12, 1937 when Elshoff shut it down. (continued) I do not know why it was closed down. I feel that Elshoff shut the mine down so he could later sign up with U.M.W., but I have no facts to substantiate this statement.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Illinois on September 2, 1943. He had no recollection of pertinent data, and appearing to be mentally slow, would not make a competent witness.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

[REDACTED] Illinois  
September 2, 1943

*Handwritten:*  
U.S. Dept. of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

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

[REDACTED] I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in September, [REDACTED] I presently live on [REDACTED] Illinois.

"I first joined a mine union in the United States in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Illinois. This union was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW.

"I worked at several other mines under the UMW and then started working at Mine "B" about 1923 under the UMW.

"The only office I ever hold with a mine union was being a member of the Pit Committee at the Panther Creek Mine #2, at Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED] This was under UMW.

"I very seldom attended union meetings either under the UMW or the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA, except as a member of the Pit committee above mentioned.

"I took no active part in organizing the PMA at Mine "B".

"I was last worked at Mine "B" on May 12, 1937 though I helped the mine a couple of days.

"I do not know anything about the relations between Elshoff and Local 54, PMA., from September, 1932 to April, 1937 when the miners struck,

"As far as I can remember the PMA members got along well with their officials in that union. I liked the PMA and would rather work under that union than work under the UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I presently am employed at the [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois as [REDACTED]

"I heard that the following men were trying to organize PMA members to join the UMW:

JOE ALE NESE  
ANDRE SCHELEVIOUS  
DOMINIC PASQUALE  
PETE CARTER  
FRANK JUSTIN  
TONY FLOTCH

JOHN (COTTON) AMANLAS  
JOHN BERTOUT  
GEORGE J. CUNY  
EMERY J. CUNY  
CHARLES BOHANNON  
JAMES H. LE

"I do not recall overhearing any conversation between one of the men and a miner in which conversation the miner was asked to join UMW or threatened if he did not. I was never personally approached and asked to join UMW.

"I do not remember the facts and details concerning the wage scale controversy.

"I can not recall the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 when the miners were ejected from the PMA.

"I remember that on the morning before the strike started some of the miners short loaded their coal cars and I did the same, merely because others were doing it. No one instructed me to short-load and I do not know why it was done.

"I do not remember signing any petitions either for PMA or UMW.

"I never went back to Mine "B" after May 13, 1937 with the intention of returning to work.

"In 1938 I got a job [REDACTED]

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

/s/ [REDACTED]



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

Witnessed:  
[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.  
[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated he was not in a position to give any information relative to instant case. [redacted] was very vague as to any incidents that took place at Mine B and it is believed he would not make a favorable witness.

*Copy not at [redacted]*

[redacted] executed the following signed statement at the time of this interview:

"Springfield, Ill.  
August 27, 1943

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

"I was born in [redacted] and presently reside at [redacted]. I am presently employed by Mine A as an engineer. I first joined a miners union in about [redacted] when I was living in [redacted] Illinois. This was the U. M. W. union. Since [redacted] I have been a miner off and on in the vicinity of Springfield.

"I started back at mine B in the fall of 1936 and worked there until about the first of April, 1937. From Mine B I went to work as [redacted] and then worked at the [redacted] Coal Co. until some time in 1939 when I went back to Mine B. All the time I was employed at Mine B I was stationed in the retail yard loading coal trucks. I never paid any attention to union affairs and cannot give any information as to what caused the strike at Mine B in 1937. My job kept me out of the mine itself and as a result I hardly ever saw any of the mine.

"I first joined the P. M. A. in about [redacted] and only attended one or two meetings during the entire time I was so employed. I am now a member of the U. M. W. local at Mine A and have never attended any of their meetings. I have never formed an opinion as to what caused the strike in Mine B & have not been interested enough to even try to find out what caused it. I have no information relative to any union activities prior to the strike in 1937 and have no information relative to any happenings at the mine after that date.

I have absolutely no information whatsoever relative to any incidents on union activities. I have never signed any petitions to the best

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

page and hereby sign this page."

of my memory. I have read over this statement & it is true to the best of my belief. I have initialed the first

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses

[REDACTED]

) Special Agents, F. B. I.

[REDACTED]

U. S. Dept. of Justice"

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] telephone [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] who speaks in

broken English, told his story in a convincing manner and it is believed he would make a good witness to testify as to the facts set forth in the following signed statement which he executed at the time of this interview.

"August 28, 1943  
Springfield, Illi

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

"I was born [redacted] and have been a citizen of the U. S. since about [redacted] I am presently residing at [redacted] Springfield. I have been a miner practically all my life and joined the U.M.W. in Oklahoma in about 1921. I have never held an office in any union. I started working for mine B in about [redacted] and prior to that time I had been working at the [redacted] Mines as a member of the U.M.W. When the Progressive union was formed at Mine B the [redacted] mine went on strike and the men began picketing at [redacted]. Many of the men joined the progressive union and I joined with them and went on the picket line. We felt that the Progressive union was the better union and wanted to get rid of John L. Lewis. There had been an election which we lost and the men were not satisfied with U.M.W.

"In my opinion everything was going along all right until some time in 1936 when the management began favoring the U.M.W. It was about that time that some of the men began talking to the men and telling them to switch over to the U.M.W. I was never approached by any of these men and do not know the names of any men approached but I know all the men were talking about it. Some of the men who were trying to organize for U.M.W. were Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, George Jocaway, and Bowling Green. I never saw any literature distributed by these men and do not know anything about their actions.

"In the spring of 1937 there was a dispute about wages involving back pay which we were supposed to get. I attended a majority of the PMA meetings and we were always told by my union that our union could get as much for us as the U.M.W. Those men that I mentioned above were telling the men that the U.M.W. was getting more money for their men and

*Project Security*

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] and one time Frank Austin told us we were getting less money than the U.M.W. He did not ask us to join the U.M.W. though.  
(continued)

"I did not attend any union meeting the night some of the men were ordered expelled from the union. I had heard there was supposed to be a special meeting of our union the day before the actual strike, but did not know what the meeting was about until the next day when the strike was called.

"Before we started work on the morning of May 12, 1937, our pit committeemen told one of the Falcetti brothers that some of our men had been expelled from the union for being active for the U.M.W. and that those men should not be allowed to work for us. Our committeemen reported to us that the company men said they couldn't stop the men from working because that would be a violation of the Wagner Act. Our men were opposed to working with the same men as I previously mentioned, that is, Albanese, Carter and the others. To the best of my memory there wasn't any argument about wages that morning. Most of our men knew that those men mentioned had been kicked out of our union.

"Our men went down into the mines and most of the men loaded the cars short. We decided to do that after talking over the situation below and all of our men were sore because the men we were complaining about were supposed to work with us. We loaded cars short most of the day and when we came out of the mine at 3:30 we were told that the union was going to hold a special meeting outside, next to the pit in Mine B. I do remember that the president of our local had charge of the meeting & he told us were going to strike and for us not to come to work the next day. I remember that shortly after the strike there was a union meeting at our hall and I signed a petition for the P.M.A. at the hall.

"Whenever our men heard that the company was going to open the mine we would go out to the mines and picket. I remember that at one time I stayed at Mine B on picket duty for about two weeks. I went to work for Mine A in about September or October of 1937 so I do not know much about what happened at Mine B after the strike.

"During the time I was at Mine B I never received any threats from anyone. I voted in the NLRB election during December of 1937 and remember that we all met at the PMA hall and marched to the Armory in a body to cast our vote. I didn't hear anything about any threats or fighting that went on at that time. At the time of this election I was working at Mine A so I cannot state as to what took place at that time. I am willing to testify in court to any of the above facts. I

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

have read this entire statement of five pages, have  
initialed the first four & hereby sign this page. This  
statement is true to the best of my memory.

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. This person expresses himself with difficulty, and would not make a desirable witness.

Following is a signed statement obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Illinois  
August 31, 1943.

"I, [redacted] residing at [redacted], make the following signed statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves as Special Agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement.

"I was born [redacted] came to the United States in [redacted] and became a citizen in [redacted]. I joined the United Mine Workers in [redacted]. I have never held an office in any union.

"I started working at Mine B in [redacted] and joined the Progressive in 1932 when all the other miners did. All of the men wanted to join Progressive at that time. From 1932 to 1937 everything was all right. The men all seemed satisfied with the PMA.

"In the spring of 1937 some of the men started talking about joining U.M.W. There were three or four of these and I remember that Andy PASQUALE and Dominic Pasquale were supposed to be for U.M.W. They did not talk to me, however.

"I do not remember anything about a new contract in the spring of 1937. I did not hear any talk about anything of this sort.

"On the day of the strike I was working as a digger in [redacted] at Mine B. I guess I loaded two or three cars that day, then the driver came and said "Everybody out". I didn't know what the trouble was. I guess I load one or two cars short that day - I don't know why, somebody said load short. I didn't hear anything about a wage argument that day or about anyone being kicked out of the union.

"When I got to the top of the mine somebody said "Strike". I guess it was because Andy and Dominic were working for United.

"I forget now whether I signed any petition or not. I was not on any picket line, I worked on WPA that summer, I know other fellows were on a picket line but I didn't go, I was too busy.

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I didn't go back to the mine until it opened up and then I didn't go to work until December, 1939. Falcetti had sent me a note telling me to come to work. I still stayed on the PMA until about the Spring of 1940. I then decided I had better join UMW because I was an old man and didn't want to lose my job. Nobody told me I would lose my job, but I knew. No one ever bothered me. I do not remember anything about an election, held by the NLRB. I don't remember when I joined the UMW. I never paid much attention to union activities and never went to many meetings. I still don't know what caused the strike in 1937, somebody just called it. It makes no difference to me which union I belong to, it is just the same, conditions are the same with both. Nobody ever made me join any union or threatened me in anyway.

"The above statement was read to me and I declare it to be true to the best of my memory.

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] viewed by Special Agents

and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and indicated his willingness to testify to those matters set forth in the following statement which he executed.

"August 27, 1943  
Springfield, Illinois

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and started working in the coal mines [REDACTED] when I was about 15 years old and worked at that trade until the strike in 1937. I first joined a union in [REDACTED] when I joined the U.M.W. and was a member of that union until 1932 when the PMA was formed. I started working for Mine B in about [REDACTED] and worked there until the strike in 1937.

"When the Progressive union was formed in 1932, I took no part in it and in fact didn't vote for any union. I always felt that when the new union was formed, it was formed just to make new jobs for men. I don't know how the company men felt about either the U.M.W. or Progressive. The management never said anything to me to induce me to belong to any union. Conditions seemed to be the same under the Progressives as under the U.M.W. They weren't any better and they weren't any worse. I never paid much attention to union activities and in fact hardly ever attended any meetings. I have heard rumors about some Progressive men being spies for the U.M.W. but do not know anything about these men. I know Carter, Austin, George Jacaway and Emory Jacaway were supposed to be spies but I do not know anything about their activities. I do not know anything about events leading up to the strike in 1937 and had no idea why a strike was called. We were told the strike was called due to the fact an agreement couldn't be reached between the union and company about wages.

"I was down in the pit when the men started loading the cars short. Some of the men started saying that we should send the cars to the top partially filled as soon as we started working the morning of May 12, 1937. I know that I loaded some cars short because when I saw the other men doing it I thought I had better do the same. As I recall, I was of the opinion this was being done because the company wouldn't agree to a wage settlement.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] "I remember signing a petition to go back to work for the Progressive union, but don't remember whether it was at the house or the union hall. I remember that after the strike two men came to my house and asked me to sign some petition or some other paper for the U.M.W. but I refused as I was satisfied with the Progressives. They didn't threaten me and left the house when I said I wouldn't sign. I remember receiving some notice through the mail to come back to work from the company. I didn't go back to work or even try to go back though in view of the fact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I probably would have gone back to work. [REDACTED]

"In view of the fact [REDACTED] in 1937 I attended very few union meetings and so I cannot state as to any union activities or plans. I merely went back and forth to work and followed whatever orders the union gave to the membership. In the period between [REDACTED] I was a Pit Committeeman for the U.M.W., but other than that I took no interest in union activities.

"I have read over this statement of four pages, initialed the first three pages and hereby sign this page to show that I have read over the entire statement and it is true to the best of my memory. I wish to state that I would be willing to testify in court as to the above facts.

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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*Handwritten note:*  
is at mine

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]

telephone

[REDACTED]

was interviewed by Special Agents

[REDACTED] presented a nice appearance and told his story in a calm and collected manner. He talks in a fairly convincing manner and it is believed he would be a good witness to testify to those facts within his knowledge.

[REDACTED] executed the following signed statement. It is noted that this individual might be a reluctant witness in open court.

"Springfield, Illinois  
August 27, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and presently reside at [REDACTED]. I started working at Mine B before the last war and have worked there ever since with the exception of the time I was in the first war. I have never held any office in the union but was a member of the U.M.W. In 1932 there was a dispute that arose between the union and the company as to the amount of wages. Due to that fact the men in Mine B broke away and formed the P.M.A. Everything seemed to go along fine from 1932 until the time of the strike in 1937.

"Sometime about the first of May, Pete Carter, Tony Plotch, Andy Shrevilians, Pasquale, Austin and several others, began agitating amongst the men; they were calling the men "scabs" & trying to start agitation for the men to join the U.M.W. The territory I was in at the mine had a nice gang of men in that section and we never had any trouble in our section. I know that Bohannon, Plotch and Austin seemed to have a lot of money and were driving new cars around about that time. I was never approached by any of these men however. I didn't hear of any meeting to be held on the night of May 11, 1937 and do not know what action the union took with regard to these men. On the morning of the 12th I heard that Bowling Green, Andy and Pasquale had been expelled by the union. These men were supposed to be drivers, but they spent most of their time on the surface trying to talk the men into joining the U.M.W. I believe it was common knowledge amongst the men that these men had been fired.

"I remember that shortly after the strike, some officers from

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]

(continued)

Progressive came to the house & asked me to sign their petition; which petition I signed. I was not approached by anyone from the U.M.W. to sign any of their petitions.

"I do not know anything that happened at the mine at the time attempts were made to open the mine. I stayed away from the mine during the period the mine was shut down. As far as I was concerned the first NLRB election held in December of 1937 was regular in every respect. There was no attempt on the part of the management or the unions to sway the men in their voting. The Progressives won this election. In November of 1939 I went back to work at the mines and the same men were again agitating. A man by the name of [REDACTED] was very active at this time in trying to organize the men for U.M.W. [REDACTED] and a man by the name of [REDACTED] were also active at this time in trying to organize the men for U.M.W. I didn't want to sign with the U.M.W. because I had been with the Progressive a long time and had a death claim with them for my father. [REDACTED] the others started fights with the Progressives and didn't seem to be doing any work. In my opinion these men were encouraged by Falcetti and the company and no attempt was made by the company to stop the men from organizing.

"After three or four months of this agitation, most of the men seemed to be swinging over to the U.M.W. In Feb. of '41, when the election was held I heard many rumors to the effect that the U.M.W. men were buying liquor for the men and getting them drunk prior to the time they voted. All the time we had been working under an open shop Jimmy Hale and others were bragging about how much liquor they could get with the U.M.W. In Feb. of '41 I was not approached by either side in an attempt to influence my vote.

*Interview?*

"I never heard of any fine that was supposed to have taken place during the time the mine was shut down between 1937 and 1939. I know that in my section of the mine, which is on the west side, there wasn't any damage to speak of. I do know that there was supposed to have been some damage done on the north side of the mine. The north side was the side occupied principally by the U.M.W. Agitators.

"I have not been to a union meeting of the U.M.W. for over a year. I know that some of the men became involved at the meetings in arguments and actual fights so I decided I would stay away from them. For this reason I would not care to testify against any of the U.M.W. men in open court -- I'd be afraid of them taking some drastic action against me -- in fact I would fear for my life. I would not hesitate to testify

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

before a secret grand jury session as to the facts related above. I have read this statement over and it is true to the best of my memory.

Witnesses

[REDACTED]

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

(Signed) [REDACTED]

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JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] at which time he stated he was presently employed in the City Health Department. [redacted] stated he was born in [redacted], and had lived in Illinois his whole life. He stated in an "off the record" comment that in his opinion there was some kind of "deal" made between Lewis and Elshoff, but could give no evidence to substantiate this opinion.

At the time of this interview, [redacted] spoke in a clear intelligent and collected manner, did not give the impression he was bitter or prejudiced against any side. It is believed he would make a good witness to testify as to the facts in his possession. [redacted] executed the following statement and stated he would be willing to testify as to those facts.

Springfield, Illinois  
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted], make the following signed voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] knowing them to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me and I make this statement freely for the purpose of setting forth what I know concerning certain difficulties at Mine B.

"I first joined the UMW in [redacted] which was the UMW local for Mine B. In 1932, due to trouble over wage increases in the mines, the UMW was kicked out and PMA was formed. At first I did not want to join PMA but I had to if I cared to work, so I joined. I was working at Mine B, having been there since 1924 and after PMA came in things went along very smoothly. Prior to joining PMA my name was posted and Dominic Pasquale came to my house, urging me to join. I do not remember who was with him but Pasquale told me "If you don't come in, you won't work."

"From 1932 to 1937 PMA was having no trouble. The members were well pleased and we were having no trouble with the officials. Attendance was good at every meeting and working conditions were excellent.

"Sometime about the latter part of April, 1937, Pete Carter and Frank Austin came to my house and asked me to join UMW. I did not want to and told them so, because I was well satisfied with PMA.

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INTERVIEW WITH  
(continued)

"About two weeks after this, and probably on May 11, 1937 a special meeting was called by PMA. As near as I can recall this meeting was announced by a notice on the bulletin board at the mine. I attended this meeting and Bill Schowe, the president read off charges that certain members of PMA were working against the union in that they were trying to get the men to join UMW. The men were named and I know that Pete Cartor, Frank Austin and Dominic Pasquale were among them. Those men were present and could have answered the charges, but as I recall, they left without saying anything. Other members testified that they had been approached by these men in an effort to get them to join UMW. A vote was taken and these men were expelled from PMA.

"The following day, which would be May 12, 1937 the men who were expelled came to go to work. Inasmuch as they no longer belonged to the union the men wouldn't work with them and wanted them discharged. The men were urged to go to work and finally went down in the pit, but as long as the expelled members weren't fired, the other men started to send up short loads of coal. Things got worse and finally the men went on a strike. I do not know for sure who called the strike, but it was because of the expelled members working and not because of any wage dispute.

"I signed a petition about May 26, 1937 which stated that the signers wanted PMA to represent them. I signed this at the Union Hall and as I recall, some members were approached at their home. However, whether to sign or not was up to each man and no one was made to sign or threatened in anyway. The purpose of the petition was to show the company that we wanted to go back under PMA.

"PMA did everything they could to open the mines. The state President Joe Canic, made several trips to Washington to get help.

"Sometime in September, 1937, Elshoff sent a notice through the mail that the mine would open. An attempt was made to open it under UMW but PMA men went in and took the mine over. We stayed in there fifty-seven days and were served with a Federal injunction making us get out. At this time we felt that this was not right, but there was nothing we could do about it.

"I voted in the NLRB election in December, 1937. I recall that this election was held in the Armory. No one told me how to vote, the election was orderly and there was no disturbance of any kind. After this, I did not go back to the mine and know nothing of any other occurrences there.

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JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED]

(continued)

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

/s/

[REDACTED]

Witnesses

[REDACTED]

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at the Fairgrounds. He is a naturalized [REDACTED] and although he experiences difficulty in expressing his ideas in English, he appeared to have a good knowledge of the situation at Mine "B" pertinent to this investigation. He stated to interviewing Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that he is presently doing defense work. He has no known criminal record.

The following signed statement was executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill  
August 31, 1943"

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I emigrated to United States in [REDACTED] and became a naturalized citizen in [REDACTED]

"I began working in the mines shortly after I came to the U. S. and I joined the UMWA union at that time. I began working at Mine "B" about [REDACTED]

"In 1932 I joined P.M.W. because the majority of the men were joining that union. I continued to work at Mine "B" as a P.M.W. until 1937 when the strike occurred. During this time everything concerning working conditions and settling grievances was satisfactory to me. I had no difficulty with P.M.W.

"During the wage scale controversy in the spring of 1937 I saw several labor "spies" who were attempting to get the men to join U.M.W. These men were JOE ALBANESE, DOMINIC PASQUALE, CHAS. BOHANNON, FRANK AUSTIN, JOHN SIRTOUT, GEO. JACOBAY, EMORY JACOBAY, TONY PLOTCH, PETER CARTER, JAMES HALE, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, JOHN ANANIAS.

"During the wage scale controversy [REDACTED] board member of P.M.W. told us we would continue to work on a similar scale until a contract was signed and then we would get a 10% raise.

"I don't recall attending a meeting the night before the strike.

"On the morning of the strike we were told that some of the spies had been expelled from the P.M.W. and that ELSHOFF had refused to "fire" them so we were told to load our cars short that day. I loaded some cars that had only 600, 900, and 1100 pounds in them. In the afternoon just before quitting

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] time we were told that the mine was on strike so we came to the surface. This was agreeable to me because I didn't want 3 or 4 spies spoiling our union.  
(interviewed)

"I don't recall signing any petition in the summer of 1937 but I do recall that two "guys" came to my house to get me to join U.M.W. I think they were the young JACAWAY boy and a fellow named [redacted] I told them I was satisfied with PMA and was not interested in joining U.M.W. They told me at that time that UMW was the strongest.

"I remember that [redacted] came to my house and told me the mine would reopen and I could go to work. I went out to the mine to go to work but we began to picket the mine instead. The picketing started because if we went in the cage to work we were told we would have to join U.M.W.A. I don't recall who told us that except that we were in a group and the word passed along through the group. I picketed along with the rest until we were served with an injunction which stopped us from picketing on the mine property. I did not see any fights or violence during the picketing.

"I voted in the MLRF election in Dec. 1937 and I think it was a fair election. I don't recall an attempt to open the mine right after the election.

"In November 1939, I received a letter saying I could go to work as the mine was going to open. P.M.A. decided we should go to work to hold our jobs because things were in a "mess" about the union.

"I continued to work at Mine "B" and did not see anyone beaten or forced to join UMW. I voted in the second election and I think this election was a fair one as far as being able to vote as I pleased and in a secret fashion. No threats or promises were made to get me to vote for either PMA or UMW.

"I quit work in April or May following this election and went to work for [redacted]

"I am not now a member of P.M.A. because I haven't kept my dues paid because I have not been working in the mines. I prefer P.M.A. to UMW and would want to rejoin P.M.A. if I went back to the mines to work.

"I have had the above statement of about 3 1/2 pages read to me by [redacted] and it is true and correct."

/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSED:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

*Copy  
noted @ [unclear]*

[redacted] Illinois, telephone [redacted] residing at [redacted] Telephone [redacted] was interviewed at his residence on August 25, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] is registered with Local Draft Board #3, Springfield, Illinois. He was born in [redacted] states he has no criminal record and indicates he will be a willing and cooperative witness. He speaks English without difficulty and appears of average intelligence.

The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

"Springfield, Ill.  
August 25, 1943

"I, [redacted], of [redacted], Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Fed'l Bureau of Investigation. I make it without fear of threat, force or promise of any kind knowing it may be used in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted]

"In [redacted] I first joined the UMW while working at [redacted] Mine [redacted] in Springfield, Ill. I was a member of UMW until 1932. In April of 1932 there was a strike and I did not work until December of 1933, at which time I went to work in Mine "B" at Springfield at which time I joined the PMA union. From December of 1933 until May of 1937, I worked in Mine "B" - and was a member of PMA during the entire time.

"During the time from 1933 until May of 1937 I noticed Elshoff was friendly with those UMW sympathizers working in Mine "B". These sympathizers were Charles Bohannon, Pete Carter and several others, about twelve in all, whose name I cannot remember. Elshoff and these men would have parties in the company office, but none of the fellows who belonged to PMA were at these parties. During this time the talk among the fellows working in the Mine "B" was that the UMW was furnishing the money to agitate for UMW in Mine "B". There was no strong arm tactic noticed by me - but there was a lot of propaganda favoring the UMW.

"During this period between 1933 and 1937 I can remember no strikes or close downs in Mine "B". But during this time Falcetti would tell us of how the [redacted] mine was better off because of the UMW which gave more favors to the company. I would say that Falcetti tried to influence us miners in Mine "B" to be sympathetic with the UMW. I was of the impression that Falcetti favored those some twelve UMW sympathizers by granting them favors in the mine, like giving them better mules, if the man was a driver,

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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b7d INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

or giving a miner a better room to work in. It seemed they could do most everything they wanted.

"During this period between 1933 and 1937 all of the fellows in the PMA seemed satisfied. I believed the PMA was doing good for us miners and at no time did I ever notice any attempts by the PMA to use strong arm tactics of any kind to keep the men in line. There seemed to be no friction between the PMA miners and the PMA officials. During this time I attended many UMA meetings and I noticed no unusual number of special assessments and we knew of no kickbacks to local PMA officials.

"Between 1933 and May 1937, the UMW never picketed Mine "B" to my knowledge, but I recall there were threats by UMW to picket, but I cannot recall who these fellows were. During this time I recall seeing pamphlets distributed at Mine "B" telling the fellows to join UMW.

"In early Spring of 1937 I recall no slow downs or work stoppages and I noticed no actual violence and no one came to me to talk me into going over to UMW, altho I recall some fellows were contacted by UMW sympathizers, but who was contacted - and who contacted them - I can't remember.

"I cannot recall being at a meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937, and I cannot say whether there was a meeting. On the morning of May 12, 1937, I went to work and noticed nothing unusual until I was notified by a driver that there would be no more work for the day. I cannot remember when I heard that some of the fellow had been expelled from the PMA.

"I cannot remember any coal cars being loaded short on May 12, 1937. I do not remember signing a PMA petition on May 26, 1937, but I may have signed it. It is just that I cannot remember. But I know I did not sign any UMW petition. But I cannot remember any 'wildcat' petition having been circulated during the summer of 1937.

"After the UMW local was formed in July 1937, I received by mail, some material urging me to join the UMW. But no one contacted me personally in that regard.

"After May 12, 1937, I never went back to Mine "B", but at the end of May in 1937 I was one of the PMA who picketed Mine "B" - but only a few UMW men showed up for work so they could not work the mine. Toward the end of the summer of 1937 about a dozen UMW workers tried to start the mine so our local #54 PMA had a sit down strike in the mines for about 56 days, lasting until a few days before Thanksgiving of 1937. I was on this sit down strike until early November, 1937, [REDACTED]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"Only our own PMA local picketed and we never imported any picketers. No force or other means was used by the PMA officials to keep the PMA members in line. The reason we stopped the sit down strike was because the sheriff notified us there was an injunction against us.

"I remember there was an election that winter, of 1937, and the PMA won. No violence or threats were used or made by either the UMW or PMA. I do not remember any other attempts to have the mine reopened until 1939 when I received notice from the company that the mine was opening & I had so much time to come back to work. But I never went back to work for Mine "B".

"I have read this statement consisting of six pages, including this page, and believe it to be true and correct.

[REDACTED] (Signed)

WITNESSES

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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*Handwritten:* 1-17-43 - 1-20-43  
W. B. [unclear]  
re. [unclear]

INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, his residence, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] emigrated to the United States in [redacted]. He was naturalized in Springfield in [redacted]. This witness has a fair knowledge of English and can make himself understood. [redacted] would not make a good witness [redacted]. He can testify he was a member of P.M.A. on May 12, 1937 and that he did not wish to become a member of U.M.W. as he was satisfied with P.M.A. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. [redacted] stopped working at Mine "B" about [redacted].

[redacted] furnished the following statement:-

"Springfield, Ill.,  
August 26, 1943

"I, [redacted] Springfield, Ill., make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted], who 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 against me in a court of law.

"I was born in [redacted] and emigrated to the U. S. from [redacted]. I was naturalized as a citizen of the U.S., Springfield, Ill., in [redacted]. I am unemployed and [redacted].

"I was employed by some mine, the name of which I do not know, in [redacted] Ill., in July [redacted] at which time I became a member of the UMW. I was employed at this mine for about nine months.

"In [redacted] I started to work as a miner in a coal mine in Springfield, Ill. From [redacted] to the spring of 1932 I worked in many mines in and around Springfield, Ill., during which time I was a member of the UMW.

"In the spring of 1932 I was employed at the [redacted] Mine [redacted] Springfield, Ill. as a miner at which time I was a member of U.M.W. I stopped work in the spring of 1932 as the contract between [redacted] Mine [redacted] and U.M.W. ran out and I did not have a union contract to work under. The U.M.W. in the new contract drawn up in the fall of 1932 out the wage scale.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
 (continued)

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 I went to work at Mine "B",  
 Springfield, Ill. as a miner, working as a member  
 of PMA.

"I have never been an officer in any union.

"I am unable to furnish any information concerning the relation-  
 ship between U.M.W. and Elshoff at Mine "B" prior to September 1932 as

"I was very much in favor of the formation of PMA and attended  
 many meetings when it was being organized as I wanted an honest union  
 to be organized and I did not think the U.M.W. was honest.

"There seemed to have been good relations between Local 54 PMA  
 and the officials of Mine "B" between December 1932 and the first of May  
 1937, there were no strikes at the mine nor did the management close the  
 mine from December 1932 to May 12, 1937. Neither Elshoff or Falcetti  
 made any statement against PMA nor did they show any hostile attitude  
 toward PMA, between December 1932 and May 12, 1937. So far as I know the  
 management of PMA was in favor of PMA between December 1932 and May 12,  
 1937.

"There was no sentiment among the members of PMA that PMA Local  
 54 was being operated as a racket. All the members seemed to like the  
 way PMA was being operated and wanted to be members of PMA rather than  
 members of any other union. The members seemed to be interested in the  
 union PMA. There was not a very large attendance at the meetings of  
 PMA and I did not attend very often as I was not able to go to the meet-  
 ing after working all day.

"The members of PMA were not in sympathy with the trial of  
 some of its members in the bombing cases. The members of PMA thought  
 the defendants in the bombing cases were not getting a fair trial.

"There were no unusual assessments made by PMA during the  
 time I was a member. So far as I know the officials of Local 54 PMA  
 were honest and there was never any kick back to local officials of PMA.

"UMW did not set up a picket line at Mine "B" between Sept.  
 1932 and May 12, 1937 nor did I ever see any literature being distributed  
 in favor of U.M.W. during the above dates. I do not have any knowledge  
 of any of the alleged UMW spies. I do not know of any relations between  
 the management of Mine "B" and officials of UMW nor did I see the manage-  
 ment of Mine "B" with any officials of UMW.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I do not know of any wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937. No mention was ever made to me by anyone concerning a wage issue. So far as I know there were no temporary slow-downs or stoppage of work in the Spring of 1937 prior to May 12, 1943.

"I did not attend the PMW meeting on the night May 11, 1937, but I was told there was to be a special meeting that night. All the miners were informed of the meeting by a man at the top of the mine immediately after they came out of the mine. I was not told the reason for the special meeting on the night of May 11, 1937.

"On May 12, 1937 I went to work as always, I loaded all the cars in my room, but no empty cars were brought to my room. I remain in my room until time to stop work. I was told by someone when I reached the top of the ground that PMA closed the mine because mine officials refused to discharge five men who had been expelled from the union because they were UMW spies. I do not know of any coal cars being loaded short May 12, 1943.

"I do not remember the PMW petition of May 26, 1937 and cannot say whether I signed the petition or not.

"I did not sign a UMW petition in the Summer of 1937 nor did I sign any other petition in the summer of 1937.

"I know nothing about the formation of new UMW local 7469 July 29, 1937, I was not asked to become a member of UMW in 1937 nor did anyone threaten me if I did not join the UMW in 1937.

"I did not get a notice from Mine "B" in Sept. 1937, that the mine was to open. I heard from an unknown source that PMW was to picket Mine "B" in Sept. 1937 on the day the mine was to open under UMW contract. On the day the mine, Mine "B", was to open in September 1937, I went to Mine "B" as a picket and remain a picket for 56 days. There was no violence used during the 56 days of picketing. The pickets remained on duty during the 56 day period, during which time the union, PMA, provided a place to stay and some of the food.

"A few days before Thanksgiving 1937 the Sheriff advised the pickets that an injunction had been obtained to prevent the picketing and for that reason PMA stopped the picketing of Mine "B". The members of PMA did not think the court should have issued the injunction.



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS -

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"A few days after the injunction a few UMW members went to work at Mine "B". I do not know how notice was given that the mine was to have been opened at this time.

"A fair election was held in Springfield by NLRB in December 1937. To my knowledge PMA did not threaten any to vote for PMA. I was in favor of PMA and voted for PMA.

"I do not know of an attempt to open Mine "B" in January 1938.

"In 1938 there were some meetings of PMA members, but I did not attend. There was no violence to my knowledge between May 12, 1937 and Nov. 1939 when Mine "B" reopened.

"I understood that the wage scale at Mine "B" after it opened in Nov. 1939 was to be the same as it was on May 12, 1937.

"The members of PMA who returned to the mine thought they should have a contract with Mine "B", but the management of Mine "B" would not give them a contract.

"I returned to work at Mine "B", January 5, 1940. I could not return to work prior to that time because there were many cave-ins in the mine. I do not know of any fires in Mine "B" subsequent to Jan. 5, 1940.

"In the spring 1940 an agent of UMW talked to me in an attempt to get me to like him and be in favor of UMW. In the Summer of 1940 a driver in Mine "B" threatened to throw coal on me because I would not join UMW. In the fall of 1940 an employee of Mine "B" attempted to get me to sign a slip to join UMW so that everyone in the mine could get along together. I did not sign the slip. I never saw or heard anything which would indicate the management favored UMW. I saw several fights between members of PMA and UMW from Jan. 5, 1940 to Feb. 21, 1941.

"I was a member of PMA until about [REDACTED] and never signed a card to join U.M.W. up until that time.

[REDACTED] I was told by a boss, the name of whom I do not know, that if I did not join UMW I would lose my job. I knew that UMW was going to win the election as representative of the employees as they had many agents and were getting friendly

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

with the employees and for that reason I joined UMW about [redacted]

(continued)

"So far as I know the election Feb. 21, 1941 was honest as it was held by the N.L.R.B. I do not know of any force or threats being used to obtain votes for U.M.W. at the time of the elections.

"I am at this time in sympthy with PMA and I am only a member of UMW because membership is necessary in order to work at Mine "B".

"I do not have any specific reason to believe the officials of UMW are dishonest.

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

[redacted]

"Witnessed:-

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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from A...*

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed at his residence on August 26, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] is [redacted] years of age, having been born in [redacted]. He came to the U. S. in [redacted] and became a U. S. citizen in [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois. He advises he has no criminal record. He speaks and understands English with difficulty and has trouble remembering. It is felt he would make an unsatisfactory witness. [redacted] resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, has no telephone and is employed at Mine "A".

"Springfield, Ill.  
August 26, 1943

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

"I am [redacted] years of age, born in [redacted]

"In [redacted] I started work in the mines in Illinois at which time I joined the United Mine Workers Union. I first started work in Mine "B" in Springfield, in the fall of about [redacted] or at least [redacted] years ago. Before 1932 I never had any trouble with Elshoff or Filcetti and I don't know of any one who had trouble with them. In 1932 the majority of the men working in mine "B" joined the Progressive Miners Union and so I joined P.M.U. in 1932 but no force or threats or promises were made to me to join.

"Between 1932 and 1937 no one ever tried to get me to join the U.M.W., and the company never tried to get me to join the U.M.W.

"I don't remember going to a meeting of the P.M.U. on May 11, 1937, and I don't remember when we went on strike in 1937 except that later that year we couldn't get to work unless we were U.M.W.

"But while we were on strike neither the U.M.W., the P.M.U. or any one tried to get me to sign anything that I can remember.

"When we went out on strike, a P.M.U. committeeman, whose name I cannot remember, told us this committee had a meeting with the company and the company said we could not work unless we joined U.M.W.

"In September of 1937 I went on a picket line, or sit down strike at Mine "B" for about 56 days. Only the P.M.U. picketed and we didn't get in anyone else to help picket. Just before Thanksgiving 1937, a United States Marshall told us we would have to leave, so we left.

Re; JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I didn't go back to work until November of 1939 when I got my check number from Falcetti and my room was all right, so I went right to work. Some of the men could not go right to work because there had been "fall ins" and their rooms were not cleaned out. About 100 men went to work this first day and then about 25 more could go back each day as their rooms were cleaned out.

"I got a registered letter to come back to work in Nov. 1939, and all the men talked of going back to work in the open mine. But we all thought we were going back as P M A and that is what I thought.

"During this time I was laid off between 1937 and 1939 I had nothing to do with the mine. Some of the fellows were getting beat up by U M W men, but I don't remember who they were, and I didn't want to get beat up so I just stayed away.

"After several months after the mine re-opened in 1939, three U M W men came to me, but I don't remember their names, and told me if I didn't sign up with U M W I would be out of a job. These men said if I didn't sign for U M W by a certain day, I would be out of a job. So the day before this last day, I signed for U M W. The only reason I signed was because I didn't want to lose my job, and it didn't make any difference to me whether I was P M A or U M W just so the men were honest and I would join the majority.

"I cannot remember any elections or voting at any elections after I went back to work in Mine "B" in 1939. After I signed for U M W I never signed anything for P M A. However in about 1937 I remember voting in an election where P M A got about 300 votes and U M W got about 28 votes.

"Since I've joined U M W I have had no trouble with anyone. I worked in Mine "B" from 1939 until [REDACTED] when I went to work in Mine "A". At this time [REDACTED] Falcetti gave me a slip to get a job in Mine "A". He said I had been a good worker and could earn more money in Mine "A".

"After I went back to work in 1939 at Mine "B" U M W organizers would come to Mine "B" and tried to get us to join U M W. No one tried to beat me up but one U M W fellow who said he had come from Kansas & Kentucky tried to talk me into joining U M W. Another U M W fellow tried to talk me into joining U M W and he was a Frenchman. But I cannot remember any of their names.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

"This statement of five pages has been read to me by Special Agent [REDACTED] and I believe 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.

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INTERVIEW WITH [redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] presents a good appearance; is a fairly convincing talker and seemed to be sincere in his statements. It is believed that [redacted] would be a good witness to testify to those facts set forth in the following signed statement. It is being noted that [redacted] expressed a great reluctance to testify in open court stating that in his opinion if he testified in court he would have a hard time holding a job in this community. Following is his signed statement:

August 28, 1943  
Springfield, Ill

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

"I was born in [redacted] and have been a miner practically all my life. I joined the U.M.W. in [redacted] and presently employed at the [redacted] mine. I started working for Mine B in [redacted] and at that time was a member of the P.M.A. I quit working at Mine B on May 12, [redacted] and at that time [redacted]

"Between 1933 and 1937 the P.M.A. seemed to be getting along fine with the company men. I used to go to a majority of the meetings but do not know the various decisions made by the local union officials.

"I had heard rumors in the spring of 1937 that some of our men in the Progressives were actually working for the U.M.W. Some of the men who were supposed to be spies were FRANK AUSTIN and CHAS. BOLENNON. I don't know if there was any dispute going on at that time with respect to wages. It is my impression that the strike on May 12, 1937 was due to the fact the men didn't want to work with those men. At that time I was working as a driver in [redacted] & know that shortly after the men started working they started loading the cars short. I asked the men why they were doing that, but they wouldn't give me any reason.

"A few weeks after the mine was shut down I went out to the mines with some other men and at that time I signed a petition for the P.M.A. I was out on the picket line with the other men when we were served with an injunction to get off the property. The men felt that there was a conspiracy between ELSHOFF & the U.M.W. men to stop us from working.