



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**JOHN L. LEWIS**

**PART 5 OF 13**

**FILE NUMBER: 44-845**

**FILE DESCRIPTION**  
**BUREAU FILE**

**SUBJECT** JOHN L. LEWIS

**FILE NO.** 44-845

**SECTION NO.** 5

**SERIALS** 91

thru

104

2304

100-2304

44-845  
9/15/43

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
E. C. CLARK

RE: [REDACTED] ET AL  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SABOTAGE

There is transmitted herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated August 12, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois, in the above entitled matter.

A copy of this report was previously transmitted to the Division of Records on September 6, 1943.

This matter is now being brought to your attention in view of the possible connection between the captioned case and the case entitled "Mine B - Violations of Section 51, Title 18," your file number 144-10.

No investigation will be conducted in the captioned matter in the absence of a specific request from you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure

RECORDED  
INDEXED

44-845-91  
SEP 17 1943  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

- Tolson
- A. Tamm
- E. A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Acers
- Carson
- Harbo
- Hendon
- Mumford
- Starke
- Quinn Tamm
- Nease
- Gandy

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SEP 21 1943

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-2304

Typed 9-13-43

2305

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TO: C. CLARK

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL  
Civil Rights and Domestic Violence

Reference is made to previous correspondence in the above captioned matter. The Springfield Office of this Bureau has just advised that Mr. Clayton J. Barber, attorney for the Panther Creek Mines, Tenth Floor, First National Bank Building, Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by an Agent of this Bureau on September 7, 1943, at which time he gave the following information.

Mr. BARBER stated that shortly after negotiations for Panther Creek Mines by CARL E. KISHOFF failed, a Mr. HERMAN GRANT of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor, 222 West North Bank Drive, Chicago, Illinois, came to his office and asked if he would enter a Consent Decree to an injunction against Panther Creek Mines, Inc. Mr. GRANT stated that a review of the records of Panther Creek Mines revealed that on each pay period all employees of the mine were not receiving the minimum amount per hour, as required under the Wage and Hour Statutes and rules and regulations. Mr. BARBER refused to enter a Consent Decree and advised that it would be, due to the nature of mining business, an impossibility for the mine to have watchmen for every miner in the mine to see that he actually worked the required number of hours;

Mr. Tolson also that on some days a miner will shoot down large amounts of coal and Mr. E. A. Tamm's pay for that period would be light. At the beginning of the next Mr. Clegg pay period he might spend several days loading this coal, during which Mr. Coffey's time his pay period would be much above average. Mr. BARBER pointed out Mr. Glavin that the company was attempting to comply with all these rules and regulations. Mr. Ladd stated.

Mr. Nichols After Mr. GRANT's call, Mr. BARBER said he addressed a letter to Mr. Rosen to the Wage and Hour Division in Chicago and sent a copy of this letter to the Labor Department in Washington, D. C. He received an answer from Mr. Harbo, Chicago, wherein that office denied that he had ever been asked to enter a Consent Decree in connection with the injunction. Later he received advice that Mr. HERMAN GRANT was to be in the post office building in Springfield at a given time. Mr. BARBER went to the post office to meet Mr. GRANT. Mr. GRANT was not there but instead Mr. BARBER was served with process in conjunction with an injunction proceeding.

Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

RECORDED

144-875-92

ings filed earlier that morning by the Wage and Hour Division. The injunction was filed under Civil Docket #191 on November 6, 1941. The case was heard and the court dismissed the injunction complaint on July 1, 1942.

Mr. BARNER pointed out that he was never able to ascertain to his satisfaction where the complaint was received from which caused the Wage and Hour Division to initiate an investigation; further, that the company had never received any such complaint from any of the company's miners. He pointed out that in hand-loading mines in this area and all areas, the same procedure and same method of pay is followed; that due to the nature of hand-loading, coal miners cannot be paid by any other method as it would be impossible and impractical to make any other arrangement. He stated that he made an exhaustive search to attempt to find information as to where the Wage and Hour Division had ever filed any other similar injunction proceedings, but without success.

Mr. BARNER advised that he felt that in view of the whole situation, and especially in view of the fact that CARL E. ELSHOFF, and the UMW probably through him, knew the financial status of the Panther Creek Mines and the fact that they were burdened with approximately \$400,000.00 indebtedness, caused this complaint to be made to the Wage and Hour Division immediately after negotiations with ELSHOFF failed at the price which ELSHOFF was willing to pay, in an attempt to force Panther Creek Mines to sell."

The above data is being submitted in the event you desire to ascertain from the United States Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, whether the complaint in connection with this matter originated with the United Mine Workers and hence may be part of the conspiracy in this matter, or whether you desire this Bureau to make such inquiry. In the event you desire this Bureau to conduct such inquiry, your early advice in this regard will be appreciated. Should you desire to make direct contact with the Wage and Hour Division, it would be appreciated if you would forward any information secured to this Bureau for the completion of the files.

Pursuant to the request of Mr. F. C. Coleman of your Department, there are transmitted herewith two copies of the report of Special Agent [ ] dated September 4, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois, in the above entitled matter. Four copies of this report have now been transmitted to the Department. There are also transmitted herewith for your information four copies of each of the following reports: report of Special Agent [ ] dated September 9, 1943, at Buffalo, New York, and report of Special Agent [ ] dated September 10, 1943, at Cleveland, Ohio.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosures *POW*

*b7c*



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**

September 14, 1943

Time: 3:35 to 3:42 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

At the above time SA [redacted] called from the Chicago field office. He is assigned specially to the current investigation at Springfield, Illinois, and stated he had been assigned specific leads to cover at Chicago, Illinois. In connection with covering those leads, [redacted] referred to the local files of the National Labor Relations Board at Chicago in connection with an investigation conducted by an investigator named [redacted] at Mine A in 1941 regarding labor conditions there, that is, at Springfield, Illinois.

It will be recalled that Mine A was immediately adjacent to Mine B, which is the mine concerned in instant investigation.

In view of the fact that there was some indication that the trouble at Mine A was intimately tied in with the trouble at Mine B, the same has been embraced by the investigative purview in this matter.

SA [redacted] stated that when checking at the headquarters of the 13th Region of NLRB at Chicago he contacted Mr. George Bott, Regional Director, who advised him that there was a case in the Chicago office of NLRB identified as #13-C-1665 entitled "Carl H. Elshoff and Progressive Mine Workers of America, District Number 1," in which the complaint was filed on September 23, 1941, by [redacted]. The alleged violation was Section 8 (1 and 5) of the NLRB Regulations.

The complaint was withdrawn on December 22, 1941, at the request of the complainant, [redacted]. However, in the meantime, investigation was conducted at Springfield, Illinois, in connection with the matter and SA [redacted] feels that undoubtedly the results of the investigation will be very pertinent to instant investigation being conducted by the Bureau. 144-940-93

In view of the Attorney General's interest in this matter and, inasmuch as [redacted] should be completely covered from all angles, it is believed that the contents of the file should be made available for examination. (However [redacted])



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Mr. Ladd

- 2 -

the Regional Director advised SA [REDACTED] that it would not be possible to make the file available for review and possible photostating of any interesting material without specific permission being received by him from the Washington headquarters of the NLRB.

The file is identified as the "Informal File" and contains both formal and informal material. The complaint filed in the matter alleges, according to SA [REDACTED] briefly that the United Mine Workers Union was not really the representative union of the mine workers in Mine A.

Inasmuch as SA [REDACTED] is scheduled to leave Chicago for return to Springfield tomorrow, he deemed it advisable to contact the Bureau and furnish the information above in order that if it was necessary for the review to be conducted by Bureau Agents at Chicago he might be able to do so before leaving there for return to Springfield.

ACTION: SA [REDACTED] was advised that he should contact SAC Hallford at Springfield, who should bring the matter to the attention of Mr. Frank Coleman, the Departmental attorney who is handling the matter, advising Mr. Coleman of the facts and also that the Bureau has been advised and that the Bureau is forwarding a memorandum to the Department requesting specific advice as to the procedure which should be followed in order to obtain access to this file, which incidentally SA [REDACTED] states has never been forwarded to the Washington headquarters of the NLRB and therefore has not been made available previously to the Bureau or the Department. It was also pointed out that it should be suggested to Mr. Coleman that he should contact the Department in order that the Department may expeditiously advise the Bureau of the action which it desires taken in view of the limited amount of time available to complete the investigation prior to presentation to the grand jury as contemplated.

*Done*

Respectfully,

*F. L. Welch*  
F. L. Welch (8)

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**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TUN C. CLARK  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Agents of this Bureau assigned to the investigation of the above entitled matter have advised that the Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board, Chicago, Illinois, is apparently in possession of a file entitled "Carl H. Elshoff and the Progressive Mine Workers of America, District Number One," #13-C-1665, which sets forth the result of an investigation conducted subsequent to a complaint filed September 23, 1941, by one [redacted]. It was further reported that this complaint sets forth an alleged violation of the National Labor Relations Board regulations, stating that the United Mine Workers Union was not actually the representative union of the employees at Mine "A", Springfield, Illinois. Although the complaint was allegedly withdrawn on December 22, 1941, at the request of [redacted] it appears that an investigation was conducted at Springfield, Illinois, in the matter.

It is believed that the results of this investigation might very well be pertinent to the investigation presently being conducted in the above entitled matter. It was further stated that the Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board, Chicago, Illinois, refused to make available the file in this matter without specific authorization from the National Labor Relations Board headquarters in Washington, D. C., and further indicated that this file, which was designated as the "informal file", had not been forwarded to the National Labor Relations Board headquarters in Washington.

In view of the fact that you have previously contacted the National Labor Relations Board for information contained in its files at Washington, D. C., the above data are forwarded for your information in the event you desire to directly contact the National Labor Relations Board in order to secure photostatic copies of file number 13-C-1665.

Inasmuch as this file has apparently not been forwarded to the headquarters of the National Labor Relations Board, Washington, D. C., your early advice would be appreciated as to whether you desire this Bureau to take any action with regard to securing the file.

Mr. F. C. Coleman of your Department, who is presently in Springfield, Illinois, has been apprised of the above facts.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
★ SEP 16 1943 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

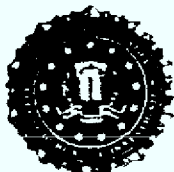
Very truly yours  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- Tolson
- E. A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Coffey
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Acers
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- Harbo
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- Starke
- Quinn Tamm
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- Andy

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DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
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[redacted]





44-845

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**

September 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Acers  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Starke  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Beahm  
Miss Gandy

As you know, investigation is presently being conducted in accordance with the desires of the Attorney General into charges that John L. Lewis and certain other officers of the United Mine Workers of America and Carl H. Elshoff, owner of Mine B Coal Company, Springfield, Illinois, conspired during the years 1937 to 1941 in violation of the Civil Rights Statutes to injure and oppress Elshoff's employees in the free exercise of the rights secured to them by the National Labor Relations Act. It is alleged that Lewis paid the sum of \$225,000 to Elshoff from the years 1937 to 1941 with the intent to induce Elshoff to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, who were at that time members of the rival union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

INVESTIGATION AND INTERVIEWS WITH MINERS

The Springfield Office has now submitted a report in excess of 500 pages in this matter, and investigation is being vigorously pursued in order that the matter may be completed by September 25, 1943, inasmuch as the Department has indicated it would like to present this case to a grand jury in the first part of October, 1943.

The report submitted by the Springfield Office indicates that approximately 150 men who were members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1937 at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois, have been interviewed. Signed statements have been secured from each individual interviewed. A review of these signed statements indicates that 20 men gave no information of value. In these cases either the individual actually did not know anything of value to this case or refused to divulge any information. Forty-nine of the miners interviewed were cooperative with Bureau Agents; however, they gave information of little value, being vague and hesitant in their comments. It should also be noted that a number of these individuals were unable to speak, read or write English, and therefore possessed little information of value in this investigation. Only two of the individuals interviewed were openly hostile and refused to give any information to Agents of this Bureau. The remaining 79 men interviewed gave information that could be considered very favorable to the Government's case and all might well be considered potential witnesses in this matter.



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In general, the above mentioned 79 individuals advised that the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed at Mine B, Springfield, Illinois, in 1932 due to the fact that Lewis attempted to impose a lower wage scale on the miners. In general, all of these individuals agreed that conditions were rather quiet and employee—employer relations good at Mine B until shortly before May of 1937. At this time it was discovered that a number of members of the Progressive Mine Workers at Mine B were actually spies for the United Mine Workers Union and were on the latter's pay roll. Many of the miners interviewed will be able to testify that they attended a pit grievance committee meeting at Mine B on the evening of May 11, 1937, at which time five alleged spies were expelled from the Progressive Mine Workers Union. Thereafter, the Union insisted that Elshoff fire these five expelled individuals, and when Elshoff and the Mine officials refused to discharge these individuals, a strike was called on May 12, 1937. Most of the 79 individuals mentioned above will testify that they were at that time and still are in favor of the Progressive Mine Workers Union; however, after May of 1937 it appeared that Elshoff was definitely in favor of the United Mine Workers Union and would not cooperate in any way in attempting to get the Mine back into operation. A number of the men stated that Elshoff received money from John L. Lewis in order to pay the expense of the Mine during the time it was closed down; however, few of the miners have anything but hearsay evidence in this regard.

#### INTERVIEWS REGARDING PURCHASE OF MINE A BY ELSHOFF IN 1941 FOR THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

In the fall of 1941, Carl H. Elshoff, owner of Mine B, purchased Mine A, which adjoins Mine B, from Mr. William H. Ryan for the sum of \$60,000 paid in cash. It was alleged that this money was supplied directly by the United Mine Workers of America and that Elshoff was merely acting as a front in order that the UMW might take over Mine A, which was controlled by the Progressive Mine Workers Union. Mr. William H. Ryan, upon interview, tended to substantiate the above allegation and stated that prior to the consummation of the sale of Mine A, it became apparent that Elshoff was merely acting as a front for John L. Lewis.

In this connection, Mr. Robert C. Solomon, President of the Panther Creek Coal Mines, Springfield, Illinois, stated that in the early part of 1942, Elshoff attempted to purchase the Panther Creek Mines for \$400,000 cash. Mr. Solomon stated that although the deal fell through, it was a matter of common knowledge that Elshoff had no money of his own and would be financed by the UMW of America.

It is of interest to note that Mr. Ryan stated that early in 1937, Ray Edmundson, a subject in this case and President of the UMW Local in Springfield, approached him with a proposition to freeze the Progressive Mine Workers Union out of Mine A. Mr. Ryan advised he turned this proposition down flatly.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS INTERVIEWS

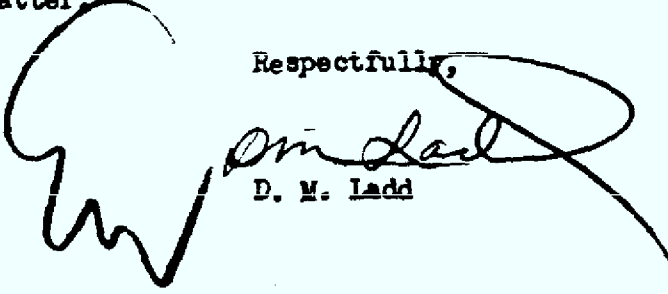
A number of the officials of the Progressive Mine Workers of America have been interviewed, and, of course, they gave evidence and statements very favorable to the Government's case in this matter.

The Springfield Office has recently advised that three individuals interviewed have requested copies of signed statements which they gave to Agents of this Bureau. In view of the fact that these individuals were witnesses and not subjects, the Springfield Office declined to comply with their request; however, the question has been referred to the Department with a request for advice as to the procedure to be followed in the future in the event additional requests of a similar nature are received from other individuals interviewed.

#### ACTION

It is believed that the investigation in this case has progressed very satisfactorily from the Bureau's standpoint to date. The investigation is being vigorously pursued and you will be promptly informed of developments in this matter.

Respectfully,



D. M. Ladd

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b3 b7c with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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- ☒ For your information: b3 Statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103.
- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
44-445-95

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EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.**

August 27, 1943

Call: 10:30 AM  
Dated: 10:45 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Acers \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Starke \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_

Reference is made to the attached teletype from the Springfield Office dated August 26, 1943, requesting [REDACTED]

b3  
At the above time I had Mr. Buckley in my office contact <sup>by telephone</sup> Mr. Frank Coleman of the Criminal Division of the Department regarding this request. Mr. Coleman advised that he would secure [REDACTED]. Mr. Coleman was advised that a memorandum would be forwarded immediately to the Criminal Division of the Department. [REDACTED]

**ACTION:**

There is attached for your approval a memorandum to the Criminal Division of the Department requesting [REDACTED] as set forth in the attached teletype from the Springfield Office dated August 26, 1943.

Respectfully,

*F. L. Welch*  
F. L. Welch

Attachment



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14-845-95  
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b3 b7c with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

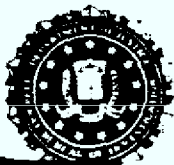
\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

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

- ☒ For your information: b3 Statute is Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103
- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
44-845-95

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3:15 PM  
3:22 PM

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

August 30, 1943

CC-281

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: John L. Lewis et al  
Civil Rights and Domestic  
Violence

At this time SAC Hallford called and talked to Agent [redacted] in my office regarding the above captioned matter. He stated that to date Agents handling this case have conducted over 100 interviews with miners involved in the case and the statements made by them have been favorable to the Government's theory of the case - that is - in general, although there have been a few miners who are members of the United Mine Workers of America who have not been of a favorable nature.

Mr. Hallford requested advice regarding certain exhibits requested by him last week around August 23rd such as membership cards in connection with the voting by the Progressive Mine Workers Union members and the members of the UMW at the time of the first and second elections which were held. I pointed out to him that a letter was on its way to him explaining that the membership cards are not available due to the procedure in voting which is secret and also pointed out the fact that petitions filed by any of the miners with the National Labor Relations Board would not be actually made a part of the records of the NLRB and therefore were not available.

Mr. Hallford pointed out there were certain things which Mr. Coleman, the Departmental Attorney handling this case, had indicated would not have to be done, although he had originally requested the performance of the same and Mr. Hallford requested advice regarding this angle. [redacted] pointed out to him that he should forward a letter to the Bureau setting out these items so that they may be forwarded specifically to the Department and written advice received from the Department for the records. m

EX-4

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44-845-96

Mr. Hallford indicated that a report should be prepared by Saturday, September 4, and should be available at the Bureau by Monday, September 6, 1943. He indicated that the investigation to date had been proceeding rather smoothly but also indicated that the requests which are continually received from the Department are rather voluminous and in some instances partially repetitive - that is - they request, for instance, that additional angles be covered with certain witnesses who have already been interviewed and the request appears to relate to what would constitute rebuttal evidence at a trial rather than direct evidence, in the Government's case in chief. I suggested that where in his judgment such was the case that these items be set aside.

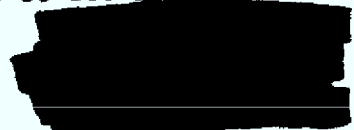


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Mr. Ladd

- 2 -

8-30-43

and a letter forwarded to the Bureau describing this situation in order that it may be taken up with the Department and also in order that the investigation may proceed as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Mr. Hallford also raised the point that he had been advised by Mr. Coleman while Mr. Coleman was in Springfield, Illinois, that the Bureau's investigation would not have to embrace certain documents and other evidence developed [REDACTED]

b3 [REDACTED] one of the subjects in this case, yet in the suggested trial brief which was forwarded to the Springfield Office and which had been received from the Department it outlined a request for itemization of the payments to Carl Elshoff amounting in toto to \$225,000. Again, it was indicated to Mr. Hallford that he should include things such as this in a letter to the Bureau in order that the situation may be immediately called to the attention of the Department for clarification and written confirmation of the oral advice furnished by Mr. Coleman.

SAC Hallford stated that the suggested investigations received from the Department and forwarded to the Springfield Office by the Bureau are being considered by him as suggestions and not as instructions, with which viewpoint Agent [REDACTED] indicated concurrence on the part of the Bureau. This was done because Mr. Coleman, who is apparently handling this matter in the Department, has indicated an extreme interest in the case to the point of advancing theories which have no basis in facts available regarding the instant case. Mr. Coleman understands that he is offering these points merely as suggestions and that, of course, the matter is being left to the Bureau's discretion as to the exact method of investigation.

While talking to SAC Hallford, [REDACTED] pointed out to him the recent developments in the Department - [REDACTED]

b3 [REDACTED] This, of course, was furnished to Mr. Hallford only for his information and not as a settled fact inasmuch as written advice has not yet been received from the Department.

In response to the inquiry of [REDACTED] SAC Hallford stated he was pressing the matter in order that no delay would ensue in the handling of this

b3 : Side 26,  
United States Code,  
Section 6103

b7c

Mr. Ladd

- 3 -

8-30-43

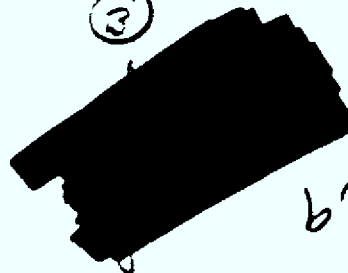
investigation and in order to see that every effort is made to meet the deadline. It appears that to date, as pointed out by Mr. Hallford, the investigation is proceeding rather smoothly and is being handled very well.

Respectfully,

*F. L. Welch*

F. L. Welch

③



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ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"  
AND REFER TO  
DETAILS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TCC:FC:MLB

144-10

August 31, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

No. 2 - 8/30/43

Re: Mine "P" -- Violations of  
Section 51, Title 18.

I am informed from a reliable source that for some years the U.M.W. organization, possibly with subject Lewis' knowledge, has been using two brothers, [REDACTED] as gunmen in connection with terroristic activities on behalf of the union. I do not have the address of these individuals, but it is said that they live and operate in southern Illinois. The suggestion is that these men may possibly be used to intimidate and influence witnesses in connection with this current investigation.

I leave to your judgment the question of whether these men should be put under surveillance. Your Field Office will be in the best position to know whether any destructive efforts are being made and what measures are best to combat them.

I am also similarly informed that [REDACTED] U.M.W., but who is not an attorney, may be used as a diplomat for the organization in connection with this case. Should you discover that [REDACTED] activities are touching this case at any point, kindly advise me at once.

My memorandum to you of August 30, 1943, numbered 3 concerns [REDACTED] who is presently employed in some capacity by the U.M.W., [REDACTED]

RECORDED  
Respectfully,

INDEXED

144-845-97  
Tom C. Clark

TOM C. CLARK,  
Assistant Attorney General.

9/9/43  
Not Springfield  
[REDACTED]

b7c

John L. Lewis

United Mine Workers

- 2 -

surveillance be instituted, you should immediately inform the Bureau.

In the event investigation indicates [REDACTED] United Mine Workers, appears to be implicated in this matter, you should immediately advise the Bureau in order that the Criminal Division may be appropriately informed.

Enclosure *pm*

SPECIAL DELIVERY



10:00 AM

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**  
**September 2, 1943**

CC-227

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: John L. Lewis et al  
Civil Rights and  
Domestic Violence

At this time Mr. Frank Coleman called from the Department relative to this matter and stated that the Attorney General was leaving on Tuesday next for Mexico for a two weeks vacation. Mr. Coleman was interested in knowing whether we would have a summary of the preliminary investigation developed by Tuesday because Mr. Coleman feels that the Attorney General would like to take with him some sort of a picture as to what the preliminary investigation has developed.

It was pointed out to Mr. Coleman by [redacted] who took the call that there was a distinct possibility, as he had previously been advised, that the initial report in this matter might reach the Bureau by Tuesday or Wednesday of next week and that every effort would be made, of course, to try and have a summary available for the Attorney General before he leaves on Tuesday. Mr. Coleman stated that under no circumstances, however, did he want to hamper or interfere with the investigation and in the event there was any possibility of such occurring he was sure that the Attorney General would not want the matter rushed just to have the preliminary information available.

ACTION: Attached is a suggested teletype to Springfield, instructing that the report which SAC Hallford stated would be prepared by Saturday of this week, September 4, should be prepared without fail and submitted, to reach the Bureau by Monday, special delivery. These were the plans of SAC Hallford prior to the receipt of this call. However, in order that the report will be mailed Saturday, it is deemed advisable to teletype Mr. Hallford since he was given leeway to hold off for a few days if he thought it advisable.

Respectfully,

*F. L. Welch*  
F. L. Welch



50 SEP 21 1943

RECORDED

EX-42

144-845-9

SEP 6 1943



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois  
September 16, 1945

Director, FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
(Bureau File No. 44-846)

URGENT

Dear Sir:

For the information of the Bureau the following investigation is requested of the Pittsburgh Field Division:

For the information of the Pittsburgh Field Division this case must receive the most expeditious attention. In view of the extreme emergency and expeditious nature of this investigation, and if this Field Division is to meet a dead line set by the Bureau, a report of the results of this investigation must be in the hands of the Springfield Division by September 23, 1945.

For the information of the Pittsburgh Field Division, the Department has requested a full and complete investigation into the charges of JOHN L. LEWIS, President of the International United Mine Workers of America, RAY EDMUNDSON, President of District 12 (Illinois), United Mine Workers of America, WALTER J. JAMES, Secretary-Treasurer District 12, CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B" Coal Company, a coal mine in Springfield, Illinois, OSCAR FALCETTI, Superintendent of Mine "B", to have conspired during the years 1937 through 1941 in violation of Section 51, Title 18, USC, to injure and oppress ELSHOFF's employees in the free exercise of the rights secured to them by the National Labor Relations Act.

According to information already secured the sum of \$225,000.00 was paid in the years 1937 to 1941 by officials of the United Mine Workers of America to CARL H. ELSHOFF with the intent to induce ELSHOFF to impose unfair labor practices upon his employees, who at that time were members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, a rival union. If it can be proven that ELSHOFF and the officials of UMW conspired to deprive members of the Progressive Mine Workers of America of their rights, as secured by Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act, there can undoubtedly be established a violation of Section 51, Title 18, USC.

CARL H. ELSHOFF is known to have held numerous parties, and to have



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RECORDED & INDEXED

136

67 EX-1

44-646-19

[REDACTED]

Director, FBI

- 2 -

September 16, 1945

entertained lavishly at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, during the period from 1937 through 1941. The Morrison Hotel is also known as the UMW hotel in Chicago, and is the hotel where RAY EDMUNDSON stops when in Chicago. In connection with this investigation it becomes important to develop every detail of the relationship between RAY EDMUNDSON, President of the United Mine Workers organization in Illinois, and CARL H. ELSHOFF, President and operator of the Mine "B" Coal Company, Springfield, Illinois.

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b7D  
In an interview with [redacted] United Steel Workers of America, CIO, 205 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, he advised that [redacted] of the United Steel Workers of America, CIO, 1500 Commonwealth Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was present at one or two of ELSHOFF's parties held in the Morrison Hotel. [redacted] according to [redacted] allegedly heard ELSHOFF leave instructions with the Morrison Hotel, and with the bar at that hotel to the effect that EDMUNDSON was to have anything he wanted at the hotel, and that it should be charged to ELSHOFF's account.

It is requested that [redacted] be interviewed to ascertain whether or not he can substantiate the instructions left by ELSHOFF with the Morrison Hotel. [redacted] should also be interviewed for any other information he may have concerning the relationship between CARL H. ELSHOFF and RAY EDMUNDSON or WALTER J. JAMES, or JOHN L. LEWIS. In the event that [redacted] is able to furnish any pertinent information in connection with this matter, or substantiate the allegation, an attempt should be made to secure a signed statement from him. This statement should include, of course, all circumstances, date and place of the instance or instances of which he may have knowledge.

In view of the nature of this interview, it is believed that two Agents should be present during the interview. For your information the Bureau has instructed that only "experienced and well qualified Agents" be assigned to this investigation.

b7c  
[redacted]

Director, FBI

- 3 -

September 16, 1943

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[REDACTED]

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b7D  
The Department has suggested that in interviewing [REDACTED] it be pointed out to him very specifically that the statute of limitations has run [REDACTED] and accordingly, prosecution of that case is now barred. The Department has suggested that if this is pointed out to [REDACTED] he may be willing to tell the whole truth.

Nine copies of this report should be furnished to the Bureau and four to this office. Springfield is the Office of Origin. I again wish to impress upon you the importance of this investigation, and the fact that it is imperative that these leads be covered immediately. In addition, it is the Bureau's desire that you give this matter your personal attention.

Very truly yours,

*Fred Hallford*  
FRED HALLFORD  
Special Agent in Charge

[REDACTED]  
AMSD

2cc: Pittsburgh (AMSD)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TCC:PC:MLB

144-10

September 17, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: John L. Lewis, et al.,  
Civil Rights and Domestic  
Violence.

Your memorandum of September 8, 1943, in regard to request for copies of signed statements given by three individuals interviewed by your Springfield office, has been discussed by Frank Coleman of this Division with your Special Agent in Charge at Springfield.

The Bureau's refusal to grant the request for copies of the signed statements has my approval. Mr. Hoover advises that no further efforts to obtain copies of signed statements have as yet been made. If any further requests are received in this connection, I wish you would advise me immediately. The policy in respect thereto must be determined in accordance with the circumstances of each particular case.

Respectfully,

Tom C. Clark

TOM C. CLARK,  
Assistant Attorney General.

RECORDED

EX-6

60 SEP 21 1943

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44-845  
9/17/43

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith four copies of each of the following reports in the above entitled matter:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 13, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois;

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 15, 1943, at Norfolk, Virginia.

Investigation is continuing in this matter and as subsequent reports are received they will be made available to you immediately.

Enclosure *C*

MUNICIPAL SECTION

MAILED 5

SEP 17 1943 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

44-845-104  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
SEP 20 1943  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

SEP 17 1943

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*Cur*

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[redacted]

38 SEP 22 1943

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Case originated at: **SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

File No. **44-19**

Report made at: <b>SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.</b>	Date: <b>9-10-43</b>	Period: <b>9-8-43</b>	Report made by: <b>[REDACTED]</b> <b>lh</b>
---	-------------------------	--------------------------	--

Title: <b>JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America; CARL H. ELSHOFF, Owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois;</b>	Character of case: <b>CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>
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## SYNOPSIS:

**MARTIN WAGNER**, NLRB Regional Director, San Francisco, Calif., arrived in Chicago on 4-28-41 as a field examiner. Never assigned to investigation of Mine "B" controversy. Did investigate similar matter involving Mine "A". This latter investigation developed nothing of significance. With reference to instant investigation.

- RUC -

## REFERENCE:

Letter from Springfield to Bureau dated 9-8-43.

## DETAILS:

### AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

On September 8, 1943, Special Agent [REDACTED] and the writer interviewed **MARTIN WAGNER**, National Labor Relations Board Regional Director, at his office, 1095 Market Street. Mr. WAGNER advised that he had not arrived at the NLRB office in Chicago which office covers Springfield, Illinois, until April 28, 1941. He had previously worked for the NLRB in West Virginia, and he was classified as a field examiner on his arrival in Chicago. He stated that he never

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Approved and Forwarded 3 Bureau (AMSD) 4 Springfield (AMSD) 4 San Francisco	Special Agent in Charge <b>[Signature]</b>
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San Francisco 44-19

did any work on the controversy concerning Mine "B" and that as a matter of fact by the time he got to Chicago this controversy had largely been settled. Mr. WAGNER stated, however, that he ~~was~~ investigate a controversy concerning Mine "A" which mine was purchased by CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B", in late 1941 or early 1942. WAGNER stated that under the previous operator the mine had been ~~owned~~ <sup>unionized</sup> by the Progressive Mine Workers. Shortly after ELSHOFF's acquisition, the United Mine Workers held a meeting in the Elk's Hall at Springfield, Illinois, in which a majority of the employees of the mine, which also constituted a majority of those present at the Elk's Hall, signed "authorizations" that the United Mine Workers should be their bargaining agent.

Following this the Progressive Mine Workers filed a charge with the NLRB alleging that ELSHOFF had failed to bargain with them and had assisted the United Mine Workers in taking over Mine "A". Mr. WAGNER stated that he conducted a thorough examination of this matter and had been unable to develop any indication of collusion between ELSHOFF and the United Mine Workers. He did establish that when the Mine "A" re-opened under ELSHOFF, the United Mine Workers had a clear majority of the employees working in the mine at that time, which majority was represented by validly signed signature cards.

WAGNER stated further that during his investigation of this matter rumors were prevalent in Springfield that OSCAR FALCETTI was in reality an employee of JOHN L. LEWIS. WAGNER was unable to develop any concrete evidence of this.

Concerning the election at Mine "B" held on December 15, 1937, WAGNER stated that he had no personal knowledge of this election but that the decision of the NLRB concerning the validity of the election could be found in Volume 4 of the "Decisions and Orders of NLRB", Page 323, and that this decision indicates that in the opinion of the Board there was no foundation for the United Mine Workers allegations of fraud. WAGNER stated that a copy of the Regional Director's report to the NLRB upon which this decision was based can be obtained from the National Labor Relations Board at Washington, D. C.

While WAGNER was very cooperative throughout the interview he advised that he did not care to express an opinion as to, first, the purpose of the payments by the United Mine Workers to ELSHOFF; and second, on the merits of the controversy, inasmuch as his knowledge thereof was almost entirely second hand. In conclusion he stated

San Francisco 44-19

that to the best of his knowledge he had no information of a probative value concerning either the controversy involving Mine "B" or the controversy involving Mine "A" which would be of any aid in the prosecution of instant case.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 44-17

REPORT MADE AT <b>INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>SEP 12 1943</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/9,10/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE <b>JOHN L. LEWIS, RAY EDMUNDSON, WALTER J. JAMES, Officials of the United Mine Workers of America; CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B", Springfield, Illinois.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>JAMES C. CLARK, Field Examiner for National Labor Relations Board, Chicago, from August of 1940 to January or February of 1941, interviewed. CLARK investigated petition for contempt proceedings filed by PMW as well as charges that UMW had violated N.L.R.A. and subsequently UMW petition for certification. A detailed report and work papers in regard to union membership at Mine "B" were submitted to Chicago Office of N.L.R.B. CLARK stated that he was unable to secure evidence that CARL H. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B" Coal Company would not bargain with PMW in good faith although both ELSHOFF and OSCAR FALCETTI, Superintendent of Mine "B" openly expressed dislike for PMW and stated that it was impossible to deal with the organization as it failed to adhere to contracts. CLARK stated that he was suspicious of some of the men hired who were members of UMW after Mine "B" reopened in 1939, but that in general FALCETTI could justify the employment of each man. In one case an individual gave up well paying employment as a mine inspector to work as a miner and shortly thereafter a change in work gave him access to the entire mine. Violence and coercion participated in about equally by both unions. And according to CLARK, ELSHOFF and FALCETTI did not approve. There were logical reasons why some PMW members shifted to UMW. RAY EDMUNDSON, President of District 12, UMW, cooperated in turning over his records and furnishing witnesses to CLARK.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- RUC -      <del>DEFERRED RECORDING</del> N</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>D. S. Hostetter</i>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 9- Bureau (AMASD) 4- Springfield (SD) 3- Indianapolis		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 44- 845 103 RECORDED & INDEXED 134 new 43 to Clark 7/29/42	
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Indpls. File 44-17

REFERENCE: Letter dated September 6, 1943, from the Springfield Field Division to the Bureau.

DETAILS: JOHN C. CLARK was interviewed at the Indianapolis Field Division office on September 9 and 10, 1943. He advised that his present residence is [REDACTED]

In regard to his employment with the National Labor Relations Board, CLARK advised that from April of 1938 until November of 1939 he was stationed at Indianapolis, and from November of 1939 to May of 1940 at Los Angeles, California, and from May of 1940 to April of 1941 at Chicago, Illinois. Thereafter he was Director for the National Labor Relations Board at Indianapolis until April 10, 1943, at which time the Indianapolis office was closed.

CLARK stated that from July or August of 1940 to January or February of 1941, as Field Examiner for the National Labor Relations Board at Chicago, he was actively interested in the Mine "B" controversy at Springfield, Illinois, and investigated proceedings filed by the Progressive Mine Workers, as well as charges that the United Mine Workers had violated sections of the National Labor Relations Act. Subsequently, CLARK investigated a UMW petition for certification.

By way of background, CLARK stated that CARL E. ELSHOFF, owner of Mine "B" at Springfield, Illinois, in November of 1939 notified PMW that he intended to open Mine "B", after it had been closed for a period of approximately two and a half years because of labor difficulties. CLARK stated that the PMW was anxious to get in the mine and agreed to go to work before a contract was signed. By way of explanation, CLARK stated that at this time the Progressives were slipping in Illinois and western Kentucky, the only two states in which they had ever had a strong foothold.

The miners who had been on Mine "B"'s payroll as of May 12, 1937, the time the mine was closed, were not all called back at once for the reason that cave ins and other repairs were necessary before the mine could be put into full operation. He stated that less than half the total number of employees on the payroll of Mine "B" as of May 12, 1937, actually returned to work when called during the latter part of 1939 and the early part of 1940.



Indpls. File 44-17

CLARK interviewed at least 150 employees who had returned to Mine "B" and took statements from 50 or 60 of them. In regard to the union affiliation at the time of re-employment, agent was advised that during the period of the shutdown many miners had secured employment in other mines which were controlled by UMW, and as a result had joined that union. The general situation was that there were many Progressives who had not been loyal to the PMW, and UMW was able to persuade these men to become members of that union.

CLARK further stated that in some cases miners who had shifted from the Progressives to UMW when they received notice that Mine "B" was re-opening returned to Mine "B" because of its proximity to Springfield, Illinois, where they maintained their homes because of the convenience of the location. The UMW offered no objection to this, and in CLARK's opinion suggested that the change be made.

CLARK stated that two other factors influenced employees to shift their membership from PMW to UMW, the first being that it was a policy of the Progressive union not to hire any apprentices as long as any Progressive members were unemployed, whereas UMW fostered the hiring of the sons of UMW workers as apprentices, even though some UMW members might be unemployed.

CLARK stated that it was common knowledge around Springfield that the Progressive union was not paying death benefits when due. He stated that UMW capitalized on this and made a point of paying death benefits very promptly and dramatically. He stated that he knew of two instances when on the death of a UMW member a large committee was appointed to attend the funeral of the deceased and pay the benefit to the miner's widow at the funeral.

CLARK stated in regard to the use of violence and coercion on the part of members, that there was no question in his mind but that some violence did occur. It was his opinion that the responsibility was about equally divided between the two unions. CLARK stated that the acts of violence were certainly known to the management of Mine "B", but that there was no indication that they were approved by it. Both ELSHOFF and FALCETTI stated to CLARK that it was impossible to give individual miners enough protection while working in the mine or to stop the violence which was occurring between November of 1939 and January of 1941. Local authorities were not cooperative. Both ELSHOFF and FALCETTI stated to CLARK that they wished the violence would stop.

In regard to discrimination on the part of the management in hiring new workers, CLARK stated that it was the contention of PMW that FALCETTI, who was primarily concerned with the employment of new men, had discriminated against PMW. On investigation, it was determined that

Indpls. File 44-17

FALCETTI had valid reasons for hiring miners, and that in so far as possible, in the opinion of CLARK, he adhered to a strict middle-of-the-road policy. FALCETTI gave CLARK a long statement in regard to the hiring of individual men, and in many cases it was found that an individual miner had been recommended by a Progressive, or had been employed by Mine "B" at the time it closed in 1937.

CLARK advised that in general FALCETTI could justify the employment of every man. CLARK further stated, however, that in some cases he was suspicious of individuals employed. He mentioned an instance of FALCETTI's hiring a mine inspector for the State of Illinois who gave up this position to work as a miner. This individual (name unknown) was a member of the UMW. Shortly after his employment, the former mine inspector was given work having to do with the ventilation of the mine and had access to the entire mine because of this fact.

In connection with the charge alleging violation of what Mr. CLARK believed to Section 8 (5) of the National Labor Relations Act which has to do with refusal to bargain in good faith, Mr. CLARK stated that JOHN KANE, attorney for the Progressive Mine Workers, contended that ELSHOFF had delayed the proceedings by failure to attend meetings that had been arranged, and in every other possible way. CLARK had no specific information to offer in regard to this contention. He did state that he had talked to ELSHOFF in regard to his negotiations with the PMW and had been advised by ELSHOFF that he was having great difficulty in negotiating a contract with the PMW inasmuch as the local union at Mine "B" refused to give him the same terms that were effective in the mines of nearby competitors.

CLARK stated that ELSHOFF showed him photostatic copies of the books of competing PMW mines, indicating that maintenance men were paid only when the mine worked. ELSHOFF stated that he was attempting to secure terms that were as favorable to him but was unable to secure them with the PMW. ELSHOFF also indicated that he knew that the UMW adhered strictly to the terms of their agreements, whereas this was not true of the PMW, who made side agreements with various mine owners. Both ELSHOFF and FALCETTI expressed at various times to CLARK their dislike for the PMW, giving as their reasons loose organization and the tendency the union had to indulge in side agreements with operators.

CLARK stated in regard to the contempt charges, that the National Labor Relations Board was requested to file by PMW, that they involved the refusal of Mine "B" to rehire four PMW workers who had been sentenced to Leavenworth on Federal charges arising during the early part of the Mine "B" controversy when a great deal of violence was indulged in. These men had been paroled and were attempting to secure employment at Mine "B". CLARK



Indpls. File 44-17

stated that the case was presented before the National Labor Relations Board at Washington, and it was decided that as a matter of policy not to go ahead with the contempt proceedings because of the facts involved.

When investigating the UMW's request for certification of the Collective Bargaining Agent made approximately July 30, 1940, CLARK stated that he analyzed the membership of both UMW and PMW, showing date of hiring, including all those employed as of May 12, 1937, and that he also secured union membership cards from both unions. He stated that in some cases individual miners belonged to both unions, and that it was his recollection that, including transfers, the UMW had a majority.

CLARK advised that the UMW had cooperated with him to the fullest extent in supplying witnesses and factual data. He further stated that he had submitted a complete report on the results of his investigation to the National Labor Relations Board at Chicago, as well as various statements taken from mine officials and miners. He stated that his work papers were also included in the N.L.R.B. file, presumably at Chicago, and that from these papers he could give more detailed information in regard to the status of union membership at the time of his investigation.

CLARK stated definitely that he was not connected with the Mine "B" matter on May 12, 1937, and that he had no details in regard to the dismissal of twelve miners expelled from PMW, nor had he ever taken up the matter with CARL ELSHOFF. He suggested that O. S. SLITE, former N.L.R.B. Field Relations Examiner, Chicago, Illinois, now Director of the Field Division in Washington, D.C., could give pertinent information in regard to this.

He also advised that he had not seen a petition signed by members of UMW dated between August 18, 1937, and December 15, 1937. He did state, however, that RAY EDWARDS, as before mentioned, had turned over to him application cards of UMW workers in 1940, and that probably some of these had been completed during this period.

CLARK appeared to the writer to be unbiased in his attitude toward both unions, and it is believed that he would make a good witness if given an opportunity to review his reports and work papers.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

Indpls. File 44-17

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION

At Springfield, Illinois:

Will attempt to determine the identity of the individual who resigned his position as Mine Inspector for the State of Illinois to become a miner in Mine "B", and who subsequently was put in charge of the ventilating system of that mine.

Will interview this individual, if his identity is learned, for information concerning his affiliation with UMW and organizational work performed by him. Will also secure details of how he secured employment at Mine "B".

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

This Case originated at SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

File No. 44-9

Report made at <u>NORFOLK, VIRGINIA</u>	Date when made <u>9-15-43</u>	Period for which Made <u>9-14-43</u>	Report made by <u>[REDACTED]</u>
Title <u>JOHN L. LEWIS: RAY EDMUNDSON: WALTER J. JAMES, CARL H. ELSHOFF: OSCAR FALCETTI</u>			Character of Case <u>CIVIL RIGHTS &amp; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</u>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

[REDACTED] at two meetings of P.M.A. during which members decided to go over to U.M.W. Advises no direct efforts made by any of subjects at these meetings to influence decision of miners. Indicates ELSHOFF created impression among committee of miners that Mine A would reopen and men return to work if P.M.A. would go over to U.M.W. States that EDMUNDSON made promise to do all in his power to reopen Mine A when men came over to U.M.W.

- R U C -

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau file No. 44-845.

Letter from Springfield to Bureau dated September 9, 1943.

**DETAILS:**

AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA:

[REDACTED] was located at this address and advised that he had been living there since May and was presently employed as [REDACTED]

Approved & Forwarded *[Signature]* SAC

DEFERRED ACTION

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[redacted] was thoroughly interviewed with respect to his knowledge of the events surrounding the circumstances involving the miners at Mine A changing unions in the latter part of 1941. [redacted] furnished the following information giving a signed statement which is set forth hereinafter:

"Norfolk, Virginia  
September 14, 1943

"I [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] whom I know to be a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to induce me to make this statement and I have been advised that I am not required to make any statement, and that anything I say may be used as evidence in court.

"I recall that in the summer of 1941, Mine A in Springfield, Illinois was sold by its owner, William Ryan, to the owner of Mine B, Carl Elshoff, the reason apparently being that Ryan was 'broke'. I know that in 1937, due to a dispute over the fact that about twelve spies of the UMW were causing trouble among the men of Mine B, which men the operators of Mine B refused to discharge, the P.M.A. union pulled the men out of Mine B causing it to close down. I know that eventually Mine B reopened and that it operated with men of the UMW union.

"I know that at the time Mine A was sold to Mine B, Mine A closed down, as it usually did each summer due to a regular seasoned closure. While Mine A was closed there were substantial rumors to the effect that Mine A would reopen only under men in the UMW. There were also rumors to the effect that if Mine A did not open under the UMW that the coal would probably be mined through Mine B, which connected underground with Mine A, and which was a UMW mine. It was pretty well understood by the PMA men as a result of these rumors that the owners of Mine B, who were now also the owners of Mine A, were in favor of the UMW and would not open Mine A under the PMA.

"About this time a special meeting of the PMA local was called by the PMA local officers. This meeting was held at the PMA Hall and I was present as a member of the local. I did not hold any official position at this meeting. At this meeting a number of the members discussed the general situation which I have mentioned, and the talk was that the men of the local wanted to get back to work at Mine A regardless of what

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was involved. No one came out and flatly stated that the PMA local should go over to the UMW, but the general trend of the meeting was to the effect that Mine A was now owned by Elshoff and that he favored the UMW and that he probably would not open it under PMA, and that therefore if work was to be had it would be necessary to join the UMW. No one in particular led this discussion at the meeting.

"Shortly after this I received an unsigned form letter in the mail, and I think that there was a notice in the newspapers, both to the effect that there would be a meeting of the Mine A local at the Redmen's Hall, giving the time and date, and stating that the purpose was to discuss the current situation.

[REDACTED]

The main talk at this meeting was made by [REDACTED] who indicated that he was on a committee which had visited Mr. Elshoff. The whole trend of [REDACTED] talk was that it had been indicated by Mr. Elshoff that Mine A would reopen and employ the men only if they came over to the UMW. [REDACTED] stated that Mr. Elshoff had not flatly stated this, but that this was the impression which Elshoff had left with the committee. As a result of [REDACTED] talk, and the general discussion, the general feeling expressed by the men present was that they wanted to go over to the UMW. I cannot positively say whether the men wanted to go over to the UMW because they liked the UMW or because they wanted to get back to work at any cost, but I believe that it was for the latter reason. Ray Edmundson was not present at this meeting at Redmen's Hall.

[REDACTED]

"Due to the fact that there were not a sufficient number of men present at the meeting at Redmen's Hall to take a vote, no vote was taken, but another meeting was decided upon at the Redmen's Hall meeting. It was subsequently announced that this meeting would be held at the Elk's Club. A few days after the Redmen's Hall meeting, the meeting at Elk's Hall was held. It was held on a Sunday, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] again spoke, and [REDACTED] spoke, and also [REDACTED], who was also on the committee which visited Mr. Elshoff, spoke. The only hope of the men to get their jobs in Mine A, was to join the UMW, inasmuch as this was the impression left on the committee by Mr. Elshoff, and was the general rumor around.

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"At this meeting a vote was taken, which vote was practically unanimous in favor of the PMA local going over to the UMW. At this point Mr. Edmundson was invited to come to the meeting, and he was informed as to the decision which had been reached. He thereupon addressed the meeting and stated that he was pleased to welcome the men into the UMW, and that he himself would do his best to make it possible for the men to go back to work at Mine A.

"At the conclusion of the meeting, a group of men went to Edmundson's office at his invitation. This group numbered about six or seven men, [redacted] and myself. When we got to Edmundson's office we discussed the getting of a charter for the new union local, and Edmundson said he would arrange for it and he also called his stenographer in and dictated a statement, which he signed, to the effect that he would do all in his power to get the mine reopened and get the men back to work in Mine A. Edmundson kept one copy of the statement, and gave the original to [redacted] with the understanding that if the mine reopened that the statement would be given back to Edmundson.

"At the meeting in the Elk's Hall, after the vote was taken and Edmundson called, he sent his secretary for some application blanks and every man in the hall signed an application to join the UMW. After this officers were nominated from the floor and someone suggested that [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

"Other than as stated above Ray Edmundson made no assurances in my presence that the mine would open if the union were UMW; nor did he ever indicate in my presence the extent of his relationship with Elshoff. I have never heard of the plans which Elshoff or Falcetti may have made concerning their plans for the operation of Mine A, or their relationship with the UMW, except as I have indicated above wherein I heard the statement of [redacted] relative to the impression left by Elshoff on their minds after they had conferred with him; and other than the general knowledge which most of the men had of the fact that the Mine B operators favored the UMW.

"Throughout this statement by UMW I refer to the United Mine workers of America.



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"I have read this statement consisting of nine hand-written pages, and state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge. I have initialled each of the pages and place my signature on this last page.

[REDACTED]

The original of this statement is being furnished to the Springfield Field Division with its copies of this report.

[REDACTED] was questioned closely as to whether or not there were two P.M.A. meetings at the P.M.A. Hall but stated that as far as he knew there was but one meeting and that he had not realized that there was a meeting at which a committee of the P.M.A. was appointed to contact ELSHOFF. He did state, however, that [REDACTED] apparently were members of such a committee since they spoke at subsequent meetings of having contacted ELSHOFF.

[REDACTED] was specifically asked whether he was present at a meeting held on the same night after meeting at the Elk's Club at which negotiations were made for signing a contract with the U.M.W. He stated that he knew of no meeting that night other than the meeting mentioned in his signed statement at which several of the officials and men present at the Elk's Club meeting went to Edmundson's office at which time EDMUNDSON prepared the signed statement promising to do all he could towards the reopening of the Mine.

It appears from the interview with [REDACTED] that he was not in a position to have heard ELSHOFF make any direct statements with regard to his attitude toward the reopening of the mine and the changing of the Unions. However, it is apparent that [REDACTED] were both present at the conference with ELSHOFF and it is probable that [REDACTED] was present at any negotiations which may have taken place concerning the formation of the new U.M.W. Union [REDACTED]

The following information concerning [REDACTED] is being set forth in the event it will be of any value in instant investigation:

Age:  
Date of Birth:  
Place of Birth:  
Height:

[REDACTED]

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Weight:  
Eyes:  
Hair:  
Complexion:  
Selective Service:

[REDACTED]

Occupation:  
Marital Status:

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ENCLOSURE:- Springfield Field Division - signed statement of [REDACTED] dated September 14, 1943, Norfolk, Va.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

**FILE DESCRIPTION**

**BUREAU FILE**

**SUBJECT** JOHN L. LEWIS

**FILE NO.** 44-845

**SECTION NO.** 6

**SERIALS** 105 p. 1

thru

105 p. 150

JANUARY 1, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NICHOLS  
RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
BUREAU FILE # 44-845-105

Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

The attached copy of a report dated September 13, 1943, by Special Agent [redacted] was forwarded to the Bureau by the Springfield, Illinois Field Office.

It does not appear that the Bureau would have use for the four (4) copies on hand of this report and inasmuch as they are occupying valuable space in the Records Section, it is requested that the file in this matter be reviewed by Division Five for an expression as to the disposition of this material.

RECOMMENDATION:

All but two copies of the report be destroyed here at the Seat of Government.

Respectfully,

R. F. Cartwright

*2 copies destroyed  
1-5-46  
W.C.*

*12/4/5  
OK 9/2/6*

COPIES DESTROYED

3 2 SEP 12 1974

54 JAN 5 1943

THIS MEMORANDUM IS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES  
TO BE DESTROYED AFTER ACTION IS TAKEN AND NOT SENT TO FILES

44-845-105



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This Case Originated At **SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

File No. 44-18

Report Made At SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS	Date Made 9-13-43	Period 9-2 thru 11, 1943, incl.	Report Made By [REDACTED] <span style="float: right;">b7c</span>
Title  JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL			Character of Case  CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Statements set forth of approximately 125 additional persons who were members of PMA Local No. 54 at Mine "B" in May 1937. In general, these statements reflect that the vast majority of Mine "B" employees favored PMA in May 1937; that the sit down strike which followed the attempted opening on September 27, 1937, was carried out voluntarily by Mine "B" employees without outside assistance; and that the NLRB election of December 13, 1937, was carried out in a fair and impartial manner. Concerning alleged UMW spies operating in PMA membership during the spring of 1937, statements obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and was not located for interview.

[REDACTED] declined to be interviewed, claiming they had been so advised by an attorney. Various reports received indicating employees at Mine "B" and Mine "A" have been advised to refer requests for interview to ARTHUR M. FITZGERALD, a Springfield attorney. Statement of [REDACTED] Board Member, set out. JACK GLASGOW, former UMW Board Member, furnished statement concerning pertinent conversations with subjects ELSHOFF, FALCETTI, and EDMUNDSON. ROBERT C. GLOMON, President, Panther Creek Mines, Inc., and his attorneys, L. G. PEPPERLE, and CLAYTON J. BARBER, furnished information concerning ELSHOFF's negotiations

Approved and  
FORWARDED: [Signature]

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

32 SEP 12 1974

44-445-105

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5 Springfield

60 SEP 22 1943

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEWS WITH PMA MINERS WHO WERE  
EMPLOYED AT MINE B IN MAY 1937

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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*Prig - United  
min at mine B*

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence at [REDACTED] on September 7, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is not considered by interviewing Agents as a good witness due to his poor speaking and difficulty in expressing himself. He gave information as set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 7, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I became an American citizen in [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 make this statement. I am willing, if necessary, to go to court, and repeat any part of this statement.

"I have been a coal miner since [REDACTED]. I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and have been a coal miner ever since. I have been working at Mine B since [REDACTED]. Before 1932 I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America. After 1932, the local at mine B belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I was never an officer of either union. I attended the union meetings frequently, under both unions. In 1937, when the strike started, I was satisfied with the way that the local and the Progressive Mine Workers of America were being operated. I do not recall that the men out there were against this union. I do not recall exactly why the strike started out there in 1937. There had been some quarrels over the amount of pay, but I do not know if that was what the strike started over.

[REDACTED] John Ananias, who is known as "Cotton" was expelled from the PMW. I was not at the trial when he was expelled, and do not know exactly what it was that he was expelled for. I think it was because he violated a rule of the union that a PMW member should not associate with a member of the UMW. Cotton had been a good friend of Tony Plotch for many years. Tony had been expelled from the PMW before, and Cotton had gone out to help Tony paint his house. Someone saw him, and preferred charges against him. When Cotton was expelled from the union, I think he was satisfied with the way that the union was being operated. I did not hear him make any remarks about being dissatisfied with the operation of the union.

[REDACTED] I have never heard him say that he wanted to change unions then.

"I do not recall what happened during the time of the strike. I did not work for about nine months. I remember that I was out at the



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

mine during the sit down strike, and stayed out there part of the time. I was not working there on the day that the sit down strike started, and do not know what happened. I stayed out there part of the time. The men who were there on the sit down were all men who had worked at Mine B before, as far as I know.

"I recall voting at an election for the unions in the winter of 1937. As far as I know that was a fair election. No one told me how to vote, or tried to influence my vote in any way. As far as I know everyone had a chance to vote as they wanted to at that election.

"I do not recall exactly when I went to work at the Jefferson mine. [REDACTED] "Cotton" was working out there, and he got me a job. I worked out there about 11 months. It was a UMW mine, and so I joined the UMW when I went to work out there. When that mine closed I had my card switched over to the Mine B local of the UMW. I did not care particularly which union I belonged to then.

"I went back to work timbering when the mine reopened. There had been no big fires in the mine during the time that it was closed.

"There had been some big cave ins, and they have not been cleaned up yet, in the south part. Some I helped to clean up myself.

"I knew [REDACTED] when he worked out there at mine B. He was an Air Check man, or something like that. I went around testing air. He had not worked at Mine B before the strike. Before the strike there had been a man checking the air part of the time, and working on other things. We called him [REDACTED]. When the mine came back, after the strike, [REDACTED] came back and continued to do the same sort of work that he did before, and that [REDACTED] was doing. After [REDACTED] left, no one was hired to do that kind of work, and [REDACTED] is still out there doing the same sort of thing.

"I heard that there was fighting going on at the mine after it reopened. I was not interested in the tings that happened out there, and did not see any fights. I was a member of the UMW and did not try to do any organizing or anything like that. I do not know of any organizing that was being done out there at the mine during that time.

"I do not recall Falcetti or Elshoff saying anything about either union, or which one they preferred. I did not see any papers handed out anywhere on the mine property. I do not recall signing any papers or petitions after the mine went out on strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

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

(Signed) [REDACTED]

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

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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

*P- United Mine Workers*  
[redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] on September 7, 1943. [redacted] advised he was unemployed prior to the time he was employed at Mine "B" in July 1940. [redacted] stated he did not have a criminal record. Although [redacted] speaks and understands English, he would not be considered as a good Government witness as it was obvious during the interview that he was not telling the truth and was in sympathy with UMW.

[redacted] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 7, 1943.

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. 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 first became a member of UMW in about [redacted] in Springfield, Ill.

"I was employed at the Jefferson Coal Mine, Springfield, Ill. in about 1937 where I was employed for [redacted]

"I was employed at Mine "B" in July 1940. I obtained a job as driver through OSCAR FALCETTI at Mine "B" as FALCETTI was the supt. when I was employed at the Jefferson Coal Mine. [redacted]

"In August 1940 I voluntarily joined UMW as I perferred UMW to PMA.

"When I was employed at Mine "B" I did not see any organizing for either UMW or PMA and I did not see any fights between UMW and PMA members.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941. So far as I know the election was fair and each miner at Mine "B" was allowed to vote as he wished.

[redacted]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I never took an active part in the activity of UMW and I have never been an officer of the union.

"I have read this statement consisting of two 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.

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RE; JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 8, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED]

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Sept 8, 1943  
[REDACTED] speaks and reads English very well, and can understand questions asked of him. He stated he is willing to testify, but noted that his memory as to specific dates is not too good. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
September 8, 1943.

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

"I live at [REDACTED] Illinois, and am working [REDACTED]. I was born [REDACTED]. I joined the United Mine Workers at [REDACTED] and was a member of that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, when I was working at the Peabody Mine. I started working at Mine B in 1934, and joined the P.M.A. local there at that time. [REDACTED] I've never been an officer in any union.

"From 1934 until 1937, things went pretty smoothly at the mine, until about six months before the strike. At that time some friction started, and some men began talking up the U.M.W. union. Some of the men talking were Bohannon, Plotch, Carter, Austin, Sirtout, and Pasquale. Although they never talked to me about the U.M.W., it was generally known that they were doing it.

"I went to quite a few P.M.A. meetings. Every member had a chance to speak his mind, and I, as well as most of the men, was satisfied with that union. I don't remember hearing of any favoritism shown by the management to the U.M.W. before the strike.

"I don't remember the P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. A few days before the strike, I heard, at the mine, that the P.M.A. had demanded that the management fire some men for acts done in violation of P.M.A. regulations. One of the men was AUSTIN, but I don't remember the names of any others. I heard of a P.M.A. meeting to discuss this question, but don't remember when it was.

"I went to work on the day of the strike, and saw men loading their cars short. I felt that some trouble was brewing, and didn't want any part

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

of it.

(continued)

When I got to the top of the mine, I saw men coming up from the mine. The men were loading short weights because the management refused to fire the men as asked. The men didn't want to go on open strike, but hoped to force the company's hand in that way. They weren't instructed to load short, and agreed among themselves to do it.

"When the men came up from the mine there was a lot of dissatisfaction among them. I don't think the trouble was caused by the wage dispute, or any feeling against the P.M.A., because the men felt that the P.M.A. could do them as much good as the U.M.W. I think the controversy between the management and the P.M.A. over the retroactive clause in the contract was brought on by the management to start trouble, and give the management a chance to join up with the U.M.W.

"On the day of the strike, when I came up from the mine, I saw Plotch, Pasquale, and Pasquale's son, come up and go into Falcetti's office. It struck me as funny, because the miners didn't usually associate with the management. It was especially peculiar, because I know they had been agitating for the U.M.W. I saw them in Falcetti's office, but I don't know what they were talking about. When I went home from the mine that day, I knew that the P.M.A. men wouldn't go back to work until a settlement was made. I don't remember if the P.M.A. officers told us to stay out or not.

"I don't remember signing any P.M.A. petition, or any other, in the summer of 1937. I heard at P.M.A. meetings that the U.M.W. was trying to take over Mine B, and we'd have to fight to hold our jobs. I knew that a U.M.W. local was organized in the summer of 1937, but I wasn't asked to join.

"I didn't go out to the picket line in the fall of 1937. It seems to me that I went back to the mine the night after the strike started to picket one or two days, but not after that. In the fall of 1937, I paid my dues to P.M.A., and went out to the mine to pay them. That was the only time I was around there. The decision to picket the mine was made at a P.M.A. meeting, but as I was working, I didn't go.

"In December of 1937, I voted in an election at the State Arsonal. I went voluntarily, but don't remember how I got the notice. I voted for P.M.A. because I was satisfied with that union. I felt that a small group of men were trying to shove something down the throats of the rest, and refused to have anything to do with it.



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"When I got notice that the mine would open in 1939, I went back to get my tools, and quit for good. No one, at any time, ever contacted, or said anything to me, about joining the U.M.W.

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

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

[REDACTED] Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill. (at [REDACTED] Ill.) "

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 4, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This man exhibited a lack of interest in union activities. He also showed a very poor memory, and an inability to express himself coherently. He said he never was arrested.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 4, 1943

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

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

"In [REDACTED] I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. in 1940. I have never held an office in any union.

"I don't remember anything about the reasons for the strike in 1937. No one came to me before the strike to try to get me to join the U.M.W. I was satisfied with the P.M.A. and it made no difference to me whether I belonged to one union or the other.

"After the strike started Dominic Pasquale, Andy Schrelevious, and Frank Austin at one time or another talked to me about joining the U.M.W. They did not threaten me. I think I joined the U.M.W. in 1940, but I am not sure. I joined the U.M.W. because everyone else was joining that union.

"I was only interested in working for my living and I did not pay much attention to union activities. I was willing to belong to whatever union would look out for me, and satisfied the majority of the miners.

"I have had this statement read to me and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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P. 0  
Interview with

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] expresses himself poorly and his knowledge of English, which is below the average miner, makes it difficult for him to properly answer questions put to him. He is cooperative. [REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

[REDACTED] Illinois  
September 4, 1943

"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 get 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]. I have been working in the mines since [REDACTED] and joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED]. I started to work at Mine B about 1935 and am still employed there. I joined Progressive in 1932 and have never held an office in any union.

"Progressive was started in 1932 when John Lewis stole some ballots. I had nothing to do with starting PMA. I do not go to many union meetings.

"As I remember, we had no trouble at Mine B in 1937 because of wages or contracts. We did have trouble with some spies, men who were working for U.M.W. Some of these men were Cotton, Tony Plotch, Bowling Green, and other's. There were about twelve or fourteen of these men. They never talked to me. P.M.A. gave these men lay off, (expelled) because they were spies. This happened at a PMA meeting. I wasn't there but I heard about it the next day. The company wouldn't fire these men although they were supposed to. The rest of the PMA men got mad because the company wouldn't fire these men. I don't remember any talk about wages at this time, although I recall that we were supposed to get some back pay when the new contract was signed. We felt that P.M.A. would get a good contract, as good as U.M.W.

"On the day of the strike I was working as a digger [REDACTED]. I went down in the pit that morning, same as usual, and I don't remember any trouble or argument that morning. I don't remember any cars being loaded short maybe I heard about it, but I am not sure. As I remember we were called out of the mine early that day, the men were mad because of the spies working there to. When I came out of the pit, I went on home. I am not sure when I learned there was a strike, whether it was that day or the next. The reason for the strike was because the men wouldn't work with those spies.

"I do not recall signing any petitions that summer, maybe I did

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] but I can not remember well.

(continued)

"In September, 1937 I was notified that the mine was going to open. When we got out there those spies were there too, and we wouldn't work with them. We started a picket line then and wouldn't let anyone go to work. I stayed on the picket line, coming home once in awhile, and remained there until a Federal man came and made us leave. I could come home whenever I wanted to while the picket line was there.

"I voted in the NLRB election in December of 1937. A bunch of us went from Auburn to Springfield where we met at the Union Hall. Small groups then went from there to the Armory and voted. The election was quiet and I saw no trouble.

"When the mine opened in 1939 I was notified to come to work and I did. At that time I was still a member of P.M.A. I remained a member of P.M.A. until sometime during the summer of 1940 at which time I joined United. I joined United because there was too much trouble, fellows going around hitting other fellows. [REDACTED] tried to get me to join U.M.W. and told me if I didn't I might get kicked out of the mine, or it might cost me a lot of money. One morning while I was at the mine I saw one man knock another man down but I went right into the washhouse. [REDACTED] came to my house just once, trying to get me to join U.M.W. *Widener*

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
Auburn, Illinois

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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month 3  
INTERVIEW WITH

On September 3, 1943, Special Agents

and interviewed

at his home at Springfield, Illinois.

advised that the above is his complete name although he is generally known as

was observed to be a person of ordinary intelligence. He appeared to be honest and cooperative, although he claimed that due to his position as at the mine he had little knowledge as to what went on in the mine and paid little attention to union matters. It is not believed that would be a particularly good witness but he would be willing to act as such in the event he is needed. He advised that he has no criminal record.

gave the following signed statement:

Springfield, Ill.

Sept. 3, 1943

"I give the following statement to and who are known to me to be Special Agts. of the F.B.I. no threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement.

"I was born near Springfield, Ill. At present I am employed at Panther Creek Mine No. 1. I joined a mine union at Barclay, Ill. when I was about yrs. old I have never held any union office. I first worked in Mine "B" in Aug. I have worked there continuously while the mine was running until Aug. 1943.

"Prior to 1932 Elshoff and U.M.W. got on alright as far as I know. In 1932 John Lewis was supposed to have stolen the ballots and the Mine "B" men went to P.M.A.. I did not care which Union we belonged to, never did. From 1932 to the time of the strike Eshoff and P.M.A. seemed to get along good. I know they hoisted more coal than they ever did. I never heard Elshoff or Falsetti say anything about getting rid of P.M.A. and getting U.M.W. back, they wouldn't say anything to me. I think the P.M.A. officials and members had some difficulty, seemed to me there were some few who wanted to go back in U.M.W. even then. As far as I know local 54 P.M.A. was alright, I never suspected the P.M.A. officials of stealing any of the money, the dues were no higher than U.M.W.

"I remember the conviction of the P.M.A. men for bombing. I couldn't say who done it. Between 1932 and the time of the strike in 1937 I don't



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

believe U.M.W. ever picketed the mine. I heard that Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, Geo. and Emory Jacaway, Chas. Bohanon and James Hale were trying to see how many wanted to go over to U.M.W. none of them bothered me at this time.

"Between 1932 and 1937 I never heard of Elshoff or Falsetti giving any parties for the U.M.W. officials. I wasn't in any position to hear this. I was not very active in union affairs.

"Just before the mine closed I recall the contract ran out the first of April as always. I did not hear anything about any agreement under which the men were working. No one said anything to me about it. I never heard anything about the possibility of the P.M.A. not being able to get as good a contract as U.M.W. at that time I was on a switch Engine and didn't have to belong to the Union. I don't remember anything about any disputes on pay day at this period.

"I did not attend the meeting at which some the men were kicked out. I heard some men were kicked out but I don't know for sure. On the morning of May 12th I was working on the Mine "B" railroad and knew nothing about any possibility of a strike. I believe they quit working sometime before quitting time. I don't really know whether the strike was caused over wages or over the Co. refusing to fire the expelled men. It might have been either one. I know or rather heard that some cars were loaded short the day of the strike but I didn't see any of them at the time. I heard one of the men who favored U.M.W. say he loaded cars that way because his buddy did and he felt he had to. I don't know why the cars were short loaded or who gave the orders for it.

"I don't remember the petition of the P.M.A. on May 26, 1937. I wasn't around most of the time as I would get work one place or another most of the time. I do recall signing some petition for the U.M.W. thinking at the time that the U.M.W. was in the majority. I found out later that I was misinformed. I don't know who told me that. When I found out that this was wrong I went up and withdrew my name. Prior to signing the U.M.W. petition I had joined the U.M.W., the other engineers did too, we then went out to the mine and saw the majority of the men were still P.M.A. and went back and signed an affidavit. This affidavit was dated Sept. 10, 1937 at Springfield, Ill. It states that the signers revoke their membership in any union other than P.M.A. The affidavit has been shown me by F.B.I. Agents and I acknowledge it to be true and made freely by me. The signature thereon is my own.

"I attended a meeting of the new U.M.W. local formed in the summer of 1937. I was told by several I don't know who now that it was being formed



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

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and they claimed they had a majority.

(continued)

"I don't remember signing any other Petitions during the summer. It made no difference to me which union I joined. I wanted just to go with the majority of the men. I don't remember anything unusual happening during the summer of 1937 up to the time of the strike.

"I was there when they tried to open the mine in Sept. 1937. I just went out and set on the engine and did no work. I don't know if anyone went into the mine or not. I had been working all along up to this time the engineers don't go out on strike. Sometime during the sit-down strike the mine operators laid the engineers off because the mine had been shut down so long. I never participated in the picketing at all. I was there in my capacity as an engineer. After I was laid off I never went back to the mine till it reopened for good. The strike was peaceful and I know of no outside men being brought in by P.M.A. to help in the picketing. If any drunks came out the P.M.A. men took them away. I think the men were there of their own free will. I heard one man say they were just protecting their jobs.

"I think Elshoff was appointed receiver over the Jefferson mine. I understood that some of the men from Mine "B" went over there and did some work. I don't know why this was done. I don't know how Elshoff was able to keep the mine closed for so long. I just heard some talk that he was getting some money from Lewis.

"I heard of the first N.L.R.B. election but took no part in it.

"When the mine opened the last time I received some notice that it was going to open. At that time I was working at [REDACTED] so I told Falsetti I would have to give some notice. He told me that was alright to work another shift and come back. When I went back I paid my dues to the Progressives up until the time I saw it was useless. They finally when all the men were signing up, brought me an application and told me I would have to sign up again even though I had signed before. Some Italian fellow brought this blank to me at the mine. I signed it without being compelled because everyone else was going over. The men, I believe, went over to U.M.W. because they felt it was their only hope of keeping working. They knew that Elshoff would refuse to do business with the Progressives and figure that was the only way to keep the mine open. From the time we went back to work up until the 2nd N.L.R.B. election I don't recall signing anything for either side except when I went over to U.M.W. I never even saw a fight during the time from when we went back to work and the 2nd N.L.R.B. election.

"I voted in the 2nd N.L.R.B. election. Nobody forced to vote in this election or how to vote. As far as I know the election was square.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

Most all the men had already signed up for U.M.W. but I heard they still didn't all vote that way. I reckon I voted U.M.W. but I really don't know. I think the U.M.W. won because a lot of the P.M.A. men were gone lots of them didn't come back and I think the men just decided that was the only way out if they wanted to work. The Co. just refused to have anything to do with the Progressives. I don't know why but they did. I don't know anything about the condition of the mine when opened. I know they don't get out as much coal as they used to but they don't have as many men either. I don't know anything about any fire in Mine "B" while it was closed. I don't remember anything about the meeting at which [REDACTED] was kicked out because of an argument over money matters.

"I have read the foregoing statement of 9 pages and it is all true to the best of my knowledge. I am therefore signing this of my own free will.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw., Wis.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 3, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield,

Illinois. [REDACTED] appears to be above the average miner in intelligence, is co-operative, and it is felt would make a satisfactory witness. It is noted that he was not working at Mine "B" from 1934 until 1940. He was rehired at Mine "B" in 1934 after an absence of several months. However P.M. would not allow him to work and as a result he felt bitter toward P.M. It is noted that OSCAR FALCETTI was aware of this trouble when he rehired [REDACTED] in 1940. [REDACTED] furnished the following statement.

"Springfield, Ill  
Sept\_ 7, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] both of whom have identified themselves as 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 in [REDACTED] and came to the U.S. in [REDACTED]. I am a U. S. citizen and presently reside at [REDACTED]. I am not employed at the present time.

"I started working for Mine B in [REDACTED] the first Progressive Convention in 1932. At this time in Springfield the men in the United Mine [REDACTED] getting pretty sick of the U.M.W. A lot of the men were being kicked out of their jobs and 'put on the road' for minor reasons. The men in United figured if they formed a new union their troubles would be over, but it didn't turn out that way. The men then started Progressive in about 1932. The Progressive and militant members of United flocked to the Progressive and it seemed to have a good start to be the best union.

"The Progressive element seemed to fall off after April of 1934 & the U.M.W. union seemed to be growing. I left Mine B in 1934. When I left Mine B it seemed to me as though the union officers of progressive were a bit weak and didn't seem to be able to lead the common membership. The local never seemed to be able to control the men and keep them in line as far as my opinion goes. The union seemed to be getting along OK with the company though up till the time I left the company at least.

"All the time I was in the Progressive union I was trying to have that union organize all the miners and unify them for a common cause to better themselves. I left Mine B in 1934 & went to [REDACTED]

I came back to Mine B in about October or November and tried to get my job back at Mine B. I saw Oscar Falcetti and he gave me my job back. Then I went up to the Progressive union meeting and was told

Re. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

that I was behind in my dues and they didn't consider me a member in good standing. I had worked at Mine B one day when the pit committee told Falcetti I was

not in good standing at the union and that I should go to the union hall and straighten it out. When I got to the union hall I talked to [REDACTED] of Progressive and asked him if I could be reinstated. He said I couldn't start out at Mine B while other Progressives were out of work. He more or less evaded the direct question as to my reinstatement and in my opinion the Progressives didn't want me to get back in the union or work at Mine B.

"I drew up an appeal from this decision and mailed it to the National Secretary, Mr. Keck, at Gillespie, but I never got an answer. I was going to fight the case, but made up my mind I would never join Progressive again and in fact was quite mad at Progressives. I worked at WPA and odd jobs from 1934 to the fall of 1940.

"In the fall of 1940, I knew there was a little trouble at the mine & was told by some of the men that United was in majority & that I could probably get a job out at Mine B. I called Falcetti and asked him if I could have a job. He told me I could always have a job at Mine B and asked me if 'I had a card.' He knew that I had some trouble with progressive and I suppose he was referring to that when he asked me about the card. He asked me if I could get a card and although he didn't say it, I took it for granted that he wanted to know if I could get a union card in United. When I went out to the mine I was approached by Joe Albanese who asked me if I wanted to join United. Nobody told me to see Joe, but he was on top near the tipple and asked me to join. It is almost a matter of policy for all miners unions to have a man on top whose job it is to see all new men and try to sign them up. I joined the U.M.W. at that time. I heard that there was a lot of fighting going on at Mine B from 1939 until 1941, but I personally never saw any fighting.

"I worked at Mine B from 1940 until [REDACTED] During the time I was the mine and before the election, I personally had talked to some of the men and talked to them about joining the U.M.W. In my opinion there isn't room for two unions in the coal mining business and as far as I'm concerned I would be satisfied if the U.M.W. was the only union in the industry. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] During the time I was in office I don't know of any transactions or 'deals' which aroused my suspicions. There was nothing to indicate anything was being done wrong in the local.

"I did notice that during the period from 1940 there were a great many strangers hired at the mine. A lot of them were from the south [REDACTED]

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

and many of them were united men, and I think that a lot of those men are still working there. I was quite regular in my attendance at meetings up until

a short time ago. I haven't been to a union meeting of the U.M.W. though for about a month.

"I believe that Falcetti worked at the Bremerton mine in 1934 when Elshoff was appointed receiver. The mine was then under progressive I believe. I don't know anything further about Falcetti working at that mine at any other time. I did hear that the men were only paid 75% of their wages, but I don't know who got the balance.

[REDACTED] I also think that Falcetti felt that I was given some poor treatment by the progressives and that he would give me a job because he felt I was entitled to one. I voted in the NLRB election in Feb. of 1941 and everything seemed to be all right at that time. 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

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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*Prig  
not at home*  
INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home on September 2, 1943, by Special

Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks English very well and is able to understand and answer questions asked of him. He expressed his willingness to testify in court if necessary. [REDACTED] admitted that he has been arrested several times for drunkenness, but denied any other criminal record. The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 2, 1943

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I was born [REDACTED]. I am not employed at the present time. I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, in [REDACTED] when employed at Mine B. I remained a member of that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers. I took no part in the organization of the P.M.A., but joined it when the rest of the men at Mine B did. As I remember it, the P.M.A. was organized by the men in 1932, because of certain ballots supposed to have been stolen. Lewis had tried to sign a contract with the mine operators, making the miners take a reduction in pay. The miners voted on the question, but before the vote could be counted, the ballots had disappeared. Lewis signed a contract with the mine operators at a lower wage, thus forcing the men to go back to work at a lower wage scale. The locals of U.M.W., because of this, stayed away from the U.M.W., and swung over to P.M.A. when that union was organized. I was dissatisfied with the U.M.W. even before this time, because I didn't think the U.M.W. was doing all it could for the men.

"I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A. and with the way the way the P.M.A. was run by its officers. The P.M.A. always made the operators of Mine B live up to the terms of their contract, and always treated the men squarely. I don't remember of any trouble between the mine management and the P.M.A. between 1932 and the strike in 1937.

"The only thing I can remember about company favoring of any union was one time when I was talking to the superintendent, Falcetti. He asked me to join the U.M.W. He said he could get better conditions out of the U.M.W. than out of P.M.A., that the

*good*



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

conditions would be to the advantage of Mine B operators. This occurred some time before the strike in 1937. No one else ever spoke to me about

joining the U.M.W. before the strike in 1937.

"I remember seeing a notice of a special meeting to be held by the P.M.A. on the night before the strike. This bulletin was placed on the bulletin board at the mine. I did not attend the meeting, and don't remember why the meeting was held, although it might have been to discuss the terms of the contract to be signed by the P.M.A. with Elshoff.

"On the day of the strike, we were called out, as I remember, about ten o'clock. I don't know if the men were called out by the P.M.A. or by the management. I don't remember hearing anything about the cause of the strike, and I don't recall any of the men loading their cars short on that day. I don't remember hearing any talk about U.M.W. spies being discharged.

"I don't remember getting any notice that the mine would be reopened before the fall of 1939, when it actually did open. In September of 1937, when the mine attempted to open, with U.M.W. men also to work, the P.M.A. agreed by vote, to picket the mine and not allow any U.M.W. men to work it. The purpose of the picket line was to keep the management of Mine B from using U.M.W. men, and allowing them to take over the jobs of the P.M.A. men. I remember that some of the men who were in the U.M.W. at that time, and wanted to go down in the mine, were Bohannon, Hale, Pasquale, Carter, Austin, and some others whose names I can't remember. At the time of the federal injunction, in 1937, I felt, as did most of the men, that its purpose was to get us off the mine property. I was on the picket line, and saw only Mine B men there. After the union vote, we decided on the picket line, but no one was forced to go out to the picket line.

"In December of 1937, I saw a notice in the paper that there was to be an election held by the labor board. I also heard about the election from the P.M.A. On the day of the election, we met in Progressive Hall, and went over to the election twelve at a time. The P.M.A. gave us no instructions how to vote, and it was a very orderly election. A ballot was received from a representative of the labor board, when the miner's name and check number, had been checked off the list in his possession. Each union had the right to challenge any vote they chose. There was supposed to be a U.M.W. man as well as a P.M.A. man assisting the labor board man, but the U.M.W. failed to appoint a man, so the labor board man selected a man to help him. I voted for the P.M.A. in that election because I felt that it was a better union than the U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

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"I don't know much about the bombings in the territory, but I seem to remember that most of the men didn't believe that all who were accused of it

were guilty.

"In the fall of 1939 I heard through the P.M.A. officials that the mine was going to reopen. I think they said that the mine would reopen under a U.M.W. contract. About one week before the mine opened, Bohannon and [REDACTED] came to my house, and asked me to join the U.M.W. They told me that all the men were going U.M.W. and I had better join up if I wanted to work. Aside from that, they did not use any threats. I told them I didn't want to sign up, that I didn't want to work in coal mines any more. When I went back to work, in the fall of 1939, I just cleaned up some of the work left at the time of the strike, not taking more than a couple of days, and then quit. I had some loose coal, that had been shot, and wanted to load it, and get credit for it. I also thought that sooner or later the mine would go back U.M.W. and I didn't have any use for the U.M.W. I also wanted to get out of the mines and into something else if I could.

"One day in town, after I quit the mine, I saw one of the men, [REDACTED], who was hurt. I asked what had happened, and was told that he had been beat up in the mine. I heard of others who were beat up, but I can't remember their names & did hear that they were beat up because they didn't want to join the U.M.W. *Witness*

"I remember hearing, while the strike was going on, that Elshoff told Dan McGill and William Compton that he never would sign another contract with the P.M.A. I also heard somewhere that the Mine B management and the U.M.W. men had a beer picnic, but I don't know the time and place, or any more about it.

"I did not vote in the election of 1941, and never joined the U.M.W.

"I know that there was no position at the mine before the strike for an air-checker. After the strike, [REDACTED] had a job called that, and I heard that a person had to see him if you wanted to get a job at Mine B.

The above statement, consisting of approximately five and a quarter pages, has been read to me, and I state it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/S/ [REDACTED]  
Witnesses:

/S/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, FBI,  
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

*P.D.  
Panther Creek*

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 3, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks English very poorly, and is able to understand it only when spoken very slowly and plainly. He can write only his name. He expressed his willingness to testify in court on this matter, and claimed that he never has been arrested.

The following is the signed statement as executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 3, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and entered the United States in [REDACTED]. I became a citizen in [REDACTED] at Springfield. I work at the Panther Creek Mine Number 4, and live at [REDACTED] Springfield.

"I joined the United Mine Workers in Springfield in [REDACTED] and remained a member of that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. In January of 1941, I joined the U.M.W. again, and was a member of that union until I quit Mine B, and went to work at Panther Creek. I am now a member of the P.M.A. again. As I remember, the P.M.A. was formed because the men didn't like the idea of Lewis accepting lower wages for the men against their wishes.

"The P.M.A. union was a good one. The union looked out for the men's interests, and treated them fair and square. Although I didn't go to many meetings, I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A. From 1932 to 1937, I didn't know of any trouble at the mine between the mine and Elshoff.

"I don't remember anything about a P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. On the day of the strike the men all went down into the mine. When the Mine Management let some men, who were kicked out of the P.M.A. because of U.M.W. work go down into the mine, the men, members of P.M.A., began loading the cars short. The union officials hadn't told the men to do this, but the men did it on their own. About two o'clock, the strike was called and the men left the mine.

"I don't remember signing a petition for P.M.A., in the summer of 1937. I don't remember signing papers of any kind that summer. No one

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] came to me that summer, at any time before I went back to work, and tried to get me to join the U.M.W. In December of 1937, at an election, I voted for the P.M.A., because I liked that union, and didn't like the U.M.W.

"I started work at Mine B again in December of 1939. Almost every day men came to me and talked to me and tried to get me to join the U.M.W. I don't remember who they were except one was [REDACTED]. They all told me that if I didn't sign with U.M.W. I'd lose my job. I finally joined the U.M.W., sometime before the election of 1941. I joined only because I was afraid I would lose my job if I didn't.

"Right after I joined the U.M.W. I was given a different place to work in, much worse than the one I had before, and was told that if I didn't like it I could quit my job. In the election of 1941, although I was a member of the U.M.W., I voted for the P.M.A. because conditions were 100% better under the P.M.A., and I liked that union much better. Under the P.M.A. I had better rooms, and conditions were much better.

"One day, after the election, [REDACTED] and another man came to my room in the mine, grabbed me by the arms, and wanted to know why I said that I had been made to join the U.M.W. They didn't hurt or threaten me, and, when I told them I hadn't said it to anyone, they left. I never did tell anyone I was made to join the U.M.W., because I was afraid to say anything like that, because I know I would have been beat up if I did. Nelson

"In September of 1937, when they tried to open up the mine, we went out to the mine to go to work. Falcetti asked the president of the P.M.A. for 50 men to open the mine. The president said he would give him 100 men to work the mine. Falcetti told him that he, Falcetti, didn't want P.M.A. men, he wanted U.M.W. men. He said he wouldn't open the mine if the U.M.W. men didn't come in to work it. I heard Falcetti say this at Mine B in September of 1937. I went on the picket line at that time, because I wanted to, and not because anyone forced me. I didn't see anyone there who wasn't a Mine B man. // 9/27

"I saw [REDACTED] after he was beat up in the mine. He was beaten because he didn't want to join the U.M.W.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of about three and a half pages, read to me and I state that it is true to the best of knowledge. [REDACTED] was present when this was read to me. [REDACTED]

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] who has also used the name [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on September 2, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was not able to explain clearly why he used the name [REDACTED], but it is believed that he worked as an apprentice under [REDACTED] and used [REDACTED] name on his work papers. [REDACTED] is able to understand English fairly well, but is able to express himself only in simple terms. He claims a limited reading and writing ability in English. [REDACTED] said he is willing to testify in court. He stated that he has never been arrested.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 2, 1943

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

"I presently live at [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, and am employed at Mine A. I am registered on the mine lists as [REDACTED] which name I used to get a job when I first came to this country. [REDACTED] I couldn't have gotten a job unless I had papers, and this [REDACTED] had the experience. When he left the mines, I used his papers.

"I was born in [REDACTED] I entered the United States in [REDACTED] and became a naturalized citizen at Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED] under petition number [REDACTED] certificate number [REDACTED] I joined a union, the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] and remained a member until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I began work at Mine B in [REDACTED] I joined the U.M.W. just after the election in February 1941, when the U.M.W. won.

"I joined the P.M.A. because the majority of the men were in favor of it. I didn't take any active part in organizing the P.M.A., but just went along with the men. I was never an officer in any union. From 1932 to 1937, I saw or heard of no trouble between the P.M.A. and the management, and I did not know of any bad feeling in the union, on the part of the men against the officers of the P.M.A., or anything like that. I went to some of the P.M.A. meetings, but not very many. The



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH

P.M.A. tried to do the best it could for its members, and was run all right.

(Continued)

"I do not remember going to any P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike. I don't remember if a notice of the meeting was posted or not, and I don't know the reason for the meeting. A day or so before the strike, in 1937, I knew that there was going to be a strike. A couple of men told me there would be one, but I don't remember who they were or exactly what they said. Because of this I didn't go out to Mine B on the day of the strike, so I don't know what happened that day.

"I don't remember signing any paper for the P.M.A., or for any union, in the summer of 1937. I do know that I was not asked to join the U.M.W., either before the strike, or during the summer of 1937.

"I don't remember any notices being sent me about the mine being reopened. I did picket at the mine in the fall of 1937, when the other P.M.A. men did, but I was not forced to. I did it because I wanted to be with the majority of the men. I do not remember seeing any men there who were not working, or had been working, at Mine B. I do not know the reason we were picketing, but I do remember that we heard of the federal injunction several days before the U. S. Marshal came out to the mine.

"In 1937, I remember that I voted in the election held at the state armory. I don't know how I knew about the election, but I do know I voted for P.M.A., because I thought it was the better of the two unions. No one made me vote at the election, but I did it of my own free will.

"I don't remember exactly, but I think that I heard about the re-opening of Mine B in 1939 over the radio. I don't remember getting any notice from the mine management or from the union. I was sick at the time and think I started back to work at Mine B in 1940. About a week after I started back to work, some man I didn't know came to me and told me I ought to join the U.M.W. because they were going to run the mine. I told him I wouldn't join up right away, but would when I thought the majority of the men wanted that union. This is the first time anyone ever talked to me about the U.M.W., and I never was threatened in any way. I joined the U.M.W. about two weeks later, because I thought most of the men wanted it, and I would have to, to keep my job. No one ever told me that I would lose my job if I didn't sign up with the U.M.W. If anyone had said so, I would have quit. As it was, I joined without any threats being used.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I don't remember voting in the election of 1941. If I had, I probably would have voted for the P.M.A., because I had a lot of friends in the P.M.A., and liked it better than the U.M.W. Today, however, it makes no difference to me which union is in. I just want to work, and keep my job.

"The above statement has been read to me in the presence of [REDACTED] and I state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge. This statement consists of about four pages.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, FBI  
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] citizen and speaks English good and should make a fair witness except that his knowledge of pertinent facts to this case is limited due to his not being employed at Mine "B" during the whole controversial period. He has no known criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ill.  
September 4, 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.

"I was born [REDACTED] Ill. and reside at [REDACTED] Ill.

"I began working in coal mines at [REDACTED] Ill. about [REDACTED] I joined U.M.W. at that time and remained such until 1932 when I joined P.M.A. I was working at Panther Creek Mine #1 at that time and our local voted to change to PMA and then the mine shut down. I did not work in the mines after that until I started at Mine "B" in 1936.

"I knew of no trouble at Mine "B" when I first started to work there but a month or so before the P.M.A. contract ran out, I remember someone telling me that U.M.W. was attempting to sign up the miners in U.M.W. A little later a man named [REDACTED] told me that the shot firer whose name was "Jimmy" was asking the men to join U.M.W. and that I should watch my step but he never did ask me to join U.M.W.

"During this time I heard that Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John Ananias, John Sirtout, Charles Bohannon, James Hale, were all working as spies at Mine "B" but none of them ever approached me to get me to join U.M.W. before the strike in 1937.

"I did not know any of those men had been expelled from P.M.A. at the time of the strike and I did not hear that we were supposed to load cars short on the day of the strike. I worked a full day and loaded all cars the same as I had been and had two cars loaded in the mine which were later hoisted when the mine was opened for one day by U.M.W. I learned that the mine was on strike the next day when I went to work the next day. I learned that the reason for the strike was because the men refused to work

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

with those men who had been expelled, and that the men were expelled for trying to organize for U.M.W.

"I signed a petition for P.M.A. about two weeks after the strike.

"I don't recall signing any other petitions in the summer of 1937. I saw in the paper that the mine was to reopen and I went to the mine with my bucket expecting to go to work but when I got there these 12 men or so were lined up at the company office with Oscar Falsetti and the P.M.A. men refused to work with these 12. I did not hear any comments by Falsetti at that time but Falsetti did tell me at my home one time while the mine was closed that he didn't think Mine "B" would ever open up under P.M.A. contract.

"I picketed at Mine "B" until we were served with an injunction. Only Mine "B" employees were picketing.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in 1937 and in my estimation the election was fair and conducted in a satisfactory manner. We went in groups from the P.M.A. hall to the election and there was no violence at this time that I know of, nor were we threatened at anytime during the election.

"There was an attempt to open the mine again shortly after the election but only 18 men who were U.M.W. went down the shaft and the rest of us refused to work with them.

"I then got a job in February, 1938 at Panther Creek No. 5 Mine and am still employed there. I am still a member of P.M.A. and I have not held an office in any union.

"About Christmas, 1937, Pete Carter and another man unknown to me came to my house attempting to get me to join U.M.W. so the mine could be opened but I refused because I like PMA better than U.M.W.

"I have had this 4 page statement read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] seemed to be quite a verbose talker and advised that inasmuch as he had always been interested in union political activities he had many enemies within both unions. [REDACTED] spoke in very bragging tones of his political connections. [REDACTED] speaks in an intelligent manner, but it is not believed he would be a reliable witness. There is being set forth below the following signed statement executed by [REDACTED].

"Springfield, Ill  
9-7-43.

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

"I was born in [redacted] and presently live at [redacted]. I started working as a miner in about [redacted] and joined the U.M.W. at that time. I have held various offices in the U.M.W. but can't remember the dates. I haven't been going to union meetings for the past month or two. I recall now that I started mining in [redacted] and started at Mine B in [redacted]. I worked at Mine B from [redacted] until [redacted]."

"I believe it was in 1938 or 1939 that I went back to Mine B and worked for a few days. When the state went progressive in 1932 [REDACTED] I was given an honorary card in Progressive. This meant that I didn't have to pay dues in the union and made it sure that a man wouldn't lose his job.

"I believe it was in April of 1940 that I started working at Mine B again and have worked there ever since. When I started back at the mine I thought that my card in progressive was still good. The progressives told me at first I would have to pay a fee of \$25 and when I objected they lowered it to \$10. This was supposed to be an initiation fee for new miners and since I didn't think I should even pay \$10 I told them so. I was finally accepted as a member in good standing of progressive and I believe I paid dues for about three months.

"To the best of my recollection I had worked at the mine at least a month before I even inquired about my status with progressive.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
(continued)

My heart had always more or less been with United Mine Workers so after about 4 months I decided to join U.M.W. No pressure was put on me to join and no threats were ever made against me.

"In view of the fact

I don't know much about the events at the mine during that period. During the time I have been employed at Mine B I have never seen any fighting. On one occasion when I first started back at Mine B the first time after the strike, I asked me how I liked 'scabbing for United.'

The union knew I had made an agreement with that if either of the two got more votes than the other then the man with the lower votes would throw his support to the other.

"Nobody ever told me I had to be a member of any union to get a job at Mine B. The progressive men asked me to come to meetings but no threats were made against me to join any union. I joined the United in 1940 because I figured I would be with the majority.

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

"Witnesses

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 6, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] replied to all questions asked, but gave the impression he studiously avoided making replies that would be helpful to the government's case. From personal contact with this person he does not appear to make a desirable government witness. He executed the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 6, 1943.

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

[REDACTED] I am presently employed at Mine "B" Springfield, Illinois and living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union at [REDACTED] Illinois, about [REDACTED] and worked at the [REDACTED] Coal Company near [REDACTED] Illinois. I worked at four other mines from the time I started working at the [REDACTED] Coal Co. until the time I started working at Mine "B".

"I started working at Mine "B" in October [REDACTED] and left there two years later which was about [REDACTED] I returned to work at Mine "B" two months later in [REDACTED] I worked under the UMW during the above periods.

[REDACTED]

"As far as I know relations between Elshoff and the UMW prior to 1932 were good and the same applies to the relations between Elshoff and the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as PMA from 1932 to the Spring of 1937.

"I never heard that the PMA miners were dissatisfied with PMA officials. I know of no fraud being used by PMA officials against the rank and file miners of PMA.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932. I liked the P.M.A. and felt I was getting more benefits under the PMA than under the UMW, but I do not care which union I belong to.

"I knew the following miners who worked at Mine B prior to the close-down in May, 1937: Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, James Hale, and Cudge Bumgarner.

"I never knew that any of these men aggitated or organized for UMW before the strike in May, 1937. Before May, 1937 I was never contacted by anyone to get me to join UMW.

"I feel that PMA had the majority at Mine B from 1932 until the strike in May, 1937.

"I am not familiar with the wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

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

"I have never attended many union meetings before I became a trustee of the UMW.

"I noticed on every trip on the last day the mine worked in May, 1937 which was May 12th, that the coal cars were being loaded short. I did not know the reason for this. I noticed the men were uneasy, but I did not know why.

"I was at Mine B during the picketing, and stood around the yard with the other PMA men. I did not work.

"I do not remember the PMA petition of May 26, 1937, and I do not recall any other petitions being circulated that summer. I do not remember any of the occassions Mine B tried to reopen. I did not go the the mine when it tried to re-open.

"I started back to work in Mine B. in November, 1939, as a member of PMA.

"I joined the UMW sometime after I started back to work in November, 1939. and before the second N.L.R.B. election in February, 1941.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"When I returned to work at Mine B. in November, 1939, I saw a lot of miners starting to work there that I had never seen before. I do not know where they came from. Later I found out from conversations I had at the mine that these new men who I did not remember were UMW organizers. I do not mean to include in this group the men whose names I mentioned heretofore in this statement.

"I would like to relate how I happened to sign up with UMW. One morning I was alone on the "bottom" of the mine and FRANK AUSTIN came up to me and asked me what I thought about signing up with UMW. I said I did not know, but I would wait to determine what the rest of the miners did. He told me not to wait. He said he did not think the mine would work if we did not sign up with UMW, but he did not say why. He said if we did not sign up with UMW the mine would work steady in Mine B. He did not threaten me. I have never talked to any miners that had been threatened.

"I never heard there had been a big fire at Mine B or any fire at all until the winter of 1942.

"I think the results of the first NLRB election held in December, 1937, presented a true picture how the miners felt. That election was won by the PMA.

"I have read this statement consisting of three and one half pages and have initialed the first three pages and it is 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

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]  
at [redacted] Illinois on September 3, 1943.

At his residence [redacted] agents interviewed [redacted] and he advised he has never been arrested in his life. It was noted that he had some difficulty in understanding some questions asked him but was able to give understandable answers. He mentioned he went to the second grade and did not have any further education. If his testimony is necessary, it is felt that he will make a fair witness. [redacted]

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[redacted] Ill.  
Sept. 3, 1943

"I, [redacted] Ill. am making this free & voluntary statement to [redacted] & [redacted] who are known to me to be Special Agents of F.B.I. U.S. Dept. of Justice. No threats or promises have been made me.

"I was born [redacted] & I came to U.S. about [redacted] & became a citizen [redacted] at Springfield, Ill. I worked for Mine B at Springfield, Ill. from [redacted] as a coal digger [redacted] Then I joined U.M.W. at [redacted] Ill. in [redacted] & I never held any office. I don't recall of any trouble between ELSHOFF & U.M.W. before 1932. I can't recall for sure if P.M.A. & ELSHOFF got along O.K. before Mine B closed or if ELSHOFF complained of P.M.A. Just before the mine closed I heard from other miners that JOHN L. LEWIS was giving some money to ELSHOFF but I can't recall more about it. As far as I know P.M.A. officials got along O.K. with P.M.A. miners. I have no opinion re the bombings by P.M.A. men.

"I never attended any P.M.A. meetings because they are too far away. As far as I know P.M.A. officials were running the local O.K. I don't hear nothing of trouble between P.M.A. & U.M.W. before Mine B closed & I don't know of any spies being there. I never heard a thing about any parties bet. U.M.W. & ELSHOFF or others. I don't recall much about the wage question at Mine B before it closed as it is such a long time ago. I know nothing about a meeting before Mine B closed. I can't recall what happened on day mine closed as it is so long ago, and I don't know why the mine closed at all as I never paid much attention to it. I think I once heard P.M.A. was going to kick out several men but I don't think they did it. I heard from the miners that [redacted] told them to put only a shovel full of coal in their cars on the day Mine B

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

closed. I recall of signing several petitions for PMA but I never signed any for U.M.W. I signed them of my own free will & no one forced me to sign. I can't recall if UMW lead a petition out in 1937 but I know I never signed for them. I heard something about UMW forming a new local but I never paid any attention to UMW matters at all. In fall of 1937 I was at Mine B because I saw in paper it was going to open under UMW & FALCETTI wanted to let some UMW men down but he wouldn't let PMA men down so no one went down & strike started & I went out part of the time. We were protecting the property & our jobs. No force was used to make me go out. It was peaceful. No outsiders were there except local 54. I was there when MARSHALL came out & we all left & we were glad so we could get home. Papers said several times mine was to re-open but I never went out till it opened for good. I recall of voting at first N.L.R.B. election at Armory in Springfield, Ill. I voted the way I wanted to & it was for PMA. No one forced me to vote & it was a good election. I never heard about men going to Jefferson Mine. In fall of 1939 I got a registered letter from Mine B telling me to come out on a certain day & I went & saw FALCETTI & he said [redacted] was caved in & he put me in [redacted] but I worked only 3 days as room was finished then & they could not shoot anymore. FALCETTI said he would send word to me & he did about 7 weeks later. I worked about 2 months & some air-boss of UMW came to me & said I shouldn't pay any more dues to PMA. but I should pay dues to U.M.W. & I should join up.

A lot of men got their sons jobs. I signed up at home with 30 M.W. men so I could get [redacted] a job. I was well satisfied with P.M.A. then but joined over to get [redacted] work. I heard too that men were being beat up but I never saw it. I don't know if I signed any membership cards in 1940 or not. I never heard anyone of Mine B tell us we had to join UMW - it was just UMW men who were around. PMA felt they lead majority so didn't do anything.

"Just before the second NLRB election I went to a UMW meeting & Edmundson & several others there told us to vote for UMW & not for PMA. I & others still felt that P.M.A. was better but because I had joined up with UMW I felt if I voted for PMA that UMW might find out & I was scared so voted UMW. It was a good & secret election. I first was going to vote for PMA but after attending the meeting I felt I had better vote for UMW. P.M.A. lost that election because Mine B would not hire P.M.A. men - but did hire a lot of new UMW men.

"There were a lot of cave-ins when I went to work. [redacted] never was re-opened & my tools are still there. I never heard of a fire at Mine B in 1939. I don't know [redacted]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"I can't read English good's [REDACTED] has  
read this 6 page statement to me & I have signed it of  
my own free will.

Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw)  
Pawnee, Ill  
Sept. 3, 1943."

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was jointly in-  
terviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and

[REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED], Illinois, on September 3, 1943. He appeared willing to answer the questions put to him, and said he would be willing to testify to the facts as set forth in the following signed statement which he submitted. He can neither read nor write.

[REDACTED], Illinois  
September 3, 1943

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

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

"I first joined the United Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as UMW, at [REDACTED] Ill. & worked at the [REDACTED] mine near [REDACTED]

"I worked in four mines from [REDACTED] under the UMW until I started at Mine 'B' in 1933 under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA.

"I was a coal digger for the first year at Mine 'B' and then worked as [REDACTED] I am presently employed as [REDACTED]

"I have never held an office in a mine union.

"As far as I am concerned I liked the PMA and was satisfied with its leaders. As far as I know there was no dissatisfaction between the PMA rank and file and PMA leaders.

"I went to many UMW meetings because I was fined if I didn't but I only went to a few PMA meetings because of the distance from my home.

"I know nothing about the relations between Elshoff and PMA prior to 1937.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

b7c  
b7D  
"I was not acquainted with the wage scale controversy, except that I have about seventeen dollars owing me by Mine 'B' dating back to 1937.

"I did not attend the PMA meeting of May 11, 1937 and I do not remember what the discussion was at the meeting except that it concerned some miners who were thrown out of the PMA.

"I remember that on May 12, 1937 coal cars were being loaded short. Sometimes that day I pulled whole trips with the cars shorted. I did not know why the cars were shorted.

"It was seldom during this period because of my job that I got a chance to talk to the miners during working hours.

"I helped picket Mine 'B' after the strike started, for three or four weeks.

"I do not remember the PMA petition of May 26, 1937 or if I signed a petition at that time + do not remember signing it, or any other petition.

"I remember that I went to Mine 'B' with the intention of going to work each of the three times it tried to open.

"I heard it was going to try to re-open on each of the three occasions by talking to other miners near my home. I was too far away to hear the mine whistles blow and I never saw notices in the newspapers nor did I ever get notification about this from the mine.

"Each time I went to mine 'B' to go to work the only men that went down in the mine were UMW sympathizers. There were about fifteen or twenty of these men and PMA members would not work as long as these 15 or 20 were allowed to work. This was due to the fact that PMA still had a closed shop agreement with Elshoff. I think some of these 15 to 20 men were already signed over to UMW.

"I know the following miners who worked at Mine 'B' both before and after the strike and + believe they were UMW sympathizers, and aggitating for UMW; Cudge Bumgarner also known as Lee Bumgarner, Joe Albanese, Andrew Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George Jacaway, Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and James Hale.

"These above mentioned men aggitated for UMW both before and after the strike.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

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67D  
"I started back to work at Mine 'B' on November 6, 1939, and numerous times thereafter before I signed up with UMW Charles Bohannon

talked to me and said 'When are you going to get right [REDACTED]'. No one else ever said anything to me and no one ever threatened me.

"I do not know if any of these men whose names I mentioned above worked at Mine 'A' during the time Mine 'B' was closed down on strike.

"I never heard any threatening remarks made to anyone.

"I think the N.L.R.B. election held in December, 1937 at Springfield, Ill. was fair and I never heard any miner say it was a fraud or was not fair.

"If I had a chance now of working either under UMW or PMA I would rather work under PMA, because I do not like John L. Lewis. I felt the same way after I returned to work at Mine 'B' in 1939, but I had to have work and felt that the majority of the miners were signing up with the UMW. I believe that most of the miners were signing up with UMW at that time because they were afraid they would not be able to work there any longer as members of PMA because Elshoff wanted the UMW.

"Inasmuch as I am unable to read and write and there is no member of my family at home this statement consisting of three and one half pages was 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.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence in [REDACTED] Ill., on September 2, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] He advised he was born [REDACTED] came to the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized in Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED]. He speaks English very poorly and can understand it only with difficulty. His memory is not good and it is felt that he would not make a satisfactory witness. [REDACTED] advised that he had no criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 2, 1943

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

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

"I started working in Mine 'B', Springfield, about [REDACTED] and I then became a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union. In 1932 most of the men in our local went over to join the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union, and I became a member of PMA in 1932.

"I took no part in the organizing of any union and I have never held an office in any union.

"Between 1932 and 1937 I never noticed the UMW to picket or try to organize at Mine 'B'. The company did not appear, to me, to favor one over the other, that is either PMA or UMW. I know of no strikes or close downs during this time. I would prefer to work under no unions, and it does not make any difference to me which union I belong to. From 1932 to 1937 I thought PMA was an honest union, and I thought the officials were honest. I do not know anything to speak of about the bombing cases.

"I never noticed anyone being a spy for UMW during this time and the only thing I know about the strike is that on some day in May, 1937, [REDACTED] told the engineers not to pull any more coal and we were to come out. This was about an hour before quitting time and I came up to the top, washed and went home.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

67c  
67d

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

I did not know why we went out, and I still do not know. I heard there was some trouble about some PMA men being kicked out of the PMA and I also heard

there was some trouble about the contract, but I do not know which, if any, of these was why we walked out.

"I went to the Mine 'B' the next day but we did not work again until in November of 1939, when I got a letter from the company telling me to come back to work. I do not remember ever being notified in any way to come back to work before that time, and after May of 1937.

"I remember there was a picket line by PMA in the fall of 1937, but I was never in that picket line and I have never been in any picket line. I do not remember signing any petitions during the summer of 1937. I might have signed a PMA petition during this time, I am not sure, but I am sure I did not sign a UMW petition during this time.

"I do not know anything about a UMW local being organized in 1937.

"I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Board election in about Dec., 1937, when PMA beat UMW. [redacted] told me there was going to be an election but no one forced or threatened me in any way in that election and I thought it was a fair election.

"When the mine opened in Nov., 1939, I went back to work and I was a PMA. I don't remember when I changed to UMW but I know I was one of the last and it was probably near the end of 1940. No one ever threatened me or forced me in any way to join UMW and I joined because I didn't want to lose my job. I heard most of the men had signed up with UMW so I did. For about four months before I signed with UMW I belonged to no union.

"I do not remember whether UMW tried to organize at Mine 'B' - and all I remember is no one tried to get me to join UMW. I never saw anyone get beat up, and I only remember that I heard some of the PMA men were beat up, but who they were or anything about them I do not remember.

"When I went back to work in 1939 I did not notice whether there had been any fires or cave ins.

"I do not remember voting in a second NLRB election.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

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

[REDACTED]

"Witness

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 8, 1943. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and is employed [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English well. He states he has never been arrested.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Ill.  
Sept. 8, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I am presently employed [REDACTED]

"I first started working in mines in about [REDACTED] I then joined the United Mine Workers of America Union and belonged to UMW until 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union. I was working at Panther Creek Mine #1, Auburn, Ill., at the time. I joined PMA because I didn't like the actions of UMW. I refer to the time in 1932 when John L. Lewis' men stole the ballot box. I remained a PMA until August of 1938 when I quit mining and stopped paying dues. I did not join any mine union or work in any mine from August of 1938 until about July 27, 1940, when I went to work as a digger in the Mine "B", Springfield, Ill., at which time I joined UMW.

"In July of 1940 I was working for the LPA and [REDACTED] a neighbor, who was working at Mine "B" told me they were putting men on at Mine "B" so I went out to Mine "B" on about July 27, 1940, and [REDACTED] pointed out a man whom I later found out was "Cudge" Bungearner, and told me Cudge was the fellow to see about a job.

"I went up to Cudge and asked him for a job. He took me to see Oscar Falcetti and then Cudge told me to come out and bring my tools. Nothing was said about any union at that time. I got some tools and started working a couple of days later.

"About three or four days after I started working [REDACTED] came up to me and told me to join UMW by signing with a little Italian fellow whose name I cannot remember. No one forced me or threatened me physically, but [REDACTED] told me if I wanted to work at Mine "B" I would have to sign with UMW, so I signed with UMW. I joined UMW because I knew if I did not join



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] UMW I would not keep my job at Mine "B" and I wanted to work at Mine "B" to make more money than I had been on WPA.  
(continued)

"I worked at Mine "B" a little more than a year. I had been hurt doing work in the mine during this time and after I came back after being laid off sick for a while, Jack Falcetti told me I would have to pay \$7.00 because he had to have a man clean my room which got dirty he said after I shot my face. I did not want to pay him \$7.00 so I quit and have never been back to mine "B" since. When I first started working in Mine "B" I had a good room. Then I had a couple of entries - and then I got a bad room. That is when I hurt my back.

"While I was working at Mine "B" I saw ~~Hingarn~~ and maybe Bohannon, take new men into Oscar Falcetti to be hired. I do not remember seeing any one else doing any organizing.

"The only fight I remember seeing was one morning I saw a little Italian fellow whose name I cannot remember, come out of the wash house hollering that he'd been hit. But I saw nothing except the Sheriff came at that time and went in the wash house and brought out Bohannon.

"On February of 1941 the National Labor Relations Board held an election. The morning of the election the UMW had a meeting and told us how to get down to the voting place and only a few at a time was to go in. They did not tell us how to vote and no one forced or threatened us in any way. I voted in that election and thought it was fair.

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

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnessed: -

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

[REDACTED] /S/ 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] on September 7, 1943. [REDACTED] advised that he does not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak and understand English and would make a fair witness.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 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. 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 first began mining coal in Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED] at which time I joined UMW. I remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I joined PMA. In 1932 the local UMW union of which I was a member changed from UMW to PMA and I changed with my local. I took no part in the formation of PMA.

"I was employed at Mine "B" in 1935 as a company man and have been employed at Mine "B" ever since, except during the time of a strike.

"Between 1935 and May 12, 1937 there were no strikes at Mine "B" and the management did not close Mine "B". During that period of time the management was not hostile in settling grievances and the management did not show any partiality toward UMW.

"I thought PMA was a good union and one being operated for its members. No unusual special assessments were made against me. I took no interest in union activities and I have not been an official of any union.

"I took no interest in the bombing cases and I do not know if the convicted PMA members got a fair trial or not.

"Between 1935 and May 12, 1937 there were no UMW pickets at Mine "B" and I did not see any UMW literature being distributed. During that period of time no one attempted to convert me from PMA to UMW.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I do not remember any wage scale controversy in the Spring of 1937.

"I did not attend a meeting of PMA on the night of May 11, 1937. I do not remember if I received notice of the meeting or not.

"A few days prior to May 12, 1937 someone told me that PETE CARTER, FRANK AUSTIN, JOHN ANANIAS, GEORGE JACAWAY, EMORY JACAWAY and CHARLES BOHANNON were expelled from PMA because they were labor spies for U.M.W. None of the above named men ever mentioned union activities to me.

"On May 12, 1937 I went to work as usual and no one reflected any intention of striking. On the afternoon of May 12, 1937 someone told me that Mine "B" was on strike because the management would not discharge the above named men who were expelled from PMA. I noticed coal cars were loaded short that day, but I do not know the reason for the cars being loaded short.

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

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

"PMA informed me that Mine "B" was to open sometime in Sept. 1937. On the day Mine "B" was to have opened I voluntarily went to the mine to act as a picket. I acted as a picket from time to time until an injunction was obtained to prevent the picketing. It made no difference to me whether the injunction was served or not.

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

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

"I received notice in Nov. 1939 to return to work at Mine "B". I returned as a member of PMA. I did not hear of any large fires at Mine "B" on my return to the mine, but I did hear there were many cave-ins. No one asked me to join UMW for two or three months after my return to work, but after two or three months passed many of the employees at Mine "B" informed me that I would either have to join UMW or I would not have a job. In the spring of 1940 [REDACTED] at Mine "B" asked me to join UMW and I thought that if I did not join I would lose my job. I was not at any time threatened if I did not join UMW. I heard that some of the miners were threatened and beat because they did not join UMW, but I did not see anyone threatened or beat. The management of Mine "B" did not seem to favor either

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

UMW or PMA.

(continued)

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941.  
I think this was a fair election and I voted as I  
wished.

"It makes no difference at the present whether I am a member of  
PMA or UMW.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

WITNESSED: --

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

67C  
67D

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

P-0  
INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home  
[REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., by Special

Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at which time he executed  
a signed statement. It is not believed he would make a good witness due  
to his inability to understand or speak English very well. He is [REDACTED]  
by birth and is a naturalized citizen of the United States. He has no  
known criminal record. The following is the signed statement obtained  
from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 2, 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  
to get me to make a statement and I do so knowing it may be used in  
a court of law.

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

"I first joined U.M. in [REDACTED] when I began working in the mine  
at [REDACTED] Ill. I never held any office in any union.

"I joined P.M. when I began working at Mine "B" in November 1935.  
I joined P.M.... at this time because I needed a job and Mine "B"  
would hire me. I worked at Mine B then until the men came out on  
strike and during this time I knew of no strikes or closedowns and as  
far as I knew there was no difficulty between the mine management  
and the union.

"I had no trouble with P.M. and saw no difference in the unions.  
I wanted to work and which ever union had a majority at the mine, I  
would join it.

"No one attempted to get me to change from P.M. to U.M. and I did not  
know of any labor spies at Mine B.

"I heard that we were to get some back pay but we never got it  
and I don't know why the strike was called. The majority of the  
men went on strike so I struck with them.

"I remember signing some kind of petition for P.M.... just  
after the strike in 1937.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

b7c  
b7D

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I went to Mine B 3 or 4 days after an attempt was made to reopen it in September 1937 and all the P.M.A. men were on a sit-down strike or picket-

ing. I stayed there then as a picket until an injunction was served on us. All the men who picketed were from Mine B and I did not see any fights or violence of any kind while the mine was picketed.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Dec. 1937, and as far as I could see it was fair election. P.M.A. won by a large majority.

"I went to work in November 1939 at Mine B as a member of P.M.A. but I knew the mine was operating under an open shop agreement. I paid dues to PMA for 2 or 3 months after I went back to work. P.M.A. dues at that time were \$3 a month and U.M.W. was \$2 a month. About a month later I joined U.M.W. because I wanted to belong to a union and I thought most of the men were U.M.W. members at Mine B because a lot of the old employees had quit and didn't come back.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Feb. 1941 and I think it was a fair election. I am now working at Mine B as a trapper and I have no fault to find with either union and I like whichever one I may be working under.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED], F.B.I., Springfield, Ill., Sp. Agt.  
/s/ [REDACTED] FBI, Spfld., Ill., Sp. Agt."