



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**JOHN L. LEWIS**

**PART 8 OF 13**

**FILE NUMBER: 44-845**

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

**SUBJECT** JOHN L. LEWIS

**FILE NO.** 44-845

**SECTION NO.** 9

**SERIALS** 106

thru

114



12:10  
12:15

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
September 11, 1943

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 the above time SAC Hallford called and talked to [redacted] Mr. Hallford stated that Mr. Frank Coleman from the Department had arrived at Springfield and he had conferred with him on occasions since his arrival there Thursday night last. Mr. Hallford stated that the investigation was rounding out in good shape and at present the Agents were interviewing miners with regard to Mine "A" which adjoins Mine "B", the latter being involved in instant investigation.

You will recall Elshoff was the operator of Mine "B" at the time the miners working therein elected the Progressive Mine Workers Union as the bargaining agent, resulting in the closing down of Mine "B" on the part of the operator Elshoff and subsequent, of course, to the payments of \$225,000 made by Lewis and the UMW to Elshoff, until finally the UMW in 1941 felt confident enough to hold another election resulting in the UMW being named as bargaining agent.

It appears that there might have been some irregularity about the operation of Mine "A" - that is - the mine was being operated or attempting to be operated through driving a connecting tunnel between Mine "A" and Mine "B". At any rate, Mr. Hallford stated that even with this new development, things looked bright and it still appears that the Springfield Office will meet the deadline.

A report has been submitted which should reach the Bureau sometime today or Monday, September 13, which is principally concerned with the accounting investigation conducted to date.

Of particular interest was the statement of Frank Coleman to SAC Hallford that prior to leaving Washington on Thursday, September 10, Mr. Coleman conferred with the Attorney General, apparently before the Attorney General left on his vacation on Tuesday last. According to Coleman, the Attorney General indicated that he had just talked with the President, who had indicated that the Attorney General should go ahead with the investigation, having definitely in mind the holding of a grand jury and eventually prosecution of any indicted subjects. This would appear to include John L. Lewis in the event he is indicted.



2 SEP 21 1943

9-11-43

Mr. Hallford is forwarding a letter to the Bureau containing information relative to the various attempts which have been cropping up looking toward counseling the miners to refuse to give statements on advice of counsel.

██████████ pointed out to Mr. Hallford that any additional investigation or unusual requests emanating from Mr. Coleman while he is at Springfield should be cleared through Washington and Mr. Coleman should be so advised unless in the considered opinion of Mr. Hallford the request could be said to be logical and not unrelated to the investigation already being conducted.

ACTION: As soon as the current report is received it will be summarized and a memorandum prepared bringing the matter up to date for the Director. The case is being followed closely so that it will be completed on schedule.

Respectfully,

*F. L. Welch*  
F. L. Welch  
*[Signature]*

typed 9-13-43

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TOM C. CLARK

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

Reference is made to our previous correspondence in the above captioned matter. There are transmitted herewith four copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 9, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois. There are also transmitted herewith four copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 10, 1943, at San Francisco, California, captioned as above and four copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 12, 1943, at Indianapolis, Indiana, captioned as above. In reviewing the report of Special Agent [redacted], you will note that the information prepared therein was based on the photostatic copies of material furnished by you [redacted]

With further reference to my memorandum to you dated August 28, 1943, in accordance with the information furnished by Mr. Frank C. Coleman of the Criminal Division, Agents of this Bureau have not made an examination of the original records in this case. [redacted]

It will be presumed that an additional examination of the original records by an Agent of this Bureau will not be made in the absence of a specific request from you.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Piper  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

Reference is also made to my memorandum to you dated September 7, 1943, advising that the three individuals who were interviewed by Agents of the Springfield Office of this Bureau have requested copies of the signed statements which they executed. In regard to this matter, the Special Agent in Charge of the Springfield Office has now submitted the following data which is forwarded for your information.

"The following information obtained in investigation of this case indicates that persons interviewed have been advised to give their statements to Bureau Agents on the following occasions:

On the morning of September 4, 1943, ANTHONY J. PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, JR., and JOSEPH ALBANESE, went to the office of the United Mine Workers. Mr. [redacted] had a conversation with [redacted] who called Attorney ARTHUR FITZGERALD, who then came to the office and advised [redacted]

13 SEP 22 1943

INDEXED  
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44-845

Memorandum for Mr. Tom C. Clark

- 2 -

these men not to make any statements to Agents of the Bureau unless he was present.

Sometime during Labor Day, September 6, 1943, ~~MIDNER~~ <sup>✓</sup> SCHNELEVICH was approached on the street in Springfield and given a typewritten note by a person whose name he did not know, but whom he knew to be employed at Mine B. This person told SCHNELEVICH that if he was approached by Bureau Agents, to tell them nothing and tell them to see Attorney FITZGERALD. This note contained FITZGERALD's name and address.

On the morning of September 7, 1943, a meeting was held at the shaft at Mine B, and a lawyer, whose identity is not now known, reportedly made a stump speech and advised men not to talk to the FBI representatives when they called. A different interpretation of this statement was that the Attorney advised that they did not need to talk to the FBI Agents if they didn't want to. CHARLES BOHANNON and LEE OWEL "CHUCK" BAINGARTNER were at the shaft and evidently arranged this impromptu meeting. b7c

In the afternoon of September 7, 1943, at the end of the day shift, BAINGARTNER and BOHANNON were at the shaft of Mine A and advised former Mine B employees not to talk to Bureau Agents and to give them the name of Attorney ARTHUR FITZGERALD if they were asked why.

On September 7, 1943, Mr. WALTER T. DAY, Attorney-at-law, called at the Springfield Office, accompanied by FRANK AUSTIN, JAMES HALE and one BAINGARTNER, who had previously been interviewed by Agents of this office in connection with this case. I conferred with Mr. DAY in the presence of Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] and Mr. DAY requested that he be furnished with copies of the statements executed by AUSTIN, HALE and BAINGARTNER to Special Agents of this Bureau.

I specifically asked Mr. DAY who he was representing and he said he could not answer this question and I asked him if he was representing Messrs. AUSTIN, HALE and BAINGARTNER, and he said he was not but that he was representing and assisting Mr. ARTHUR FITZGERALD, Attorney-at-law in Springfield who was counseling UMW miners who were sent to his, FITZGERALD's office. Mr. DAY stated that he knew of a number of persons who had executed statements to Agents of this Bureau and that eventually he would know the identity of most of the miners who had executed a statement to this Bureau and probably a request would be directed to this office to receive copies of all the signed statements executed by miners to Agents of this Bureau. I suggested to Mr. DAY that if Mr. FITZGERALD desired copies of all these statements that Mr. FITZGERALD should set forth such a request in a letter to this office but at the present time no assurance could be given him, Mr. DAY or Mr. FITZGERALD, that copies of such statements could be furnished.

Memorandum for Mr. Tom C. Clark

b7c - 3 -

Nothing else was discussed with Mr. RAY at the time he called at this office and Messrs. AUSTIN, HALE and BAUGHMAN were not interviewed or present when this conversation transpired between Mr. RAY and myself.

I advised Attorney RAY today, September 20, 1943, that it would be necessary for him to communicate with the Attorney General in reference to obtaining copies of statements executed by his clients. Mr. RAY was satisfied with this statement.

The following persons, upon being contacted by Agents, refused to give any information concerning matters involved in this case, saying that they had been advised to do so by Attorney FITZGERALD:

CHARLES EDWARDS, 132 Fitzgerald.  
JOSEPH ALBANESE, 912 E. Carpenter.  
ANDREW KOLEVICH, 1731 E. Carpenter.  
DOMINIC PASQUALE, 926 S. Duval.  
ANTHONY J. PLOTCH, 113 S. Paul.  
JOHN "COTTON" ANANIAS, JR., 1200 1/2 N. 14th.

[REDACTED] Springfield, refused to give any information until he had conferred with his Attorney, BURKE, Attorney for the United Mine Workers.

[REDACTED] Springfield, refused to advise who had counseled him against giving any statements.

The following persons requested copies of their signed statements at the time they were first interviewed but gave statements even though their request had been refused:

FRANK AUSTIN, 3020 Woodward.  
GEORGE VIKTOUT, 3520 E. Bosh.

The following persons advised that they had been counseled to give no statements but gave statements to Agents nevertheless:

[REDACTED]

No persons other than AUSTIN, HALE and BAUGHMAN, who executed

Memorandum for Mr. Tom C. Clark

- 4 -

statements previously have requested copies be furnished to them after the completion of the interview."

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Springfield, Illinois  
September 16, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
(Bureau File No. 44-845)

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are five copies consisting of eight photostats each representing all pertinent information contained in the 13th Region National Labor Relations Board File at Chicago, Illinois. This file was reviewed by Special Agent [redacted] of the Springfield Division on September 15, 1943, at Chicago, Illinois. The NLRB case file number is XIII-C-1665.

Two copies of these photostats are being retained by the Springfield Office. Sufficient copies are transmitted with this letter to allow the Bureau to furnish the Department the necessary copies.



CHK:KMc  
Encl. (6) 5-ENCL 3  
AMKD

9/19/43  
73  
2 sets 2 photostats  
[redacted]

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD  
Special Agent in Charge

4 SEP 21 1943

COPIES DESTROYED  
R424 JAN 15 1962

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

b7c



WILLIAM RECK, PRESIDENT  
PHONE 2-9951



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

# Progressive Mine Workers of America

DISTRICT NO. 1

AFFILIATED WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Springfield, Illinois

808 RIDGELY FARMERS BANK BUILDING  
FIFTH AND MONROE STS

December 13, 1941

Mr. Martin Wagner, Field Examiner  
National Labor Relations Board  
Thirteenth Region  
Midland Building  
Chicago, Illinois

Re: Carl H. Elstoft  
ILRL-C-1608

Dear Mr. Wagner:

Acknowledgment is made to your letter of December 11 with respect to the meeting you contemplate in Springfield December 17 to gather evidence in the above entitled case.

On behalf of the Progressive Mine Workers of America we wish to withdraw it is charge and you are requested to advise.

Sincerely,  
Wm. Reck

William Reck  
President

WITHDRAWAL APPROVED: *W. H. HAN*

*Approved  
12/22/41  
C. M. J. Smith*





INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

DATE December 18, 1941

TO File  
FROM Martin Warner  
SUBJECT Carl E. Elshoff - IIII-2-1665

The examiner this morning conferred with Mr. Carl Elshoff about the above entitled matter.

Elshoff repeated the story he told the examiner when they met in Chicago. He then permitted the examiner to read a certified copy of the minutes of the last meeting of Progressive Mine Workers Local Union Number 51, which were presented to him by Mr. Roy Edmundson, president of District 15, when the latter made his claim on Elshoff for bargaining rights for the employees of Mine A. (Elshoff refused to ~~submit~~ turn over a copy of these minutes to the examiner. Later in the day, in a conference with Edmundson, the examiner obtained a copy from him. They are attached and marked Exhibit A.) Elshoff also permitted the examiner to inspect a list containing ~~approximately 100~~ 189 names. All the individuals listed had signed notarized statements designating the United Mine Workers as their bargaining representative. Elshoff inspected the statements and requested a list of the signers before recognizing the UMWA as the bargaining agent for the employees of Mine A. Since the 100 constituted the overwhelming majority of the employees who last worked in Mine A when it operated in March, 1941, Elshoff recognized the United as the bargaining agent, and further, he was not obliged that as the new owner of the mine he was not obligated to rehire any of the employees of the former company, and further, he was not obliged to bargain with the union which was designated as the bargaining representative of the employees at the time the mine closed, since it was now a new company. However, to forestall any possible charges of unfair labor practices, all employees who last worked for the company were given notice to report for work within ten days. A majority of these in the special meeting held on September 14 changed their affiliation from the Progressive Mine Workers to the United Mine Workers, and upon proof of this change Elshoff recognized the United as the bargaining representative for the employees. Elshoff showed the examiner a contract signed on September 15, 1941 between Mine A and the United Mine Workers, whereby the parties agreed to accept all the provisions and clauses of the contract.

in existence between the Illinois Coal Operators Association and District 12 of the United Mine Workers of America. I was informed by Mr. Edmundson that the contract Elshoff signed is the standard contract for those employers who do not belong to the Association.

Later in the afternoon the examiner conferred with Ray Edmundson, president of District 12, United Mine Workers of America. Edmundson showed the examiner the authorization slips (copy of which is attached and marked Exhibit B) signed by 19 individuals on Sunday, September 14, 1941, when Local Union Number 51 of the Progressive Mine Workers of America disbanded and became Local Union 7840, United Mine Workers of America.

Later, additional employees signed similar cards. However, from the time of the first meeting, a majority of the old employees of Mine A had designated the UMA as their bargaining representative.

On December 13 William Zech, president of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, requested the examiner by letter to withdraw the charge in the matter.

M. W.

NW/jac

*E. J. B.*

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
LOCAL UNION #7840, UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA

\_\_\_\_\_, 1941  
The undersigned hereby applies for membership in the  
UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA and designates and selects it his  
exclusive representative for the purposes of collective bargaining  
in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, or other  
conditions of employment.

Check number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Last employed at \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 1941.

Notary Public

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF LOCAL UNION #61,  
Progressive Mine Workers of America.  
Elks Club, Springfield, Illinois  
Convening 8:30 P.M., September 14, 1941

Motion properly made and seconded that Tom Moughan be elected to serve as temporary chairman of meeting. Mr. Moughan elected by acclamation.  
Motion properly made and seconded that we hear the report of the committee elected at the special meeting held at the Progressive Mine Workers of America Hall, Sixth & Washington Streets, Springfield, Illinois, on Thursday night, September 11, 1941, convening at 7:30 P.M. that date.

Motion made and seconded that we accept the report of the committee who had conferred with Oscar Falsetti, Superintendent Mine B of the Mine B Coal Company, and with Ray Edmondson, President District #12, United Mine Workers of America. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made and properly seconded that we withdraw affiliation from the Progressive Mine Workers of America and affiliate with the United Mine Workers of America. Motion unanimously carried by standing vote.  
Motion made and seconded that we take a collection to pay for the dues of the Elks Club for this meeting. Motion unanimously carried.  
Collection amounted to \$17.10.  
Meeting addressed by Ray Edmondson, President District #12, United Mine Workers of America.

Motion made and seconded that we elect permanent officers to serve for the ensuing term ending June 30, 1942. Motion unanimously carried.  
Nominations for President—George Derry. Nominations closed.  
George Derry elected President by acclamation.  
Nominations for Vice President—Joseph Carlove. Nominations closed.  
Joseph Carlove elected Vice President by acclamation.  
Nominations for Recording Secretary—Alfred Talley, Jr.  
Alfred Talley, Jr. elected Recording Secretary by acclamation.



Nominations for Financial Secretary—John Tracy. Nominations closed. John Tracy elected Financial Secretary by acclamation.

Nominations for Treasurer—William Talley. Nominations closed. William Talley elected Treasurer by acclamation.

Nominations for three members of Pit Committee—John Joyce, Frank Petrakis and Philip Sisti. Nominations closed. John Joyce, Frank Petrakis and Philip Sisti elected members of the Pit Committee by acclamation.

Nominations for Doorkeeper—Joe Marsaro. Nominations closed. Joe Marsaro elected Doorkeeper by acclamation.

Motion made and seconded we hold in abeyance election of Trustees until next meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made and seconded we hold in abeyance election of CIO delegates until the next meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Properly moved and seconded that the officers and committee be authorized to meet with the officers of District #12, United Mine Workers of America for the purpose of petitioning Thomas Kennedy, Secretary Treasurer International Union, United Mine Workers of America, for a charter to have jurisdiction over Mine A. Motion unanimously carried.

Properly moved and seconded that the officers and committee of the local union be authorized and instructed to meet with the officers of District #12, United Mine Workers of America, and if possible the owners of Mine A in order that a contract might be negotiated and the mine reopened at the earliest possible date. Motion unanimously carried.

Regularly moved and seconded that each individual in attendance at this meeting sign an individual application for membership in the United Mine Workers of America and thereby designating them as the agency for the purposes of collective bargaining. Motion unanimously carried. 100 individual applications properly signed by employees of Mine A constituting an overwhelming majority of the employees at this property.



There being no further business to come before the meeting,  
adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of  
the proceedings of the special meeting of Local Union #51, Progressive  
Wine Workers of America, convening at the Elks Club, Springfield,  
Illinois, Sunday September 14, 1941 at 2:30 P.M.

George Perry  
George Perry, President Local Union  
#7040, United Wine Workers of America.

Alfred Tally, Jr.  
Alfred Tally, Jr., Recording Secretary  
Local Union #7040, United Wine Workers  
of America.

State of Illinois  
County of Sangamon

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of  
September, 1941, A.D.

Edna M. Smith  
Edna M. Smith, Notary Public

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION  
LABOR RELATION

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

20

FROM

**SUBJECT**

10

[illegible]



U.S. DEPT. OF  
LABOR

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

TO

File

DATE

SEP 4, 1961

FROM

Mr. [illegible]  
[illegible]

SUBJECT

Mr. [illegible]  
[illegible]

*W. W.*

WILLIAM KECK, PRESIDENT  
PHONE 2-6881



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
**Progressive Mine Workers of America**  
DISTRICT NO. 1  
AFFILIATED WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR  
Springfield, Illinois

308 RIDGELY FARMERS BANK BUILDING  
FIFTH AND MONROE STS

October 23, 1941

National Director  
National Labor Relations Board  
Washington, D.C.  
Chicago, Illinois

Encls: Carl W. Keck

Attention: National Director

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is the first complaint of the Progressive  
Mine Workers of America, District No. 1, filed with  
the National Labor Relations Board, at Washington, D.C.,  
dated October 15, 1941, against the Springfield, Illinois,  
company known as the Springfield Mining Company  
and located at Springfield, Illinois, Illinois.

The complaint charges that the company has violated  
the National Labor Relations Act in the  
following manner:

Very truly yours,

*Wm. Keck*

William Keck  
President

SLP 23 1941  
7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
AM PM



N. L. R. B.  
Washington, D. C.

United States of America  
BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

REGION

In the Matter of

CASE NO. 12700  
and  
FARMERS' UNION OF AMERICA,  
District No. 1, affiliated with A.L.

Case No. X117 C 1665

Dated and Filed September 23, 1941

DOCKETED 9-23-41

CHARGE

Pursuant to Section 10 of the National Labor Relations Act, the undersigned hereby charges that  
Carl H. Elstoft of Springfield, Illinois  
has engaged in and is engaging in unfair labor practices within the meaning of Section 8, subsections (1) and (5) of said Act, in that on or about September 15, 1941, and various dates thereafter, he refused to bargain collectively with the authorized representatives of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, District No. 1, a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2, Subsection (5) of said Act, previously chosen by a majority of the production and maintenance employees, excluding supervisors, employees, at his mine near Springfield, Illinois, said mine being commonly known and designated as "Mine A", and formerly operated by one, William Ryan, and owned by Central Illinois Coal Mining Company, to represent them for the purpose of collective bargaining in respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment and other conditions of employment.

By the acts set forth in the paragraph above, and by other acts and conduct, he has interfered with, restrained and coerced and is interfering with, restraining, and coercing his employees in the exercise of their rights guaranteed in Section 7 of said Act.

The undersigned further charges that said unfair labor practices are unfair labor practices affecting commerce within the meaning of said Act.

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 22 day of Sept.  
1941 before me  
John R. H. Hume

Name and address of person or labor organization making the charge (If made by a labor organization, give also the name and official position of the person acting for the organization)  
PROGRESSIVE MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA, DIST. NO. 1  
Affiliated with the A.L.  
BY *Wm. Beck* PRESIDENT  
502 Illinois-Farmers Bank Building  
Springfield, Illinois - Phone 2-8891

9/18/43

44-845-108

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

Reference is made to the memorandum from this Bureau dated September 15, 1943, captioned as above, which referred to National Labor Relations Board file #13-C-1665 at Chicago, Illinois.

For your information there are transmitted herewith two groups of photostats consisting of eight copies each, representing the pertinent information contained in the 13th Regional National Labor Relations Board file at Chicago, Illinois. The National Labor Relations Board case file number is XIII-C-1665.

Enclosure

Tolson  
E. A. Tamm  
Clegg  
Coffey  
Glavin  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Acers  
Carson  
Harbo  
Kendall  
Mumford  
Starke  
Quinn Tamm  
Nease

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RECEIVED  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

DATE September 18, 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. Carson ☒  
Mr. Hendon ☒  
Mr. Mumford ☒  
Mr. Harbo ☒  
Mr. Starke ☒  
Mr. Quinn Tamm ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Mr. Nease ☒  
Miss Beahm ☒

Reference is made to my memoranda to you dated September 8, 1943, and September 13, 1943, respectively, setting forth brief resumes of the investigation in the captioned case to date. You will recall that the Bureau is conducting an extensive investigation in this case at the request of the Attorney General to determine if 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 under the National Labor Relations Act. It is alleged that Lewis paid the sum of \$225,000 to Elshoff during 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**

To date the Springfield Office has submitted reports reflecting the interviews of approximately 270 individuals who were employees of subject Elshoff during the pertinent period of the investigation of this case. These individuals, for the most part, did not participate actively in the labor difficulties as they related to negotiations and union organizational work. A review of the signed statements taken from these 270 miners indicates that approximately 163 gave information that could be considered very favorable to the Government's case and all might well be considered potential witnesses in this matter. It also appears that all of these individuals favored and still are partial to the Progressive Mine Workers Union. However, a large number of them necessarily joined the United Mine Workers Union in order to preserve their jobs or avoid physical violence. This would indicate that these individuals were aware of the fact that there might have been a deprivation of their rights. The 270 individuals mentioned, of course, do not include the 14 alleged spies and ~~several~~ other individuals connected with the UMW at the present time.

Seventy-eight of the 270 miners interviewed gave information that could be considered of little value, being vague and hesitant in their comments. It should be noted that a number of these individuals were unable to speak, read or write English, and therefore possessed little information of value to this investigation. Others indicated a desire to stay out of any controversy.

Twenty-three of the 270 miners interviewed gave no information of value, although it was not apparent from the signed statements given by these

(INFORMATIVE MEMORANDUM - NOT TO BE SENT TO FILES SECTION)

INDEXED  
169

44-845-107

SEP 28 1943

60 SEP 29 1943



individuals that they were hostile to the Government's case. It may be that some of these individuals purposely withheld giving information.


Only six of the miners interviewed were openly hostile and refused to give any information to Agents of this Bureau or refused to give any information that might be derogatory to John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers Union.

It is interesting to note that on September 6, 1943, Charles ~~X~~ Bohannon, President of the UMW Local, Springfield, Illinois, and an attorney for the UMW Union, began some activity attempting to advise the miners not to give the Government any information in this case; however, at this date most of the miners have been interviewed and it does not appear that this activity has materially affected the investigation.

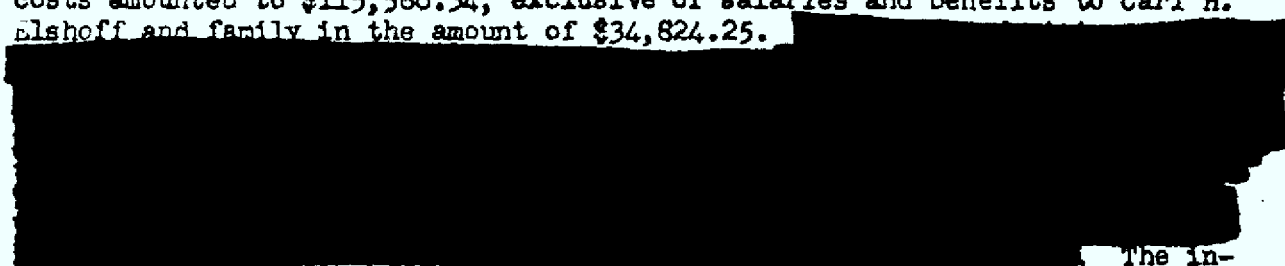
PAYMENT OF \$225,000 TO CARL H. ELSHOFF BY LEWIS

The principal subjects in this case have not been interviewed by Agents of this Bureau to date, and it is not contemplated that this will be done until a specific request for such action is received from the Department.

b3  
T26  
KSC  
\$6103



An accounting report submitted by the Springfield Office indicates that during the period the mine was closed, the actual mining and maintenance costs amounted to \$115,586.34, exclusive of salaries and benefits to Carl H. Elshoff and family in the amount of \$34,824.25.



The investigation to date has shown that there was no large fire at Mine B during the time it was not in operation.

ALLEGED PLACEMENT OF 14 SPIES IN THE PROGRESSIVE MINE WORKERS UNION BY SUBJECT LEWIS

Prior to the strike which closed Mine B on May 12, 1937, Mine B was a closed shop mine under Progressive Mine Workers contract. Investigation

to date has definitely proven that 12 individuals were members of the UMW Union and at the same time held membership in the Progressive Mine Workers Union prior to May 11, 1937. On this date 5 of these individuals were expelled from the Progressive Mine Workers Union by its members. Investigation shows that Elshoff refused to acquiesce to the Progressive Mine Workers' demands and fire these five individuals which brought on the general strike. The investigation shows that Elshoff thereafter refused to negotiate or sign a contract with the Progressive Mine Workers Union and apparently did all in his power to favor the United Mine Workers Union. In August, 1937, he signed a collective bargaining agency contract with the UMW although they apparently had only about a score of members at that time. Elshoff then attempted to re-open Mine B, using only UMW members, apparently believing that the Progressives would change membership, which they failed to do, however.

The National Labor Relations Board ordered an election held on December 15, 1937, which was won by the Progressive Mine Workers Union by a vote of 404 to 25. The NLRB certified the Progressive Mine Workers Union as the bargaining agent on January 4, 1938, and Elshoff thereafter shut down the mine completely. Elshoff reopened Mine B on November 6, 1939, as an open shop, at which time he permitted the UMW to organize on company property although the Mine Superintendent refused the same privilege to the Progressive Mine Workers Union. Under these circumstances the UMW finally gained a majority and won an election held by the NLRB in February, 1941, by a vote of 259 to 108.

#### MINE A TRANSACTION

In the fall of 1941, the UMW Union advanced \$60,000 to Elshoff, with which he purchased Mine A, which is adjacent to and connected with Mine B. Mine A at that time was organized by the Progressive Mine Workers Union and was so recognized by the NLRB. Elshoff and the United Mine Workers, through certain maneuvers, succeeded in getting the miners at Mine A to dissolve the Progressive Union and affiliate with the UMW. Many of these individuals, upon interview, stated that they changed their membership to the UMW, believing that they had to do so in order to protect their jobs. In this connection, it is interesting to note that Mr. William H. Ryan, owner of Mine A, stated upon interview that early in 1937 subject Ray Edmundson, President of the UMW Local at Springfield, Illinois, approached him with a proposition to freeze the Progressive Mine Workers out of Mine A, but that he turned the proposition down flatly. 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. The Panther Creek Mines were also organized by the Progressive Mine Workers Union. 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.

#### MISCELLANEOUS INTERVIEWS

Many other individuals who were connected with the captioned matter or who were officials of the Progressive Mine Workers Union, have been interviewed to date, the majority of them giving information of value to this matter bearing on the numerous alleged unfair practices indulged in by Elshoff against the Progressive Mine Workers. The investigation has also uncovered a number of witnesses who will be able to testify that Elshoff has stated that he did not like the Progressive Mine Workers Union and would not do business with them.

#### Present Status


The Springfield Office has advised that the majority of the investigation in this case will be completed by the evening of September 19, 1943, leaving only smaller and incidental leads to be covered subsequent to that date.

The Department has been promptly furnished with copies of all reports in this matter and Mr. Frank Coleman of the Criminal Division has recently stated that he is well satisfied with the investigation and feels that it has been handled in an excellent manner.

You will be promptly informed of all developments in this case.

Respectfully

  
D. M. Ladd

  
*Press to an early conclusion  
so far as our part in it is  
concerned.*

*H.*

*2/10*

Note Director's comment on last page.

9/25/43

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are transmitted herewith for your information four copies of the investigative report of Special Agent [REDACTED] (A), dated September 21, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois, in the captioned case.

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

Enclosure  
FILED 11

SEP 25 1943 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEP 29 1943

RECORDED

44-845-110  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SEP 27 1943

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TCG:FC:MLB

144-10

September 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" -- Alleged Violation  
of Section 51.

Your memorandum of September 18, 1943, transmits two copies of photostats, consisting of eight pages each, representing the pertinent information contained in the 13th Regional National Labor Relations Board file No. XIII-C-1665, at Chicago, Illinois.

It is requested that Martin Wagner be re-interviewed and asked to confirm the facts which are set forth in his several memoranda to the Board covering his negotiations with subjects Elshoff and Edmundson. Special reference should be made to Wagner's statement in his memorandum of November 1, 1941, that "When Elshoff first purchased the assets of Mine 'A', he hoped to mine the seam of coal in Mine 'A' from Mine 'B'", and the statement in the same memorandum at page 2 that "Elshoff stated that he did not believe he was obligated under any circumstances to hire any of the former employees of Mine 'A' since he had not taken over a corporation but had merely purchased some of the assets of that corporation." Also of significance is the statement made by Wagner in his memorandum of October 4, 1941, that "Edmundson stated that these employees undoubtedly were afraid that Elshoff would mine this newly acquired property through Mine 'B'", and that "To avoid this they came to him and signed applications for membership in the U.M.W.A." It is apparent that Edmundson's contentions in this regard were hypocritical in view of his knowledge that he and Lewis were advancing \$60,000 to enable Elshoff to purchase the mine. It is hoped that Mr. Wagner's recollection of exact conversations can be refreshed by his reading of his memoranda.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Respectfully,

Tom C. Clark

TOM C. CLARK,  
Assistant Attorney General

61 OCT 7 1943

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

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TCC:EC:MLB

144-10

September 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" -- Alleged Violation  
of Section 51.

Your memorandum of September 15, 1943, transmits  
a copy of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated August 12, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois. You  
call attention to the possible connection between the  
case which that report involves, captioned [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] et al., Internal Security, Sabotage, and the  
above case. 100-225453

John R. Quinn  
It is requested that you have your Springfield  
office ascertain from their sources of information in the  
leadership of the Progressive Mine Workers of America  
whether there is any basis for the belief that [REDACTED]  
and the other agitators mentioned in the report have  
been in any way influenced by U.M.W. or their officials  
to instigate trouble in order to bring public discredit  
on the Progressive union.

Respectfully,

Tom C. Clark

TOM C. CLARK  
Assistant Attorney General.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
D'B

44-845-112

8

SEP 25 1943

OCT 7 1943



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

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TCC, EC, MLR

144-10

September 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Mine "B" -- Alleged Violation  
of Section 51.

The report of Special Agent [redacted] at Buffalo, New York, dated September 9, 1943, informs that the subject of the interview, [redacted] states that [redacted] who had been employed as a mine inspector by the Mine "B" Coal Company and who has been charged by various witnesses with intimidating Progressives, left the mine immediately after the election and became a personal aide of John L. Lewis.

It is requested that this circumstance be investigated and that the character of [redacted] employment after he left Mine "B" be ascertained.

Respectfully,

*Tom C. Clark*

TOM C. CLARK,  
Assistant Attorney General.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
675

44-84-113

8

7/24/43  
cc Springfield  
[redacted]

[redacted]



RECORDED

September 24, 1943

44-845 -113

SAC, Springfield

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

Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith for your information copies of three memoranda dated September 23, 1943, and captioned "Mine 'B' — Alleged Violation of Section 51," which were received from the Criminal Division of the Department. It is desired that the investigative suggestions set forth in these memoranda be covered unless a specific reason exists why this should not be done.

With reference to the enclosed memorandum requesting a reinterview of Martin Wagner, it is noted that Mr. Wagner was interviewed and the results of the interview had with him set forth in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 10, 1943, at San Francisco, California, in the above entitled matter.

It is desired that your office forward to the San Francisco Office photostatic copies of the eight pages representing the pertinent information contained in the 13th Regional National Labor Relations Board file #XIII-C-1665, at Chicago, Illinois, together with appropriate instructions in order that the San Francisco Office may reinterview Wagner pursuant to the Department's desires. It is noted that the material referred to in the National Labor Relations Board file XIII-C-1665, at Chicago, Illinois, is in the possession of your office.

You will observe that the Criminal Division of the Department has requested certain investigation with regard to the information set forth in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 12, 1943, at Springfield, Illinois, in the matter entitled [redacted] et al; Internal Security; Sabotage." For your information, a copy of this report was made available to the Criminal Division of the Department, and as you will note in the attached memorandum pertaining to this matter, the Department has requested that certain of the leadership of the Progressive Mine Workers of America be interviewed to determine whether there is any basis for the belief that [redacted] and the other agitators mentioned in the report of Special Agent [redacted] have been in any way influenced by the United Mine Workers or their officials to instigate trouble in order to bring public discredit on the Progressive Union. It is desired that the investigation in [redacted]

- 2 -

this regard be limited to interviews conducted with logical leaders of the Progressive Mine Workers of America and such other sources that might be desirable.

67c Prior to instituting an active investigation of the actual facts as reported in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] the matter should be re-submitted to the Criminal Division for an opinion as to the desirability of this procedure.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure 

SPECIAL DELIVERY

44-845  
9/27/43

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 for your information four copies of each of the following reports concerning the captioned matter:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated September 23, 1943, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated September 24, 1943, at Little Rock, Arkansas;

Please be advised that investigation is continuing in this and as subsequent reports are received, they will be made available to you immediately.

Enclosure

RECORDED

44-845 114  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
SEP 29 1943  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b7c

Tolson  
E. A. Tamm  
Clegg  
Coffey  
Glavin  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Tracy  
Harbo  
Mohr  
Tele. Rm.  
Holloman

SEP 29 1943

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

**SUBJECT** JOHN L. LEWIS

**FILE NO.** 44-845

**SECTION NO.** 10

**SERIALS** 115 p. 1

thru

115 p. 230

1553

JANUARY 1, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NICHOLS  
RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, et al  
CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
BUREAU FILE # 44-845-115

Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

The attached copy of a report dated September 23, 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 need for the six (6) 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

b7c

44-845-115

2A  
54 JAN 5 1945  
~~THIS MEMORANDUM IS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES  
DO NOT BE DESTROYED AFTER ACTION IS TAKEN AND NOT SENT TO FILE~~

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS,  
SEPTEMBER 23, 1943.

1554

Director,  
F.B.I.

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

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the Bureau's copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Springfield, Illinois September 23, 1943. *one*

It is noted that nine copies of this report are designated for the Bureau. However, in compliance with the request of Mr. FRANK COLEMAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, three of the Bureau's copies are being retained in this office to be handed over to Mr. COLEMAN upon his appearance in Springfield. It is understood that Mr. COLEMAN will be in Springfield on or about September 25, 1943.

Very truly yours,

*Fred Hallford*  
FRED HALLFORD,  
SAC.

[redacted]  
44-16  
Encls.

RECORDED

44-845-115



*Encl. rec'd in Postg Unit  
other Encl. returned  
in 9-30-43 par off.  
ice + EP by  
9/24/43  
filed in Springfield  
44-845-115*

*b7c*

[redacted]

Springfield, Illinois  
November 16, 1943

Director, FBI

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

Dear Sir:

Inasmuch as the above entitled case has been placed in "closed" status in this office, we are forwarding under separate cover one copy of Special Agent [REDACTED]'s report dated September 23, 1943, which was being held for Mr. FRANK COLEMAN, Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

Very truly yours,

FRED HALLFORD  
SAC

*cc package*

44-742-115

1558

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Origin: Springfield, Illinois

File No. 44-18

Report made at: : Date when made: Period for which : Report made by:-  
 Springfield, Ill.: 9/23/43 : made: 9/11-19/43 : [REDACTED]

Title: : Character of Case:  
 JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL. : CIVIL RIGHTS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## SYNOPSIS:

Statements set forth of sixty-five additional men who were PMA miners at Mine B in May 1937. Numerous persons contacted who either applied for work at Mine B after November 1939 and were refused employment, or who were employed at Mine B for the first time after November 1939. These interviews, which produced a minimum of significant information, were pertinent to the proposition that after November 1939 Mine B hired UMW men but refused to hire PMA men. Names of approximately 310 PMA miners at Mine A in April 1941 obtained from Mine A records. Of these, approximately 260 have been contacted and signed statements obtained are set forth herein. These statements indicate that the miners changed from PMA to UMW because of the belief that ELSHOFF would not operate Mine A except with UMW personnel. Summaries of reviews of Springfield, Illinois newspapers set forth. JOHN BERTHA, formerly an examiner of NLRB states election of 12-15-37 was a fair and impartial election. JOHN R. KANE, former PMA Attorney, [REDACTED] former PMA Officials, interviewed concerning the Mine B matter. [REDACTED] interviewed with negative results.

COPIES DESTROYED

3 2 16 1974

ENCLOSURE

Approved and  
Forwarded: [Signature]

Special Agent In  
Charges: [Signature]

## COPIES:

- 9 - Bureau
- 5 - Springfield

RECORDED

8 SEP 23 1943



1559

SI. #44-18  
RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

SYNOPSIS:  
(Cont'd.)

b7c concerning pressure allegedly brought to bear by EDMUNDSON to force the Leland Hotel to buy part of its coal from ELSHOFF after November 1939. [REDACTED] Illinois, and [REDACTED] who allegedly knew of other cases similar to the Mine B matter, interviewed with negative results. JOHN W. DOHERTY, United Steel Workers of America, Chicago, Illinois, states EDMUNDSON did not discuss the details of the Mine B matter with him. JOHN H. CARROLL, Jr., B & O Railroad, Chicago, furnished no information of value concerning the Panther Creek matter. Records of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Sangamon County, Illinois, reviewed concerning injunction suit filed 10-11-29 by HARRY FISHWICK, et al, against JOHN L. LEWIS, et al.

- P -

REFERENCES: Bureau File #44-845.  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 9-13-43 at Springfield, Illinois.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

1560

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Index of Persons Interviewed . . . .	Page 3-A et seq.
Interviews with PMA miners who were employed at Mine "B" in May 1937 . . . .	Pages 5 to 189, inclusive
Persons Employed at Mine "B" after November 6, 1939 . . . . .	Pages 190 to 230, inclusive
Investigation concerning PMA miners not formerly employed at Mine "B" and who were allegedly refused em- ployment subsequent to opening of mine in November 1937 . . . . .	Pages 231 to 240, inclusive
Interviews with persons employed at Mine "A" at time of seasonal shut- down in April 1941 . . . . .	Pages 241 to 652, inclusive
Review of Illinois State Register and Illinois State Journal Newspapers of Springfield, Illinois . . . . .	Pages 653 to 678, inclusive
Miscellaneous Investigation and Interviews .	Pages 679 to 720, inclusive

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

1561

INDEX OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED AND ALSO PERSONS  
WHO WERE SOUGHT FOR INTERVIEW BUT NOT LOCATED

NAME	PAGE	NAME	PAGE
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	191	[REDACTED]	287
[REDACTED]	192	[REDACTED]	289
[REDACTED]	242	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	651 - 5	[REDACTED]	291
[REDACTED]	244	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	7	[REDACTED]	292
[REDACTED]	246	[REDACTED]	294
[REDACTED]	248	[REDACTED]	296
[REDACTED]	250	[REDACTED]	194
[REDACTED]	252	[REDACTED]	298
[REDACTED]	253	[REDACTED]	16
[REDACTED]	255	[REDACTED]	300
[REDACTED]	256	[REDACTED]	302
[REDACTED]	258	[REDACTED]	306
[REDACTED]	259	Carroll, John H., Jr.	687
[REDACTED]	341	[REDACTED]	307
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	309
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	312
[REDACTED]	261	Chick, Joseph Nicholas	651
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	314
[REDACTED]	263	[REDACTED]	313
Bertha, John	680	[REDACTED]	196
[REDACTED]	264	[REDACTED]	651
Billek, Brew. Jr.	651	[REDACTED]	316
[REDACTED]	266	[REDACTED]	233
[REDACTED]	268	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	270	[REDACTED]	317
[REDACTED]	272	[REDACTED]	198
[REDACTED]	11	[REDACTED]	200
[REDACTED]	274	[REDACTED]	319
[REDACTED]	14	[REDACTED]	320
Bott, George	684	[REDACTED]	18
[REDACTED]	276	[REDACTED]	21
[REDACTED]	278	[REDACTED]	322
[REDACTED]	279	[REDACTED]	323
[REDACTED]	281	Daniels, Ellipo	651
[REDACTED]	283	[REDACTED]	325
[REDACTED]	285	[REDACTED]	327
[REDACTED]	232	[REDACTED]	329

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

1562

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
[REDACTED]	331	[REDACTED]	374 375
[REDACTED]	333	[REDACTED]	377
[REDACTED]	23	[REDACTED]	379
[REDACTED]	335	[REDACTED]	208
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	651
Deruy, George	651	[REDACTED]	380
[REDACTED]	337	[REDACTED]	381
[REDACTED]	339	[REDACTED]	382
[REDACTED]	343	[REDACTED]	531
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	652
[REDACTED]	202	[REDACTED]	383
[REDACTED]	25	[REDACTED]	384
[REDACTED]	347	[REDACTED]	386
[REDACTED]	345	[REDACTED]	388
[REDACTED]	234	[REDACTED]	389
[REDACTED]	32	[REDACTED]	391
Doherty, John W.	689	[REDACTED]	392
[REDACTED]	350	[REDACTED]	393
[REDACTED]	352	[REDACTED]	394
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	395
[REDACTED]	354	[REDACTED]	399
[REDACTED]	651	Groh, John	693
[REDACTED]	235	[REDACTED]	400
[REDACTED]	356	[REDACTED]	401
[REDACTED]	358	Gyer, Harvey Sylvester	651
[REDACTED]	360	[REDACTED]	402
[REDACTED]	362	Hankley, Walter Guy	651
[REDACTED]	364	[REDACTED]	403
Fishwick, Harry, et al.		[REDACTED]	652
vs. John L. Lewis, et al.	691	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	35	[REDACTED]	405
Flaminio, Concetto	651	[REDACTED]	40
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	42
[REDACTED]	204	[REDACTED]	407
[REDACTED]	266	[REDACTED]	238
[REDACTED]	368	[REDACTED]	408
[REDACTED]	370	[REDACTED]	44
[REDACTED]	372	Illinois State Journal,	
[REDACTED]	651	Review of	653
[REDACTED]	374	Illinois State Register,	
[REDACTED]	206	Review of	653
[REDACTED]	38	[REDACTED]	410
[REDACTED]	652	[REDACTED]	411

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
[REDACTED]	413	[REDACTED]	457
[REDACTED]	383	[REDACTED]	459
[REDACTED]	415	[REDACTED]	460
[REDACTED]	417	[REDACTED]	461
[REDACTED]	701	[REDACTED]	463
[REDACTED]	418	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	420	[REDACTED]	465
[REDACTED]	423	[REDACTED]	467
Kane, John R.	702	[REDACTED]	468
[REDACTED]	47	[REDACTED]	471
[REDACTED]	424	[REDACTED]	473
[REDACTED]	425	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	651	Malloy, Charles	713
[REDACTED]	426	[REDACTED]	475
[REDACTED]	428	[REDACTED]	476
Keck, William	705	[REDACTED]	53
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	479
[REDACTED]	429	[REDACTED]	56
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	482
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	59
[REDACTED]	431	[REDACTED]	484
[REDACTED]	49	[REDACTED]	486
Kozak, John Kanty	651	[REDACTED]	238
[REDACTED]	433	[REDACTED]	488
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	435	[REDACTED]	492
[REDACTED]	437	[REDACTED]	490
[REDACTED]	439	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	51	[REDACTED]	492
[REDACTED]	652	[REDACTED]	496
[REDACTED]	441	[REDACTED]	498
[REDACTED]	239	[REDACTED]	500
[REDACTED]	239	[REDACTED]	501
[REDACTED]	442	Maker, Bert Joseph, Jr.	651
[REDACTED]	444	[REDACTED]	503
[REDACTED]	446	[REDACTED]	505
[REDACTED]	448	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	238	[REDACTED]	714
[REDACTED]	450	[REDACTED]	239
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	507
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	509
[REDACTED]	452	[REDACTED]	238
[REDACTED]	209	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	454	Malloy, Harry Henry	651
[REDACTED]	456	[REDACTED]	238

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	85
[REDACTED]	511	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	513	Ronk, Robert	716
[REDACTED]	211	[REDACTED]	651
Norton, John William	651	[REDACTED]	540
[REDACTED]	652	[REDACTED]	541
Parumbo, Joe	651	[REDACTED]	89
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	219
[REDACTED]	515	[REDACTED]	543
[REDACTED]	517	[REDACTED]	92
[REDACTED]	61	[REDACTED]	221
Perry, L. S.	715	[REDACTED]	96
[REDACTED]	523	[REDACTED]	545
[REDACTED]	64	[REDACTED]	546
[REDACTED]	518	[REDACTED]	238
[REDACTED]	520	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	67	[REDACTED]	547
[REDACTED]	70	[REDACTED]	549
[REDACTED]	525	[REDACTED]	98
[REDACTED]	239	[REDACTED]	551
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	652	[REDACTED]	240
[REDACTED]	238	[REDACTED]	101
[REDACTED]	527	[REDACTED]	553
[REDACTED]	238	[REDACTED]	555
[REDACTED]	529	[REDACTED]	557
[REDACTED]	530	[REDACTED]	103
[REDACTED]	73	[REDACTED]	240
[REDACTED]	77	[REDACTED]	107
[REDACTED]	79	[REDACTED]	110
[REDACTED]	531	[REDACTED]	558
[REDACTED]	532	[REDACTED]	560
[REDACTED]	212	[REDACTED]	561
[REDACTED]	533	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	563
[REDACTED]	215	[REDACTED]	564
[REDACTED]	217	[REDACTED]	565
[REDACTED]	534	[REDACTED]	113
[REDACTED]	536	[REDACTED]	566
[REDACTED]	82	[REDACTED]	568
[REDACTED]	537	[REDACTED]	569
[REDACTED]	239	[REDACTED]	571
Ritz, Rudolph	651	[REDACTED]	240
[REDACTED]	538	[REDACTED]	116



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Smith, Duncan	716	[REDACTED]	144
[REDACTED]	574	[REDACTED]	146
[REDACTED]	578	[REDACTED]	240
[REDACTED]	240	[REDACTED]	613
[REDACTED]	580	[REDACTED]	614
[REDACTED]	119	[REDACTED]	615
[REDACTED]	582	[REDACTED]	617
[REDACTED]	121	[REDACTED]	148
[REDACTED]	240	[REDACTED]	619
[REDACTED]	124	[REDACTED]	152
[REDACTED]	223	[REDACTED]	154
[REDACTED]	583	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	591	[REDACTED]	623
[REDACTED]	586	[REDACTED]	625
[REDACTED]	587	[REDACTED]	627
[REDACTED]	589	[REDACTED]	628
[REDACTED]	584	[REDACTED]	157
[REDACTED]	585	[REDACTED]	161
[REDACTED]	651	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	593	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	595	[REDACTED]	630
[REDACTED]	126	[REDACTED]	629
[REDACTED]	718	[REDACTED]	631
Swabe, George J.	597	[REDACTED]	632
[REDACTED]	129	Waluntus, Tony	651
[REDACTED]	131	[REDACTED]	651
[REDACTED]	133	[REDACTED]	633
[REDACTED]	398	[REDACTED]	651
Straus, William	651	[REDACTED]	225
[REDACTED]	599	[REDACTED]	163
[REDACTED]	600	[REDACTED]	635
[REDACTED]	601	[REDACTED]	652
[REDACTED]	136	[REDACTED]	237
[REDACTED]	603	[REDACTED]	165
[REDACTED]	139	[REDACTED]	168
[REDACTED]	141	[REDACTED]	227
[REDACTED]	608	[REDACTED]	637
[REDACTED]	652	[REDACTED]	177
[REDACTED]	605	[REDACTED]	639
[REDACTED]	611	[REDACTED]	641
[REDACTED]	612	[REDACTED]	240
[REDACTED]	144	[REDACTED]	643
		[REDACTED]	645

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

NAME

PAGE

[REDACTED]	647
[REDACTED]	647
[REDACTED]	240
[REDACTED]	180
[REDACTED]	240
[REDACTED]	181
[REDACTED]	184
[REDACTED]	187
[REDACTED]	649
[REDACTED]	229
[REDACTED]	228

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

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

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

*was Denker mine*  
[redacted] Illinois, was interviewed in [redacted] on September 9, 1943, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. This man cannot speak English well enough to be understood and he does not understand English well enough to converse in it. Information was obtained from him during the interview, through [redacted] who acted as interpreter. [redacted] claimed to have no interest in union activities. He said he has never been arrested. The following signed statement was obtained from [redacted]

[redacted] Ill.  
September 9, 1943

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

"I presently live in [redacted] Ill. and employed at the Denker mine. I was born in [redacted]. In [redacted] I came to the United States, and became a citizen of the United States in [redacted] at Springfield, Ill.

"I first joined a mine union, the United Mine Workers, in [redacted] when I was working in the [redacted] Ill. mine. I stayed in this union until I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932 when I was working in the [redacted] mine. I had no part in the organization of the P.M.A. In 1934 I started to work at Mine B. I never was an officer in any union.

"In 1934 when I started at Mine B, there was no trouble at Mine B. The trouble started in Mine B in 1937. At that time some men were trying to pull some of the miners away from P.M.A. Some of these men were: Bowling Green (Charlie Bohannon), Dominic Pasquale, Andy (Skrelevicus), Tony Plotch, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, and Emory Jacaway. These men were talking to some of the miners, but they never talked to me at any time.

"I don't know why the strike started, but I think that the activities of the men named above had something to do with it. I don't remember if I signed a petition for P.M.A. in 1937. No one asked me to join the U.M.W. in the summer of 1937.

"I went on the picket line in 1937 of my own accord because the whole local of the P.M.A. went to the picket line. I think that the men were picketing to keep the U.M.W. men out of Mine B. I don't know anything about the injunction that stopped the strike picket.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"In the election in December in the State Armory I voted for the P.M.A. because I wanted to. No one forced me to vote for that union.

"From that time until the mine reopened in 1939 no one talked to me about joining the U.M.W. I received a letter from the mine company telling me that the mine was going to reopen, and that I could come back to work. I went back about two days after I received my notice.

"Shortly before I quit working at Mine B, some started to talk to me about joining U.M.W. I don't know their names. They talked to me in my room at the mine. They did not threaten me, and merely asked me to join the U.M.W. However, these men did say that there would be trouble at Mine B if the miners did not join the U.M.W. Shortly before the 1941 election some person cut up my clothes when they were hanging in the mine wash house. I don't know who did it. On another day when I was in the mine going to my room from the washhouse, I was hit on the head. I did not see who hit me because I was hit from the rear. On the last day that I worked at Mine B, I loaded three full cars of coal, but I did not get paid for them. I don't know what happened to my checks. *John*

"It makes no difference to me in which union I am a member. One union is as good as another.

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

/S/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at the Springfield Field Office by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was friendly and cooperative and indicated his willingness to testify, if necessary. His memory appears good [REDACTED] and it is felt that he would make a favorable witness. He furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 12, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and presently reside at [REDACTED]. I moved to [REDACTED] when I was young and when I was [REDACTED] years old I started working in the coal mines in that state.

"In [REDACTED] I became a member of the United Mine Workers, having previously joined the Knights of Labor, an organization that preceded U.M.W. and which turned over to U.M.W. In the years that followed I held several offices in the U.M.W. [REDACTED] and served on various committees. The last office I held was [REDACTED]. After that time I worked in the management of mines as [REDACTED] and other supervisory positions. I have held every position in a coal mine that exists, from trapper to manger.

"In [REDACTED] I went to work at Mine B as a minor. At that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers. In 1932 the members of U.M.W. revolted against John L. Lewis because of the alleged theft of ballots, these ballots being voted by the miners in an election held to see if the miners would accept a lower wage. The members would not accept the lower wage and when the second ballots were supposed to be stolen the men revolted and formed the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I had nothing to do with the formation of this Union, but I joined it when the rest of the men did. For a year or more I was not active in it but then I saw that P.M.A. appeared to be all right and getting along well with the members and Elshoff, so I took more interest in its activities. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and at the time of the strike I was a member of the pit committee.

"I recall that the contract which P.M.A. had with Elshoff expired on March 31, 1937. [REDACTED] had signed an agreement with Elshoff, extending the terms of the old agreement or contract, and it was generally

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] understood that this extension carried a clause providing for retroactive pay back to April 1, 1937 in the event a wage increase was granted. All men who later returned to Mine B under U.M.W. received this back pay, but those who did not return to work did not get it.

"The state officers of F.M.A. and [REDACTED] assured our committee that the extension which had been signed with Elshoff, carried a clause providing for retroactive pay back to April 1, 1937 and this information was passed on to the members of Local 54, both by our committee and at meetings. I feel sure that the members of Local 54 felt that the new contract would be negotiated, and would be as favorable as any other contract secured by any other local or by U.M.W.

"At about this time there was a small group of men at Mine B, members of F.M.A., who were causing some trouble by stating that we would not get a new contract nor our retroactive pay. These men, as I recall their names, were Bohannon who we called Bowling Green, Frank Austin, Dominic Pasquale and Sammy Albanese. There was also a fellow named Andy, Tony Flotch and perhaps one or two others whose names I don't recall. These men were constantly coming to me saying that we wouldn't get retroactive pay, and that we should not work without a contract. They were telling the miners the same thing but did not appear to have much success in disturbing the rest of the men.

"I do not recall any strikes, lock-outs or shut downs of the mine between April 1, 1937 and May 12, 1937.

"I recall that a meeting of the men was called, this meeting being held at the mine as I remember, at which time [REDACTED] advised the men that when the new contract was signed, retroactive wages would be paid back to April 1, 1937.

"There was a lot of meetings held at about this time and I do not recall the dates and purpose of all of these meetings.

"I recall that Oscar Falcetti told our committee that he did not know of any retroactive clause in the extension which had been signed.

"At about this time four or five of the agitators I have previously mentioned were expelled from F.M.A. I do not recall being at that meeting, probably wasn't. At any rate, I was not in the meeting when the action was taken. As I remember, it was at a regular meeting although I can not be sure. At any rate, I was advised that these men had been expelled, and the following morning which was the day of the strike, the miners refused to go to work with the men who had been expelled.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I came to work that morning as usual and saw that the men were not going down into the mine. The real issue that morning was the refusal of the men to work with the fellows who had been expelled. There was also some discussion about wages and I personally told the men to go to work, that we would take care of the trouble.

"Our committee then asked Falcetti to discharge the men who had been expelled from the Union. He refused, saying that it would be a violation of the Wagner Act. In the meantime the men had gone to work. Falcetti told us that the expelled men would work.

"Elshoff showed up at the mine later and we held a meeting with him. I was there, also [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. We asked Elshoff to discharge those men and he refused. I do not remember if he stated why he wouldn't. At any rate, we talked with Elshoff until about noon and got nowhere with him. [REDACTED] then told me to call the men out and I issued the orders bringing the men out. There were short loads coming out of the pit that day, but such action was not authorized by the union. When the men were called out it was our intention to keep the men out on strike until we had reached an agreement with Elshoff. His mind appeared to be firmly made up that he would not discharge those men.

"Following this, there was a picket line at Mine B for about two weeks. This was a small line and was on the highway. There was no violence as far as I know and it didn't last long. After the strike, the matter was then placed in the hands of the state officers.

"I remember being present at several meetings held between our officers and Elshoff. These meetings were held at Hotels, at the mine and at many other places. I am not sure of the date nor what happened at all of the meetings.

"I recall that a petition was circulated among the men by P.M.A. and it was signed by most of the men. This petition was taken to the men, at their homes or wherever they might be. I signed this petition at the mine while the first picket line was there. I do not recall any other petitions that summer although I heard that some petitions were passed out.

"During the meetings held with Elshoff during the summer we were unable to get anywhere with him. He would give us no satisfaction at all.

"I know nothing about the formation of the new U.M.W. local that summer.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I recall being present when our officers met with Elshoff and assured him of our willingness to go back to work. At that time we told him that we did not want the expelled men to return, but that if it was later decided that they had a right to work P.M.A. would reimburse Elshoff for any expense he might have been put to as a result of keeping these men from working.

"I recall that Elshoff put an ad in the paper, sometime in September, 1937, stating that Mine B would open. When we went there, ready to go to work, Falcetti said that he needed some men that morning to go to work, but that they would have to be members of the United Mine Workers. When we had gone there that morning we all expected to go to work. However, in view of what Falcetti said we knew that they intended to open the mine under U.M.W. if possible.

"A picket line was started by P.M.A. at that time in order to prevent the opening of Mine B by U.M.W., the men stayed there on the picket line to protect their jobs. I stayed on the picket line as long as it lasted, coming home on week ends. The only men on the line were members of P.M.A. Sometime in December, 1937 we were served with an injunction issued by the Federal Court, making us get off of the property. Some of the men didn't want to leave but I urged them to leave. I don't believe there was any bad feeling about this for anyone except Elshoff. This was the last time I was at Mine B and this was the last thing I had to do with the entire affair. I voted in the NLRB election at the Armory in December, 1937 and the election was quiet, with no trouble. Everyone voted as they felt and P.M.A. won the election. I went directly from my home to the polling place and voted. At this time I made up my mind to leave the mines and not go back unless it was to manage a mine of my own.

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

"X

(signed)

"Witnessed:

(signed)

(signed)

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 12, 1943. It was noted that [REDACTED] is not an illiterate person and he seemed to give the impression that he did not care at all for any union but had to belong to them to work and as noted in the statement he dislikes both unions. He would make a rather impressive witness. He advised that he had never been arrested in his life. [REDACTED] executed the following signed statement but declined to sign it.

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 12, 1943,

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

"I was born [REDACTED]. I first joined U.M.W. in [REDACTED] in Ill. I started at Mine B about 10 or 11 years ago & I still am a [REDACTED] there. I joined P.M.A. at Mine B when I started. I never have held any union office. I never cared for P.M.A. or U.M.W. as they never did me any good. P.M.A. first attempted to stop me from working there. I couldn't say if there was difficulties at Mine B between P.M.A. & management before it closed. No one ever said a thing to me about going back to U.M.W. I always worked on top in the shop from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. I never attended one P.M.A. meeting. I never liked the P.M.A. officials as they would not give me a card but the P.M.A. executive officials handed down a decision they had to give me a card so naturally I never liked them. Regarding the men sent to jail for the bombing I don't know a thing of it as I never associated with the miners. Before Mine B closed P.M.A. dues were about same as other unions. That P.M.A. union was about same as any other union as you never get any benefits from them but just pay into them. U.M.W. never picketed Mine B as far as I know before it closed or give out literature. I never heard of any parties Elshoff gave for U.M.W. or they gave for Elshoff. Before Mine B closed in 1937 we worked without a contract as it always was that way each year. I heard Elshoff was an independent operator but he did what others did and it was same again as before to work without a contract. I heard that the men were not pleased because a contract formed for others had allowed an increase but Mine B contract wasn't signed yet. I also heard the back pay was to be retroactive. Before Mine B closed I don't recall of any stoppages or sit down strikes. I never heard any PMA officials say anything about the contracts to me. I did not attend the meeting before Mine B closed as I never went to any. I worked day Mine B closed & I did not know it was going to strike. I came all of a sudden to me. I was in the wash-house & the men came in at 2:15 P.M. & said mine was on strike. They said it was because of the back-pay &



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

because they had no contract. Some time later on I heard too about the men being expelled. I don't care to say which was the real reason of the strike as it would just be my opinion as I really don't know the real reason. On day it closed practically all the cars came up with short loads & I don't know why it was done then. In summer of 1937 & later I worked on the W.P.A. for 8 months & around town. I never signed any petition for P.M.A. & U.M.W. as both of them knew I didn't like either of them at all. I have been shown an affidavit dated 8-25-37 & I recognize my signature on it but I never read it then but just signed it & I never heard [REDACTED] tell me to go to a U.M.W. meeting. That affidavit is not true as I never heard that man say it. I was not forced to sign it. [REDACTED] asked me to sign it & I just signed it to get away from him & to get on to work. I never heard of U.M.W. forming a local in Springfield & no one bothered me about the strike during the summer of 1937. I was at sit-down strike one night but I was not there on first day. I was asked several times to go out but I never was threatened or beaten up if I wouldn't go out. While there it was quiet & peaceful & there was no trouble out there. I don't know half of men so don't know if outsiders were there or not and I was not there when the U. S. Marshall came out. Between then & 11-5-39 I had not been out to Mine B at all & I heard they tried to reopen it but I never went out as I felt they would not re-open. I voted in N.L.R.B. election in Springfield, Ill. It looked like an honest election to me & I voted way I felt & no one forced me to vote. In Nov. 1939 I received a letter on Sat. to report to work & I went out to work on Sun. It was an open shop & I did not pay dues to either union. I saw quite a few new men around but I don't know if they were P.M.A. or U.M.W. men. Nothing was said to me about what wages I was to receive & after being out for several years I just wanted to work. I never heard of attempts to join either U.M.W. or P.M.A. after Mine B reopened. In the summer of 1940 I did not sign card for either P.M.A. or U.M.W. I never saw any men get beat up but I heard of it. P.M.A. did not ask me why I didn't pay dues to them. I voted at next N.L.R.B. election & it looked about the same to me & I voted just the opposite from before. No one forced me to vote & it was by secret ballot. When I first went to work in Nov. 1939 I never went down into the mine. I started on Sunday & coal started to come out Tues. They were taking care of Mine B while it was closed & I don't think it was in such bad shape. I never heard of any fire at Mine B when it was closed down. I did not attend any U.M.W. meeting in my life. I joined U.M.W. as it looked like that was the only solution. Otherwise it might be closed down again & that was my opinion. I never was bothered at all & it didn't matter to me which union was there & I always felt it would have been better to have had no union at all there.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this (5) five page statement to me & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge and as I gave it to Agents [REDACTED]



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(Continued)

[REDACTED] stated he would sign the statement if it was necessary, otherwise he preferred not to sign. He was advised that the matter was entirely up to his discretion. He stated that in such case he would not sign but that it was all true & correct and as he had told it to agents.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

*P. 207 of file  
Wm. L. Sullivan*  
INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was very cooperative and besides furnishing agents with a signed statement submitted a copy of a notice to Local #54, showing the misstatement by ELSHOFF concerning the temporary agreement signed April 2, 1937; also, a copy of a mimeographed letter dated May 25, 1937 and addressed to employees of Mine "B" and signed by ELSHOFF. These papers are being retained in the files of the Springfield Field Division.

[REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and is a naturalized citizen. It is not believed he would make a good witness due to his inability to speak English very well [REDACTED]. He has no known criminal record.

The following is the signed statement obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 8, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED]. I came to United States in July [REDACTED]. I became a naturalized citizen of U. S. [REDACTED] at Springfield, Ill.

"I began working in the coal mines in [REDACTED] and in [REDACTED]. I began working in the mines [REDACTED] at which time I joined United Mine Workers union. I began working at Mine "B" in [REDACTED].

"Before Progressives was formed there was no trouble at Mine "B" that I know of. I was never an officer of any union. I joined P.M.A. in 1932 because the majority of the men changed from U.M.W. because the ballots were stolen at a U.M.W. election.

"As far as I recall the mine worked OK and there was no trouble with the officials and the union after P.M.A. was formed until the strike in 1937.

"I attended most of the P.M.A. meetings. Before the strike in 1937, I know of several men who were spying at the mine for Falsetti.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

They put me on their 'black list'. These men were Joe Albanese, Dominic Pasquale, Andy Schrelevis, Tony Plotch, Geo. Jacaway, Chas. Bohannon, [REDACTED]

"The day of the strike there were several cars loaded short but I loaded mine full because I did not know about them being loaded short until I came out on top.

"I think I signed a petition shortly after the strike for P.M.A.

"I remember P.M.A. had a meeting in Washington Park to see what we were going to do about working in the mine but I don't recall the day. I was on picket duty at the mine for about 2 months and was present when an injunction was served against us.

"After the picketing I [REDACTED] worked on W.P.A.

"I recall voting in a government election at the Arsenal in which P.M.A. won by 404 to 25.

"I went back to work at Mine "B" in Nov. 1939 as a P.M.A. member. I had received a letter telling me the mine would reopen and later a man came to my house to tell me to come to work. After I went back to work Charles Bohannon and one other person whose name I can't recall came to me in the mine and told me that P.M.A. was going down and that I should join U.M.W. I told them that I would wait until everyone changed before I would join U.M.W.

"I went to [REDACTED] and because I saw two men point me out one morning and I knew they intended to beat me up. [REDACTED] when the second election was held and did not vote in it. When I came back they wouldn't give me my job.

"I haven't worked in the mine since [REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnessed:

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

/S/  
/S/

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with [REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED] He appeared cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of pertinent facts in this case and the fact that he never returned to the mine after May 12, 1937. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] denied any criminal record and furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 9, 1943.

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

"I was born on [REDACTED] I am presently residing [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. and am no longer working. I first started working at [REDACTED] about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] joining the United Mine Workers of America at that time. I started at Mine B [REDACTED] and continued there until the trouble in 1937. Between [REDACTED] and 1932 the U.M.W.A. got along alright with the Mine B officials.

"The Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed in 1932 because of trouble over a wage cut and the theft of the referendum votes. I took no active part in the formation of the P.M.A. but I joined P.M.A. along with all of my local. As far as unions go the new P.M.A. was about the same as the U.M.W.A. as for officers, and settlement of grievances, however, there was more special assessments under P.M.A. I never attended very many P.M.A. meetings as I wasn't in a habit of going to any union meetings. Between [REDACTED] and during that period I attended nearly all of the meetings.

"The new Progressive union seemed to get along harmoniously with the Mine B officials. Between 1932 and 1937 the P.M.A. and Mine B officials got along fine.

"The trouble in May of 1937 started over an argument about a new contract. I recall some argument over a temporary contract concerning retro-active wages from April 1. On about April 3 or 4 I heard a rumor at the mine that there were five or six men at the mine who were U.M.W.A. organizers. These men were PETE CARTER, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, CHARLES BOHANNAN, FRANK AUSTIN and one or two others. Some time later I heard at the mines that these men had been suspended for 99 years. ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS told me personally that he had been suspended. The P.M.A. then tried to get Mr. ELSHOFF to fire these suspended men, he refused, and the men went out on strike. I'm not sure whether

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with [REDACTED] called the strike or whether Mr. ELSHOFF  
[REDACTED] locked the men out. I remember on the day of the  
(continued) strike when the men were going down they were  
whispering about loading coal short. I loaded some  
coal short myself. I think that the main reason for the strike was the argument  
over the wage contract. I was never approached by any of the U.M.W.A. organiz-  
ers, nor did I ever see them approach anyone. I came up out of the mine about  
2 P.M. on May 12, 1937 and went on home. I went back to Mine B on May 27, 1937  
to get my check. We never did get the retroactive wage back to April 1st.

"From May 27, 1937 I never went to the mine again until they reopened  
in Nov. of 1939, on this latter date I went out to the mine and looked the  
situation over and didn't like it so I quit for good. It was "open shop" and I  
heard that there were two committees, two check weighmen, and feeling against  
the opposite sides so I quit.

"I do recall signing two petitions for the Progressives and voting  
in one N.L.R.B. election. This election seemed fair and square to me and the  
Progressives won out practically unanimous.

"Once I quit at Mine B no one from either union ever came to see me  
and tried to get me to sign up or pay dues. Since 1939 I haven't been working.

"Because of JOHN L. LEWIS' attitude since the last Presidential  
election and his actions in the war crisis I would choose the Progressive  
Union at this time.

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

(signed) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and advised he is presently unemployed. He speaks and understands English well and would make a satisfactory witness. He advised he has never been arrested. His telephone number is [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], also known as [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agent 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 unemployed. I started working in coal mines [REDACTED] and I joined the United Mine Workers of America Union in [REDACTED] I started working at Mine 'B', Springfield, in about [REDACTED]. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America because I did not like the actions of U.M.W. They stole ballots and faced a reduction in wage scale on us. No one in any way faced me to join P.M.A.

"Between 1932 and Spring of 1937 I was satisfied with the P.M.A. union. I thought it was an honest union being operated for its members, and I thought the officials were honest. I noticed no unusual assessments. During this time I never noticed any clos-downs, strikes or picket lines. I noticed no attempts made by U.M.W. to organize in any way at Mine 'B'. The company at no time indicated they wanted the men to change to U.M.W.

"I remember that about May of 1937 the P.M.A. expelled FRANK AUSTIN, JOE ALBANESE, BOWLING GREEN BOHANNAN, PETE CARTER, BILL SURTOCK, EMORY JACAWAY. JAMES HALE, TONY FLOTCH, COTTON ANNANIAS and ANDY SCHRELIVIOUS were the men expelled. They were expelled because they were trying to turn our P.M.A. local over to U.M.W. Some of these men I believe were expelled at a P.M.A. meeting May 11, 1937. But I donot remember how many. I believe the others were expelled before that. I attended this meeting May 11, 1937 but I cannot remember what went on.

"I know there was a wage scale trouble between the company and P.M.A. about this time. On May 12, 1937 I went to work as usual as a digger. About 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon we were pulled out of the mines by our local P.M.A. officials. I thought the reason was because of this wage scale trouble, and after I got up on top, I also heard a reason was because the company refused to fire these men who had been expelled from P.M.A. I do not know which of



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

these was the reason for the strike. When I came out of the Mine 'B' on May 12, 1937, I changed clothes and went home. On May 12, 1937, I loaded my cars short. No one told me to load short, but I saw the other men loading short and so I did also.

"I went back to Mine 'B' on May 13, 1937, but none of the men were working and I went back home. After May 13, 1937 I only went back to Mine 'B' after a picket line had been formed there by P.M.A. I heard about it being formed, and I went out there the day after they started, in about Sept. 1937. I was in the picket line for 51 days. This reason we had this picket line was to protect our jobs so the company would not try to put U.M.W. men in Mine 'B'. The day this picket line was formed about six U.M.W. men tried to go down, and that was the reason the picket line was formed. I voluntarily went in the picket line and was free to come and go as I wanted to. No one in any way forced me to be in this picket line.

"About 55 days after this picket line was formed, the U.S. Marshal came out and served notice of a Federal injunction and told us we would have to get out. I was not surprised because we felt something like that would come, but I was disappointed when it came late at night and I had to get out of bed. After that, and until Nov. 7, 1939, I never went back to Mine 'B' and I was never notified to come to work there.

"I do not remember signing any petition during the summer of 1937. I may have signed a P.M.A. petition, because if I had been asked to I would have. I am certain I did not sign a U.M.W. petition, because if I had been asked to I would have refused. I remember hearing that a U.M.W. local had been formed in Springfield during the summer of 1937, but I was not asked to join it.

"I remember voting in a National Labor Relations Board election in about Dec. of 1937 when P.M.A. beat U.M.W. I was not forced or threatened in any way to vote in this election and I thought it was an honest election.

"In about November of 1939 I received a letter from the company telling that Mine 'B' was going to re-open and I was to come back within ten days to get my job back. At the end of the ten days I went to work at Mine 'B' as a member of P.M.A. and got my same room back. They had been fixing up the mine for about ten days, and I did not notice there had been any cave-ins by fires.

"Between Nov. of 1939 and Feb. of 1941 no one ever attempted in any way to get me to join U.M.W. I was not forced or threatened in any way during this time. During this time however, I noticed the U.M.W. tried to organize the men at Mine 'B'. These men were those who had been expelled from P.M.A. and also sluggers who had been imported. I knew that [REDACTED] were organizing for U.M.W. at Mine 'B'. I heard

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

there were many fights and that men were being beat by U.M.W. men, but I saw none of this. The only thing I saw was one time [REDACTED] was in the wash house changing clothes and I saw him run out in his bare feet and underwear (it was a cold day and sleety) and I heard [REDACTED] threatening [REDACTED] to beat him up. I did not see anyone get cut.

"I remember voting in another N.L.R.B. election in about Feb. of 1941. No one threatened or forced me in any way and I thought the election was fair. I voted for P.M.A., but U.M.W. won.

"The U.M.W. then set a date which I think was March 15, 1941, that anyone who did not join U.M.W. on that day could not work in the Mine 'B'. The U.M.W. men told us this, and no one from the company ever told us. On the last day [REDACTED] came to my room with some slips and told me it was the last day to sign for U.M.W. and if I wanted to keep my job at the Mine 'B' I would have to join U.M.W. I did not want to join U.M.W., but [REDACTED] I also did not want to lose my job, so I signed up with U.M.W. I would have preferred to stay P.M.A.

"I worked at Mine 'B' from then until July of 1941 under U.M.W. I did not like it at Mine 'B' under U.M.W. because the U.M.W. men would inconvenience me at every opportunity and steal tools.

"In March of 1941, shortly after I joined U.M.W., I received a letter with JOHN L. LEWIS' signature, saying I had been disloyal to U.M.W. and they were sending a Special Investigator from Kentucky to investigate my case. I never knew of any investigating. On about July 12, 1941, the Sup't. of Mine 'B' got a letter from U.M.W. Dist. Hdqtrs., telling the company to discharge me and two other men, one whose name was [REDACTED] and the other an Italian whose name I do not know.

"The Company fired me, and I have not worked since that time. I know of no reason why the U.M.W. said I was disloyal.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I have never held an office in any union at any time other than this.

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

WITNESSES:

(signed) [REDACTED]

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

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

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

[REDACTED] He was cooperative but it is not believed he will make a good witness inasmuch as he has difficulty speaking and understanding English. He is a naturalized U. S. Citizen with [REDACTED] birth. He has no known criminal record and he supplied the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 12, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. 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 America in [REDACTED] I became a naturalized citizen of U. S. by reason of my father obtaining his citizenship in U. S. I served in the U. S. Army during "World War #1.

"I began working in coal mines when I was [REDACTED] yrs. old and at Dawson Ill. I joined U.M.W. at that time. I started working at Mine "B" about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] I know of no trouble at Mine "B" until P.M.A. was formed in 1932. I changed from U.M.W. to P.M.A. in 1932 because the whole local to which I belonged changed to P.M.A. and P.M.A. had the contract with Mine "B". P.M.A. seemed to get along as well at Mine "B" as U.M.W. did and there was no trouble up until the time of the strike in 1937. There was very little difference in U.M.W. and P.M.A. that I could see during that time.

"In spring of 1937 I remember the mine went on strike and I was driving entry. The men all walked out because P.M.A. and Elshoff could not agree on the wage scale and because Elshoff and Falsetti refused to fire some men who had been expelled from P.M.A. but I don't know why they were expelled. I did not attend any meetings when they were expelled.

"I signed a petition for P.M.A. shortly after the mine shut down to show that P.M.A. had a majority of the workers at the mine.

"About a week after the mine "B" shut down I got a job at Old West mine and worked there until Mine "B" reopened. I got a transfer to the P.M.A. local at Old West at that time. I did not picket at Mine "B" because I was working at Old West.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election in Dec. 1937 which P.M.A. won by a large majority. This was a fair and square election as far as I know.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"When Mine "B" opened up in 1939, Old West Mine was not working and when I got a letter from Elshoff telling me that Mine "B" would open and that I could belong to either P.M.A. or U.M.W. I went back to work as P.M.A. After I started back to work at Mine "B", Joe Albanese, Andrew Skrelevious, Pete Carter, Dominic Pasquale, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, John (Cotton) Ananias, John Sirtout, George & Emory Jacaway, Charles Bohannon, and Jim Hale were attempting to organize for U.M.W. at Mine "B". Tony Plotch and Joe Albanese came to my house and tried to get me to join U.M.W. I said I was satisfied with P.M.A. and intended to stay as long as I could. Tony Plotch told me if I didn't join U.M.W., Elshoff might close the mine down altogether. A few days later they came back and told me I better join U.M.W. while I could and I wouldn't have to pay any initiation fee. I told them "no" and that I was still satisfied with P.M.A.

"After several men got beat up at the mine, I got scared and when Tony Plotch and Joe Albanese came out to my house the third time, I signed up with U.M.W. because I was afraid I would get beat up too. If I hadn't been scared, I would still belong to P.M.A. After I signed up with U.M.W. I worked about eight months and quit because they were putting two men in a room and I had a bad room and couldn't make any money. I voted in the second N.L.R.B. election which U.M.W. won by a pretty close majority. The reason that U.M.W. won this election was because they had hired a lot of men from out of the state and in other parts of the state who were U.M.W.

"After I quit at Mine "B", I was out of work for about a year and then I went back to Mine "B" and worked for two or three months. I quit again because I had a bad room and couldn't make any money. I had to pay a new initiation fee when I went back.

"I have not been at Mine "B" since and am now working at Old West Mine.

"If I had my free choice of a union I would choose P.M.A.

"I have had this 3 1/2 page statement read to me by Agent [REDACTED] and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would  
not make a good witness inasmuch as all information obtained from him  
was negative. He has no known criminal record. [REDACTED] furnished  
the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 12, 1943

"I [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily  
give the following statement to Special Agent [REDACTED] and  
[REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats  
or promises of any kind were made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born [REDACTED] I first started  
working in the mines in Kansas about [REDACTED] joining the United Mine  
Workers of America at that time. I began at Mine B in 1934 changing  
over to Progressive Mine Workers of America at that time. So far as I  
was concerned PMA and the Mine B officials seemed to be getting along  
alright.

"At the time of the strike in 1937 I was driving entry in Box  
[REDACTED] at Mine B, with [REDACTED] We didn't even know about the  
strike until we came out on top at quitting time. I don't know what  
caused the strike and never saw or heard of any trouble at the mine  
leading up to the strike. I have no knowledge of any UMW spies or  
organizers being at the mine before the strike and don't recall any  
trouble over wages or anything about a temporary wage contract and an  
argument about retroactive back pay. After the strike occurred I only  
returned to the mine once and that was to get my pay. I don't recall  
signing any petitions for any union after the strike and never took  
part either in the picketing or the set down strike out at Mine B.

"I don't remember voting in the N.L.R.B. election.

"After the strike I started working on my farm and have been  
so employed ever since, with the exception of a few months in the winter  
of 1942 when I was employed at Mine A.

"Then Mine B opened up again I never went back and I have  
never been back there since.

"I never attended any PMA union meetings and didn't know  
very many of the miners. I don't remember or know JOE ALBANESE, ANDREW

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS AT AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER,  
FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, JOHN ANANIAS, JOHN  
SIRTOUT, GEORGE and EMORY JACAWAY, CHARLES  
BOHANON (BOULING GREEN) or JAMES HALE.

"I have had agent [REDACTED] read the above one and three quarters  
pages of statement to me. The same is true and correct and I do hereby  
sign my name.

"Witnessed:

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

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

A preliminary interview was had with [REDACTED] on Labor Day by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at the Springfield Office.

On September 15, 1943 another interview was had with [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Illinois by Special Agent [REDACTED], at which time a signed statement was obtained from him.

[REDACTED] He is willing to testify as to the facts set out in the statement. At present he is working at [REDACTED] Illinois, and living at the [REDACTED] there. However in event his work takes him elsewhere he may be located through the people at his legal residence at [REDACTED] Springfield.

[REDACTED] is intelligent, cooperative, and should make a good witness. He has advised that he has never been arrested, and was not connected in any way with the mine bombing case. He was named in the Federal injunction obtained by ELSHOFF in November of 1937, but was never cited for contempt in connection with this injunction. It was noted during the interview that he had some difficulty in establishing the exact dates of some of the conferences with ELSHOFF. [REDACTED] statement is as follows:

[REDACTED] Illinois,  
September 15, 1943

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

"I reside at [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, and was born [REDACTED]. I started working in coal mines when I was [REDACTED] years of age, and continued this occupation until about three years ago. I started working for the Mine B Coal Company, Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED] at that time the mine was being run by CARL H. ELSHOFF. At that time I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America hereafter referred to as the UMWA; however I never held any official position in this union. In the summer and fall of 1932, I joined with the movement which resulted in the organization of the Progressive Mine Workers of America hereafter referred to as the PMWA. I did not take an active part in the organization of the PMWA, but when local number 54 of the PMWA which was formed and which had jurisdiction over the Mine B, Coal Co., I joined it. Local number 54 voted unanimously to go Progressive with

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

one exception--a man by the name of [REDACTED]  
voted UMWA. [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] During this time ELSHOFF seemed to get along very well with the Progressives; there were grievances of course, but these were settled in the due course of negotiations, without any interruption of work. Most of our dealings were with OSCAR FALCETTI, the superintendant of the Mine.

"One day early in April 1937, TONY PLOTCH came up to me in the wash house at the mine and said 'do you know that we are not going to get any back pay for the time that we have worked from April 1.' I said, 'who told you were not going to get any retroactive pay.' He said that OSCAR FALCETTI the superintendant told him that. I then said we will go over and see that superintendant. I went over with PLOTCH and a bunch of other fellows. I asked FALCETTI if he told PLOTCH that we were not going to get any retroactive pay. FALCETTI said that he did not tell him in those words that he was not going to get it, but told PLOTCH that he did not see how the miners were going to get the back pay under the agreement that ELSHOFF had signed. Then Falcetti showed me the contract, and asked me if I saw anything in the agreement that said the miners were going to get back pay. I said that I did not know anything about that; that it was up to the officials of the Union to decide things like that. After that conference I went with the Pit Committee composed of [REDACTED] to see [REDACTED] the board member for our P.M. district. [REDACTED] told us that contract he signed with ELSHOFF was binding and called for retroactive back pay. Arrangements were made for [REDACTED] to come out and talk to the men the next morning. [REDACTED] came out to the mine the next morning and told the men that they were going to get retroactive pay, and that ELSHOFF would have to live up to his contract. On this morning FALCETTI and the bosses refused to let the men go down into the mine saying that it was too late to go to work. The time to begin work was 8 AM, and the time that the bosses refused to let us work was before 8 o'clock. On the following day [REDACTED] came out and saw to it that the men went down into the mine to operate. After I had worked a while this day I received word that I and the Pit Committee were wanted on top. We went up and found a group of men, TONY PLOTCH, ANDY SKRELEVIEUS, JOE ALBANESE, DOMINIC PASQUALE, PETE CARTER, and a few other people. On this day these men who were later tried and found to be active in the UMWA, again stated that we were not going to get any retroactive pay, and this time they had yellow pieces of paper which they had to support their story which they said they got from the coal company. I again went to FALCETTI'S office with these men. Falcetti continued to say that he did not tell

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

them they were not going to get retroactive pay, but again produced the contract and asked if any provisions could be found in it regarding retroactive pay. These fellows were trying to strike the mine.

From then on until the strike on May 12, 1937, these men did not work much. They would hang around the top of the mine trying to talk to any one who would listen to them, and some days they did not even go down.

"Later in April or the first of May 1937, we expelled five of these men who were trying to strike the mine; they were FRANK AUSTIN, TONY PLOTCH, ANDREW SKRELEVEVEIUS, JOE ALBANESE, and PETE CARTER. At this time we were working under a closed shop contract with Mine B which provided that no one except those who belong to the PMA could work at the mine. On the morning of May 12, 1937, after these men had been expelled from the union, I and and the Pit Committee went to OSCAR FALCETTI and stated that these men were no longer progressive miners, and under the contract were no longer entitled to work at Mine B. FALCETTI said according to the labor board or the Wagner act, I cannot stop those men from going to work. If I do I will get in bad.' I said that I did not think that that had anything to do with the closed shop contract. He said that it was not for me to do any thinking about it. He said that he was not going to stop those five men from going to work if they wanted to. I later brought this home to FALCETTI when he had signed a contract with the UMWA and refused to put PMA men to work because he had such a contract. At that time he would not even answer me. I then called up and told him what had happened. came out and also CARL ELSHOFF. ELSHOFF supported his superintendent FALCETTI relative to putting the men back to work without the five spies. He would not agree with us at all; then wanted him to write up the case in accordance with previous procedure, and ELSHOFF refused. He was contending that it would be a violation of the Wagner act to discharge the five men. He agreed however to see his lawyer and give a definite answer at 2 PM that afternoon. When we met him that afternoon, he started raising Cain about the short runs of coal coming up out of the mine, and refused to deal with us at all. then went out and told the check weighman and engineer that ELSHOFF had refused to negotiate any further with him. The check weighman sent a note down to notify the men as to what had happened. The men came out of the mine.

"After this there was some picketing at the mine for a period of about three weeks. It was during this time that a petition was circulated among the employees of the mine to see if they wanted to be represented by PMA. approximately 412 men signed the petition out of a possible 450 or 460. The next time that I recall

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

seeing ELSHOFF was around the 23, 24 or 25th of May 1937, when I went down with the others to get my pay check. At this time ELSHOFF was also handing out hand bills which purported to see out the contractual agreement with the PMA, but left out an important part of that agreement. Around the middle of July 1937 I, [REDACTED] and the pit committee went to see ELSHOFF. We took the petition which had been signed by the men. I told ELSHOFF that I had a petition which had been signed by the employees of that mine stating that they desired to be represented by the PMA as a collective bargaining agency. ELSHOFF said that he did not doubt our word that all the signatures were legitimate. FALCETTI took it, looked at the pages, and said that some of the names on the petition were on UMW cards. ELSHOFF asked if he could keep the petition for a few days. I said that would be all right if he gave me a receipt for it. He and FALCETTI went out of the room for a few minutes and then came back with a letter typed out acknowledging the receipt of the petition but not the authenticity of the signatures. [REDACTED] spoke to ELSHOFF about a contract, but ELSHOFF would not signed any.

"I also recall a meeting with ELSHOFF early in June 1937 at which time [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] represented the PMA and ELSHOFF, FALCETTI [REDACTED] for the Company. We told him that there was no strike and that we were ready to go to work at any time. ELSHOFF contended that we were striking. I also recall that [REDACTED] told ELSHOFF that the case of the five men could be taken up before the labor board, and if the board decided against the PMA, the Union would stand any expense for back salary and the like for which the company might be liable for discharging the five men. During all this time ELSHOFF and FALCETTI did not seem to be particularly disturbed over the fact that the mine was not working; in fact they seemed to be pleased. We tried time and time again to meet with them but ELSHOFF would be out of town, or he could not be located. After this meeting in June I was out of the mine and saw some of the top bosses taking the mules out of the mine. I told FALCETTI that the work belong to our men, but he said that it did not amount to much.

"Sometime between June 1 and September 27, 1937 [REDACTED] and I went into [REDACTED] OSCAR FALCETTI, [REDACTED] and others were there. I went back to the wash room, and OSCAR FALCETTI followed me back there, saying that I had better get on the band wagon, that the mine was going UMW. I told FALCETTI that the men had elected me and that I was going to stick with them in the progressives.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

I went back and got [REDACTED] and said 'Let's get out of here.'

"Early in August 1937, I went out to the mine with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to talk to ELSHOFF about signing a contract. [REDACTED] was the spokesman. ELSHOFF refused to sign a contract, and said that if he decided to sign a contract he would get in touch with us. We, later in August, went back to get the petition that had been given to ELSHOFF in July 1937. [REDACTED] again talked to ELSHOFF about signing contract, but he again refused. He said that when he signed a contract it would be with a union, but did not say what union.

"In the early part of September 1937 I went to Chicago, Illinois with [REDACTED] to see Mr. L. C. BAJORK of the NLRB. We met [REDACTED] state president there, RAY EDMUNDSON represented the UMLA at this meeting; we were asking for an election at Mine B to determine who the men wanted to represent them, PMLA or UMLA. EDMUNDSON did not want an election, saying that he had a contract and would put the mine to work. We produced our evidence in the form of petitions and the like, and asked EDMUNDSON to do the same. EDMUNDSON refused to present any evidence to show that the men desired UMLA to represent them, saying that he would do it at the right time.

"Late in September 1937, it was announced in the papers that the mine was going to open and that they would need about 50 men to open the mine. I led about 200 employees, members of PMLA, out to the mine that morning, and approached Falcetti. I asked Falcetti how many men he wanted; he said he needed around 50. I said 'I got them out here in all classifications.' Falcetti said that he was not going to put any body to work but United Mine Workers. I reminded him about his previous contention about the labor board when we wanted him to put the mine back to work without the men who had been expelled from PMLA in May 37. Falcetti said that it was different now. Falcetti said 'how do I know that all the men out there are all progressive; there may be some United Mine Workers among them.' I said 'I will prove that to you Oscar' and then I called men through the office and asked them who they wanted to work under. They all said progressive. Falcetti then wanted to stop this procession, and I said that I was doing this to prove to him that the men wanted to work at PMLA; he said all right, let them come on through. He refused to let any of them work however unless he was a United Mine Worker. About 10 or 12 men went down into the mine that day. Later FALCETTI came out and asked me to clear the way; that he wanted to put some men to work. I said 'all right bring them on out, no one will bother them.' He took the twelve men who had been expelled down to work.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"On the next morning, I again went out with them, and told him that we were ready to go to work. The twelve men were there but no attempt was made to put them to work. From that time on until we were enjoined in Federal Court late in November 1937 we stayed out there at the mine night and day to protect our jobs. It was rumored about this time that UMW was going to bring some strike breakers to put the mine to work.

"Early in October 1937, I with [REDACTED] and the Pit Committee had a meeting with Elshoff relative to putting the mine back to work. This was during the time when negotiations were being carried on to put the mine to work for a certain number of days, and then hold an election. We felt that some progress was made on this date, but nothing ever came of it.

"I was [REDACTED] at the time of the election. I voted however [REDACTED]. This was around the middle of December 1937.

"We won the election, and were certified on January 4, 1937. The mine tried to open on this morning. I went out with [REDACTED] and others. The United States Marshal [REDACTED] would not let [REDACTED] go on down to the mine. I went on down I went in with the pit committee to see FALCETTI, saying that we had the men to go to work and that we had been recognized by the NLRB as the bargaining union. FALCETTI said that he was not recognizing any one but United Mine Workers. Then CHARLES BOHANNON, and said 'By God I am president of local 7469 UMW.' and I said [REDACTED]. FALCETTI said let's not have any argument. I said 'There isn't going to be any argument. OSCAR, do you refuse to recognize my men and let them go to work here?' He said 'Yes, [REDACTED] I am not recognizing anyone but United Mine Workers.' Among those present that morning were the expelled men, [REDACTED]. I said 'Well I guess that is about all that I can do.' I got in the car and left. The mine shut down and did not operate any more until November of 1939.

"About the middle of March 1938, I with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went out to the mine to see ELSHOFF. We had heard that the mine was working. ELSHOFF met us and said 'What are you doing out here; don't you know there's an injunction against you.' I said 'not when you come out on business.' ELSHOFF said 'you have not got any business out here with me.' I said no, but I have some with your superintendant. I asked FALCETTI who had loaded the props on the cars, stating that if there was any work at the mine we were entitled to it under the NLRB ruling. FALCETTI said that was right, but that the top



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

bosses had loaded the props. We notified [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] of the result of our talks with FALCETTI.

(continued)

"I do not recall any other meetings with officials of the mine after that date. [REDACTED] but I left before my term expired, taking my card out of the local, and getting a job elsewhere.

"I have read this statement which consists of 9 pages and to the best of my memory it is true.

"Signed [REDACTED]

"Witnessed

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 5, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is native born and speaks very good English. However, he stated that he does not want to testify in court because he does not want to get into trouble. He said that were it not for the war and his feeling that he has a patriotic duty to work in a mine, he would be living in a home for World War Veterans. Throughout the interview [REDACTED] was quite nervous. He said that on several occasions he has been in jail because of [REDACTED].

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"September 5, 1943  
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I am presently living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine B. I was born [REDACTED]. I joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Illinois, and remained a member until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, at Mine B, where I had been employed since [REDACTED]. I have never held an office in any union. In 1932, John L. Lewis agreed to a wage cut for the miners, 10% at first, later 50%. The men became dissatisfied, and started the P.M.A. I felt as the rest of the miners did, and joined the P.M.A. voluntarily. From 1932 until 1937, there were no strikes at the mine, no trouble of any kind with the management, and the men seemed to be satisfied with the way the P.M.A. was being run. I didn't go to very many P.M.A. meetings, but I never heard of any trouble between the officers and members of the union. As far as I know, the men were free to get up at the meetings and speak their mind, and there were no railroading methods used to try to get the men to do what the officers of P.M.A. wanted them to do. During the period from 1932 until 1937, I don't remember anything happening which would show favoritism for U.M.W. on the part of the management.

"I heard that some men at Mine B were trying to pull P.M.A. men over to U.M.W. before the strike. None of these men talked to me, and I know they talked to others. I heard that there were 27 men doing this, some of them being an Italian called Sammy, a Cotton, Bohannon, Hale, Plotch, Carter, Austin, the Sirtout boy, and one of the Jacaways. I would see them

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
(continued)

talking with men around the mine, and knew they were trying to get men for the U. N. W., but I never heard what

they were saying, and, as I said, none of them ever contacted me, because they knew that I would do what ever the majority of the men would do. I was satisfied with the P.M.A., the men were treated squarely by the officers, and the officers were trying to do their best for the miners.

"I didn't go to the P.M.A. meeting the night before the strike, don't know what went on at the meeting, and had no advance notice of the strike. I first heard of the strike in the wash house on the day of the strike. I heard that the strike was called because Elshoff refused to fire the twenty seven men who had been trying to pull men away from the P.M.A. into the U.M.W. The P.M.A. wanted him to fire the men, and he refused. The wage scale dispute had nothing to do with the strike. I went back home that day, and stayed home the next day.

"A little bit after the strike started, two P.M.A. men, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] came to my house, and asked me which union I wanted. I was satisfied with P.M.A., and signed a paper they had with them. That summer I heard that a U.M.W. local had been organized, but no one tried to get me to join it.

"I don't remember getting any notice of the mine opening up in September of 1937. I heard about the picket line, and went out voluntarily. I heard that the reason for the picketing was that the mine tried to reopen with U.M.W. men. I was on the picket line for some time and fired the boilers to keep the wash house warm. Nobody told me to fire the boilers but I did it to have something to do. I think that the federal injunction was gotten so the P.M.A. men would have to get out, and U.M.W. men could get into the mine. I have no facts to back this up.

"I don't remember any attempts to open the mine in December 1937, or January, 1938. In December of 1937 there was a union election. I got word of it from a P.M.A. man, and saw a notice of it in the paper. There was no pressure put on me to vote a certain way. I voted for P.M.A. because I knew it was the majority, and was satisfied with it.

"From the fall of 1937 until the mine opened in 1939, I worked on U.P.A., and had no interest in Mine B or the unions. No one saw me during this time about either union. In the fall of 1939 I got a notice through the mail about the mine opening, and telling me when to report back to work. I went back some time after the mine opened, as it was in pretty bad shape when it opened. I was still a member of the F.M.A. when I went back to work. I changed over to the U.M.W. just before the election in 1941. I could see that they were going to get the majority, and signed to keep them off my shoulders. I didn't have any preference either way. Jimmy Hale

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
(continued)

[REDACTED] came up to me while I was working, asked me if I didn't want to sign up, and I did. I didn't want to have any trouble, and I had seen one fellow, [REDACTED], after he was supposed to have been beaten up over union trouble.

"In February of 1941, at the election, I voted for the U.M.W., because I felt the majority of the men went U.M.W. Many of the old P.M.A. men were gone, and the U.M.W. had pushed a lot of new men in. Sometime after the mine reopened, I saw [REDACTED] give some checks, yellow ones, the same color as those used by Elshoff to [REDACTED] and two others, whose names I don't know. I believe those checks were given on a regular mine pay day, but I don't know what they were for. It might have been that he had just picked up their checks for them, and was giving them to the men. I had an idea that some of the men were being paid for their authorities, but I don't have anything to back it up.

"During the picketing, at first, Elshoff would let P.M.A. go to the bottom of the shaft for coal to heat the boilers, but after a short time he stopped that, and the men brought their own coal.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

P-0  
m.d. 10

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at [REDACTED] where he is employed [REDACTED] Department, on September 11, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] came to the United States in [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois. He speaks and understands English well and would make a satisfactory witness for what information he can furnish. He advised he has no criminal record.

[REDACTED] gave the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 11, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] of [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] and came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] I became a U. S. Citizen in Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED]

"I first started working in mines in the U. S. in [REDACTED] Ill. I was then a member of the United Mine Workers of America Union. I started working in the Mine "B" in about [REDACTED] In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union because I did not like the activities of John L. Lewis, especially when he refused to abide by the referendum vote. No one in any way forced or threatened me to join PMA. I took no active part in the organizing of PMA and I have never held an office in any union.

"During the time from 1932 to May of 1937 I never noticed any strikes or close downs due to labor trouble at Mine "B". I noticed no attempts by any company officials to discredit the PMA or in any way show favor to either PMA or UMW. No effort was made to get me to join UMW. During this time between 1932 and May 1937 I thought the PMA was a good and honest union. I thought the PMA officials were honest and I noticed no special assessments of an unusual nature. There were no efforts by PMA to keep the men in line because they all seemed satisfied. I remember reading of some bombing cases during this time but I knew nothing about them, therefore I cannot say whether or not the trial's were fair.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"During this same time I never noticed any attempts by UMW to organize at Mine "B". I never saw any UMW picket lines and I never saw any UMW literature.

"I never heard anything about any UMW spies in PMA. I did not attend a PMA meeting on May 11, 1937, the night before the strike.

"On May 12, 1937, I went to work as usual as a digger. In the early afternoon the driver told us we were to come out. I did not know why we were called out but I heard later that the President of our PMA local called us out because the company refused to fire some men who had organized a UMW local. These men were: Joe Albanese, Andy Schrelevious, Dominic Pasquale, Pete Carter, Frank Austin, Tony Plotch, a Jacaway, Bowling green Bohannon and Jim Hale. I went right home on May 12, 1937 and came back to work the next day, but we never went down into the mine and I heard we would not until these men were either fired or went back to PMA. I heard there was also some retroactive wage trouble at this time, but I did not think that was the reason for the strike.

"At no time after May 12, 1937 was I ever notified to come to work at Mine "B" until in Nov. of 1939. I know there was a picket line at Mine "B" by PMA in about Sept. of 1937, but I was not out there the day it started, and I was in it only about two days.

"During the summer of 1937 I remember I signed either two or three PMA petitions. I never signed any UMW petition. I never attended many union meetings because I lived so far away, and I do not remember attending any meetings while the Mine "B" was closed.

"In Nov. of 1939, I got notice from the Company that the Mine "B" was going to reopen, and so I went back to work there. I got my old room back. I was still a member of PMA and nothing was said to me about unions.

"From the time I went back to work in Nov. of 1939 until I joined UMW after Feb. of 1941, no one at any time ever tried to get me to join UMW in any way. I was never forced or threatened in any way and I did not see any organizing going on out there. I heard [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were organizing, but I never saw them organizing.

"I never saw any fights but one, when [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] fought one day. But I do not know why they were fighting. I heard some men were beat up but I never saw any of this.

"I voted in a National Labor Relations Board Election in about Dec. of 1937 when PMA beat UMW. I thought it was a fair election and no one forced or threatened me in any way. I also voted in the NLRB election in about Feb. of 1941 when UMW won. I was not forced or threatened in any



Re: JOSE L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

way and I thought it was a fair election. I voted PMA at that time, but when I saw after the election that UMW had the majority, I joined the UMW. I had no trouble at all.

"When the Mine "B" re-opened in 1939 I did not notice that there had been any fires, but I did notice there had been many cave ins. In fact the section known as the 'Main South' had all caved in.

"I prefer PMA over UMW, but I believe in majority rule and that was the reason I went UMW.

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

[REDACTED] (signed)

"WITNESS.

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 12, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] cannot speak or understand English, and speaks his native tongue poorly. He said he was never arrested. [REDACTED] had to act as interpreter during the interview. [REDACTED] executed the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 12, 1943.

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. [REDACTED] I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and have not yet been naturalized.

"I don't remember when I first joined the United Mine Workers. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I started to work at Mine B about [REDACTED]. I don't remember when I re-joined the U.M.W. at Mine B.

"I quit working at Mine B because some persons, unknown to me, stole my tools and powder so often that I had to quit. I couldn't make a living at Mine B. Also, I would load my cars and would send it to be weighed, but I would never get credit for some of these cars. I think that some one was stealing my checks off my cars, and then put a different check on the car. I don't know who was doing this to me. I wasn't making any money at Mine B so I had to quit.

"Several times some men whose names I don't know told me that I would get beaten up if I did not join U.M.W. They also said that if I didn't join U.M.W., I would lose my job. I signed up with U.M.W. after Mine B reopened only because of these threats.

"After the U.M.W. obtained the right to bargain for the miners at Mine B in 1941, my cars would weigh the same, but I would not get credit for all the cars I loaded.

"I liked the P.M.A. better than U.M.W. because P.M.A. never cheated me, and always treated me better than U.M.W.

"At present I am employed in the Old West Mine, and am a member of P.M.A. there.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"This statement consisting of this and one other hand-written pages has been explained to me by [REDACTED] and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative, but it is not believed he would make a good witness inasmuch as he has only a very limited knowledge of the Mine B situation. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following criminal record.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily give the following statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. No threats or promises of any kind were made to cause me to make this statement.

"I was born in [REDACTED]. I first started working in the mines about [REDACTED] joining up with UMWA about [REDACTED] as best I can remember. I began to work at Mine B about [REDACTED] and quit May 12, 1937. I am presently unemployed.

"The trouble in 1932 and the start of the Progressive Union was caused by John L. Lewis trying to lower our wages and dictate to us. I am still a Progressive, and have been since it started. The PMA union was fine and dandy and got along swell at Mine B until the trouble in 1937.

"I don't know what caused the strike at Mine B on May 12, 1937 but do recall that we didn't load full cars that day.

"I remember signing a PMA petition at PMA Hall showing that I favored PMA shortly after the strike.

"I don't know what started the picketing and Sit Down strike out at Mine B but I was there most of the time and was there when we were put off by injunction.

"I voted in the N.L.R.B. election which PMA won 404-25.

"While the mine was on strike I was on WPA, and was working there when I got a letter to come back to work. However I had the flu and wasn't able to go back to work. As soon as I was able I went to Mine B but Mr. Falcetti said that there wasn't any job for me. I tried again to get my job back two or three weeks later but Mr. Falcetti told me 'nothing doing' - and I have never been back since.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I'm a Progressive and like it because it is a rank and file organization and I don't like a dictator like John L. Lewis.

"I have had the above statement consisting of 1½ pages read to me by Agent [REDACTED]. The same is true and correct.

/S/ [REDACTED]

"witnessed:

/S/ [REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] was cooperative and might make a good witness as to the dismissal of the alleged spies inasmuch as he was a trial board member at that time. His scope as a witness is limited, however, since he never returned to Mine B after May 12, 1937. [redacted] denied any criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 9, 1943.

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

"I was born in [redacted] I first started working in the mines in [redacted] and joined the United Mine Workers of America in [redacted] I began out at Mine B about [redacted] From that date until 1932 the U.M.W.A. got along alright with the Mine B officials.

"As I understand it the U.M.W.A. split up in 1932 because the second referendum vote on the wage scale was stolen and JOHN L. LEWIS came in and signed a contract anyway. I attended a meeting at Reservoir Park at Gillespie and was on the way to West Frankfort when we were turned back by the Sheriff. After the Progressives was formed I joined up along with all of the other men at Mine B. I liked the new Progressives better. It was a cleaner cut organization, altogether. I was in favor of its officers and democratic policies. Between 1932 and 1937 the Progressives got along just fine until some paid "bugs" came in to cause trouble.

"The trouble in 1937 started because the Progressives kicked out some men for trying to organize for U.M.W.A. The ones that I recall being suspended were: CHARLES BOHANNAN, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, GEORGE JACAWAY and one other that I believe was PETE CARTER. I was on the Trial Board at the time along with [redacted], and a man whose first name was [redacted] The men mentioned above said that they wouldn't be tried by us but would be tried only at U.M.W.A. hall. These men had been going around in the mine trying to get the miners to join U.M.W.A. The local then suspended these men for 99 years. Mr. ELSHOFF was asked to dismiss these men but he refused, and the men went out on strike ordered by [redacted] The failure of Mr. ELSHOFF to fire the suspended U.M.W.A. men was the real cause of the strike. I have no knowledge of any short loads on the day of the strike. The strike occurred about 2:30 p.m. on May 12, 1937.



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

"I don't recall ever signing any P.M.A. petitions after the strike. I remember getting word at P.M.A. headquarters that the mine was going to open. When we got out to Mine B that morning OSCAR FALCETTI said that he wanted only U.M.W.A. men. There was a small group of U.M.W.A. men there who went down into the mine. I remember 'Bowling Green' (CHARLES BOHANNAN) PETE CARTER, TONY PLOTCH, FRANK AUSTIN, ANDREW SCHRELEVIOUS, DOMINIC PASQUALE, JOHN (COTTON) ANANIAS, JOHN SIRTOUT, & BILL SIRTOUT, GEORGE and EMARY JACAWAY, & JAMES HALE. These men were all U.M.W.A. organizers who had been causing trouble at Mine B. Starting that evening about 300 P.M.A. men started picketing at the mine. I was at the mine day & night for almost two months. Since we were run off the Mine B property by the injunction I have never been back since.

"I remember voting in the first N.L.R.B. election which the Progressives won by a large majority.

"I got a letter to go back to work in Nov. 1939 but I [REDACTED] didn't fool with it.

"I also remember the second N.L.R.B. election, but couldn't vote because only those who were working could vote. The U.M.W.A. won that election.

"Since May of 1937 no one has ever been to see me to get me to sign up with U.M.W.A. or to sign a petition showing that I favored U.M.W.A. I never saw anyone get beat up out at Mine B because I never went back after it opened up but [REDACTED] who was a good friend of mine was badly beaten by 'JUDGE' BAUMGARTNER with a pick handle because he wouldn't join U.M.W.A. [REDACTED] told me about this.

"If I had a free and voluntary choice of unions I would chose P.M.A.

"I have had the above statement consisting of three and one-fourth (3 1/4) pages read to me by Agent [REDACTED]. The same is true & correct and I do hereby sign my name.

(signed) [REDACTED]

WITNESSED:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 12, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English quite well, and can express himself coherently. He does not read English well, but is able to engage in question and answer conversation. [REDACTED] said he has never been arrested for a crime. If necessary, he will testify. It is noted that [REDACTED] stated he has not been naturalized and is not a citizen of this country. The following signed statement was furnished by [REDACTED]

"September 12, 1943  
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, and am working at Panther Creek No. 2. I was born [REDACTED]. I came to the United States in [REDACTED] returned to [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and came back to this country permanently in [REDACTED]. I have never been naturalized. I joined the U.M.W. in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. In 1932, I joined the P.M.A. I was not working at that time. I am a member of the P.M.A. now.

"I began working at Mine B in 1934. As far as I was concerned, I was entirely satisfied with the P.M.A., and conditions at the mine seemed to be pretty good. Before the strike in May, 1937, I heard that there were some men in the mine trying to get the miners to sign petitions and cards for the U.M.W. One was an Italian, now dead, whose name I can't remember. I don't know who the others were, but no one approached me on it.

"I think that the company really caused the strike in May of 1937. I went out to work one morning, and was changing clothes in the wash house before going down into the mine, when Dominic Pasquale, Andy Schrelevious, George Jacaway and Tony Plotch tried to stop me from going down. They told me that Mine B wouldn't pay the wages the other mines were paying, that the mine wouldn't pay the back pay of the men to April 1. Dominic Pasquale told me to sit down - I told him no, that I wanted to work, and went down into the mine. The next day, the P.M.A. officers asked the management to fire these men, and the management refused. The men then quit work about two o'clock, because they didn't want to work with the U.M.W. men. The company had

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

refused to pay the back pay to April 1, which was probably also a reason for the strike. The officials of P.M.A. acted only with the authority of a referendum vote of the members, and the members had faith in the leadership of the P.M.A. officers, and knew they could get as good a wage scale as the U.M.W. could.

"A short time after the strike started, I signed a petition for the P.M.A. The purpose was to find out how many men were in favor of the P.M.A., to show to Elshoff, and perhaps to send to Washington. I signed this petition because I wanted to, and no one made me sign it. I heard that a U.M.W. local was begun in the summer of 1937, because I heard of some men who had been asked to join it. No one asked me to join.

"In the fall of 1937, I saw a notice in the paper that the mine was going to open up. I went out to the mine the day it was to open, but when we got there, Falcetti came out to talk to us. He said that no one could go down into the mine unless he belonged to the U.M.W. He said this next to the shaft, where we were waiting to go down. I had heard from some of the men that Elshoff had signed a contract with the U.M.W., but I didn't know anything more about it. The first day about ten or twelve men went down, all U.M.W. sympathisers. I don't know who they were. On the second day, no one went down. The management wouldn't let any P.M.A. men go down. Falcetti didn't show up at the tipple that day. Later that day, I saw Falcetti in the office with Plotch, Schrelevious, Sirtout, Carter, Austin, Bohannon, Hale the Jacaways, Albanese, and Pasquale. They were in the office for two or three hours, and didn't try to go down into the mine. After the U.M.W. men left the mine, and went home, the P.M.A. men began to picket the mine. I went on the picket line to protect myself, and my job, because I wanted to. No one made me. I didn't see any men on the picket line who weren't Mine B men.

"In December of 1937, I voted for P.M.A. at the election because I wanted that union. I went of my own accord, and voted the way I wanted to. No one told me how to vote. No one contacted me about joining the U.M.W. before going back to work in November 1939.

"In November of 1939, I got a notice by mail that the mine was going to open up. My name was put on the waiting list until my room was ready, and I went back to work at Mine B about a month later.

"In the summer of 1940, Bohannon and Joe Albanese came to my house one day and asked me why I didn't sign up with the U.M.W. so the U.M.W. could get the contract with Mine B. They didn't threaten me, and I told them I didn't want to join up with U.M.W. On the day before Labor Day, 1940, Bohannon and Sirtout came to my house again. I wasn't home, but they told my wife that she should get me to join the U.M.W. or get out of the mine. They cursed me to my wife and said 'Get him out of Mine B or we'll get rid of him.'

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"In January of 1941, [redacted] came into my room several times to get me to sign up with U.M.W. He said I couldn't work at the mine if I didn't sign up. One time he shook his fist in my face and told me not to get smart, when I refused to join. He told me that if the men didn't sign up with U.M.W. by Jan. 17, 1941, none of the P.M.A. men could work after that. A day or two later, at quitting time, [redacted] followed me from my room, but didn't do anything.

"On January 25, 1941, I went to work, and, while changing clothes in the wash house, I heard men screaming in the next room. I finished changing my clothes, picked up my bucket, and started out of the wash house. Bill Sirtout was changing clothes next to me, and, as I tried to walk past him, he threw me to the floor. Another man, who I didn't recognize, hit me on the head. I got a cut on my nose, and another one above my eye. T.C.

"I quit the mine that day, and didn't go back around the mine. I haven't had any contact with the mine, or the unions, since that time, except for voting in the election of February 1941. At that election I voted for P.M.A., because I wanted that union. Before I left the mine, on several occasions, [redacted] while walking behind me, would step on my heels, as if trying to start a fight.

"After I left the mine, I swore out a complaint against Bill Sirtout, but the case was dismissed without my knowledge. I went to the States' Attorney office, and he asked me if I had any proof. [redacted], and a couple of others were there. The attorney, Greening, said we didn't have any evidence, and offered us a drink. I refused to take it. I had been called, and did testify before the Grand Jury, but nothing ever came of it. The day I was beat up, the sheriff and his deputies were at Mine B, but did nothing to stop the trouble. It seemed to me that the U.M.W. men led the sheriff and his men away, so they wouldn't see anything that was going on.

"I have had the foregoing, consisting of slightly more than 5 pages, read to me, and state that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnesses:

/s/ [redacted]

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