



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**JOHN L. LEWIS**

**PART 9 OF 13**

**FILE NUMBER: 44-845**

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT JOHN L. LEWIS

FILE NO. 44-845

SECTION NO. 11

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ill., was interviewed at his home by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was cooperative but denied ever having been refused a job at Mine B because of his union affiliations. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

" [REDACTED] Ill.

September 16, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Ill., do voluntarily make 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 and I know that the same can be presented in a court of law.

"I was born in [REDACTED] emigrating to America in [REDACTED] I was naturalized in [REDACTED] I am presently employed at Panther Creek #5 and belong to PMA. I have been a Progressive since in started in 1932.

"I have never worked at either Mine A or Mine B. However, in the summer of 1940 [REDACTED] who was working at Mine B told me that Mine B was going to hire some men, and I was looking for work so I went out and talked to OSCAR FALCETTI. Mr. FALCETTI told me that he didn't need any men. He didn't asked me what union I belonged to or where I had worked before. There was other men there that morning and he turned them all down for the same reason.

"I have read the above statement and it is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative, but it is not felt that he would make a good witness inasmuch as he didn't start at Mine B until January 22, 1940, and has very little knowledge of pertinent facts. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily make the following statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. No threats or promises have been made to cause me to make this statement, and I know that these facts can be presented in court.

"I was born in [REDACTED] coming to America in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED]. I began working in the mines in [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. I began working at Mine B Jan. 22, 1940, and am presently employed there as a digger. I have never held an office in either union.

"I was a Progressive before I went to Mine B, having joined PMA at Panther Creek #4. Sam Catalonia (Joe Albanese) signed me up UMWA in the wash house just a couple of days after I started to work. I was never threatened or beat up but I heard about some of the men getting beat up. I didn't know any of the men who were beaten up or why they were beaten. I joined UMWA because the men told me that they were in the majority and I didn't think I could get a job if I was PMA.

"I voted in the NLRB election in 1941 which the UMWA won. This seemed to be a fair & square election.

"At present I think both unions are about the same and I don't favor either one.

"I have had the above statement read to me by Agent [REDACTED]. The same is true & correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]  
/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] was cooperative but because of his lack of knowledge of the Mino B situation starting there [REDACTED] it is not believed that [REDACTED] would make a good witness. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to America in [REDACTED] I was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED] I began to work in the mines in [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. I have never held an office in any union. I am presently employed at Mino B as a digger, starting on [REDACTED] Before starting at Mino B I worked at [REDACTED] belonging to PMA. About two or three months before I started at Mino B I tried to get employment there but was refused. OSCAR FALCETTI asked me where I worked and I told him [REDACTED] which he knew was PMA. He told me that he was filled up. I never saw Mr. FALCETTI hire anyone else while I was there and he never mentioned UMWA to me.

"I have had the above statement read to me by Agent [REDACTED] It is true & correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised that he was refused work at Mine B while that mine was working under an "open shop" agreement. However, it is not believed that [REDACTED] would make a good witness inasmuch as he wasn't specifically refused because of his union affiliations and was not asked to join UMW as a condition to get a job. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

Springfield, Ill.

September 18, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to America in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. [REDACTED] I began working in the mines in America in [REDACTED] joining UMW at that time. I never held an office in any union.

"I never worked at Mine B but I did ask for a job there once while they were working "open shop" after the strike. Mr. FALCETTI asked me where I had worked, and if I was was Progressive. He also asked me if I had any Progressive friends at Mine B and I told him yes. He wouldn't give me a job, but I understood that he was hiring plenty of men at that time, some almost every day.

"I started working at [REDACTED] and never tried to get a job at Mine B again. At present I'm a digger at Panther Creek #4.

"Some of the men who worked at Mine B told me that if I would go to see a UMW organizer that I could get a job, but I didn't want to join UMW at that time because I hoped to go back to my job at [REDACTED] when it opened up, and [REDACTED] was Progressive.

[REDACTED] who was at Mine B, and used to work with me at [REDACTED] asked me to go to Mine B and ask for work. He told me to go to Mine B because they were hiring men.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I have had the above 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pages of statements made by me read  
to me by Agent [REDACTED] The same is true & correct.  
(CONTINUED)

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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



17 Dec 1944

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his place of employment,  
the [REDACTED] by Special  
Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was re-  
fused employment at Mine B during the "open shop" period on a number of  
occasions, and went so far as to file a claim with NLRB because he failed  
to secure employment. For this reason it is felt that he would make a  
good witness on the "refused employment at Mine B after November 6, 1939  
PMW question". [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished  
the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 20, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Ill. do voluntarily make the following statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No threats or promises were made to cause me to make this statement and I know that the facts can be presented in court.

"During the fall of 1940 I applied for a job driving mules at Mine B, on 15 or 20 occassions, talking to Oscar Falcetti on each occassion. The first time I was there he took me in the office and he asked me where I worked last. I told him Panther Creek #4 (which was PMA). He told me "nothing doing" and asked me to come back again. When I returned on a number of occassions he would just shake his head.

"I had a friend by the name of [REDACTED] who got a job as a boss at Mine B, and I tried to get him to help me but I still didn't get a job.

"I saw others there on the days that I asked for work, but never heard him, Oscar Falcetti, refuse or hire anyone else. However, I know that he did hire some miners from Panther Creek #4 who changed over to UMWA. Some of them talked to me when I was out there looking for a job.

"Mr. Falcetti never asked me to change my affiliations or promised me a job if I would do so.

"After I was refused about 20 times the PMA Local Officials advised me to file a claim with N.L.R.B. which I did through the PMA Atty.

"I have had the above statements consisting of 1 1/2 pages read to me by Agent [REDACTED]. The same are true and correct.

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

The following individuals were listed by the PMA union as having been refused employment at Mine B after November 6, 1939. They were interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

From the replies of these individuals which are listed hereinafter it appears the PMA union possibly submitted a list of their unemployed to the Mine B office to secure employment for their unemployed without the knowledge of the individual miner. Some of the miners did make inquiries at the Mine for work, but did not leave their names to be called. The individual responses on this matter are as follows:

[REDACTED] Illinois, advised he never did work at mine B, did not make application or inquiry at the mine for work, and did not request the PMA to do so.

[REDACTED] Illinois, advised one [REDACTED] who worked at mine B put his application in for him at Mine B, but that he never went there in person, and never was requested to report for work.

[REDACTED] Illinois, advised he made an application for work at the Mine B office in November, 1939, but was advised they were "filled up". He stated he did not see anyone else being hired, that he was never called later as he did not leave his name and never went back.

[REDACTED] Illinois. This individual is presently in Chicago, Illinois looking for work. He left [REDACTED] recently and has not advised what his Chicago address is to date.

[REDACTED] Illinois, advised he made application for work at the PMA Union Hall only and not at Mine B. He stated he never was called for work.

[REDACTED] Illinois, advised in 1939 he made application for work at Mine B. through the PMA Pit Committee in the Wash House. That he never made application at the company office. He stated no one was being hired that day and he did not go back.

[REDACTED] Illinois, advised he never made an application or inquiry for work at Mine B, and never requested the PMA union to do so for him.

[REDACTED] Illinois, advised he made inquiry for work at Mine B company office after it opened in November, 1939

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

The following miners were interviewed at their homes by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 20, 1943, and all of them interrogated along the lines of "Refused employment Mine B after November 6, 1939 P.M."

The first four advised that they had never worked at Mine B and had never asked for a job at Mine B at all. The next three never worked at Mine B, but had asked for a job, but in all instances the date of the asking was before the strike in May of 1937. The remaining two individuals had never worked at Mine B either, but had sought employment during the years 1941 and 1942 after Mr. Elshoff had purchased Mine A.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Illinois.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Illinois.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Illinois.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Illinois

\*\*\*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Illinois.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Illinois.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Illinois.

\*\*\*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Illinois

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Illinois.

Investigation failed to locate [REDACTED]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Signed) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
(continued)

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"Witnessed: [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 13, 1943, at which time he appeared to be very sincere and cooperative, although his information relative to instant case is rather limited. He would make a good witness to testify as to the facts set forth in the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 13, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and presently reside at [REDACTED]. I have been a miner nearly all my life and have worked at Mine A since January, 1941. I am still employed there.

"I first joined U.M.W. in [REDACTED] when I came to the United States and I am now a U.S. citizen. I have never held any office in any union and in 1932 I joined Progressive when it was formed. I had nothing to do with the formation of P.M.A. but I was favorably inclined toward P.M.A.

"Mine A had its seasonal shut down in the spring of 1941 and sometime that summer I learned that Elshoff had bought Mine A. I think I got a letter from Ryan telling of this and I also think I saw it in the paper.

"When I learned that Elshoff had bought Mine A I felt that I would have to sign up with U.M.W. if I wanted to work at Mine A. I felt this way because I know that Mine B was United and felt that Elshoff would not have P.M.A. in Mine A.

"The only meeting I attended at that time was at the Elk's Club. I remember that a motion came up as to whether we would join U.M.W. and a standing vote was taken. Every man there, as far as I know, voted to join U.M.W. [REDACTED] was in charge of this meeting and led the discussion. After we voted to go U.M.W. some of the men went and got Edmundson. He talked to us for a short time and he had brought U.M.W. cards with him which we signed. He told us that the mine would open up.

Re: JOHN L. DEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(Continued)

I am still at Mine A and I believe conditions are the same now as they were under P.M.A. I did not hear anyone at the meeting at the Elk's Club tell us that we had to join U.M.W. if we wanted to work at Mine A but I guess that most of the fellows felt that that was so.

"The above statement has been read to me by [REDACTED] and I declare it to be true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed;

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 14, 1943. He was friendly and cooperative and could be used as a government witness to testify to those matters set out in his statement which follows.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 14, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and I now reside at [REDACTED]. I am employed as [REDACTED]. I started working in the mines in [REDACTED] and at that time I joined U.M.W. and in [REDACTED] I went to work at Mine A. I remained there until about July, 1942. [REDACTED] while I was a member of P.M.A. and U.M.W.

"When the miners joined P.M.A. in 1932 I was in Chicago and so, had no part in the formation of this union. When I came home I joined P.M.A. at that time I felt that Progressive was needed and that I was right in joining it. From 1932 until 1941 P.M.A. was getting along well with both the men and the Mine A officials, and there was no trouble of any kind that I know of.

"The mine shut down in the spring of 1941, a seasonal shut down and late that summer I learned that Elshoff had bought Mine A. I believe that the first notice I had of this was what I saw in the papers telling of the sale.

"As I recall, I attended a meeting at P.M.A. hall shortly after Elshoff had bought the mine. I guess the meeting was held to see how the men would react to Elshoff owning Mine A. This meeting was presided over by [REDACTED]. As I recall there was discussion as to what Elshoff was going to do with the mine, but I don't remember anything being said about switching unions. I knew, of course, that Mine B was U.M.W. and I guess that that was in the minds of most of the men.

"I did not attend any other meetings until after the men had voted to join U.M.W. I went to the U.M.W. building and joined U.M.W. on the last night that we could join. I know nothing as to



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

(Continued)

what happened at the other meetings for I was in Chicago for a while, and it was at that time that the other meetings were held.

"Although I had no desire to join U.M.W. I had to if I wanted to work at Mine A. I don't have any information that would indicate that the mine was bought to get P.M.A. out, but there was much discussion among the men that made me think this might be so.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] residing at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is friendly but not particularly well informed and therefore is not being recommended as a witness. His statement is as follows:

Sept. 16, 1943  
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and have been a citizen since [REDACTED] I now live at [REDACTED] and am employed at Mine A. I have been a miner all my life and first started working at Mine A in [REDACTED] I joined the P.M.A. in 1932 when the men signed up with Progressive. I felt it was a good thing at first as it meant a change of hands and I felt it was good for the men to have a change.

"I was working at Mine A in the spring of 1941 when the mine shut down. I recall getting a letter from RYAN saying he had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF. When I first heard the news about the mine being sold it made me feel sorry because I was afraid we wouldn't get our vacation money. I thought the mine would either shut down or open up under U.M.W. I just heard a lot of the men saying they thought it might be a united mine.

"I went to a meeting at the P.M.A. hall and the men were saying that we might not be working at Mine A in the fall. They also talked about mining coal out of Mine A through a hole and pull it through Mine B. We were afraid the men in Mine B would mine all the coal.

"I also went to a meeting at the Elks Club at which time all the men joined united. I signed up with united at the Elks Club, but do not know any of the details of the meeting. I joined U.M.W. because I wanted to keep my job. Everybody wants to eat and I would sign up with any union if it meant getting a job.

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

Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 10, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well. While claiming that he did not take much of an interest in union activities, [REDACTED] noted that he always has preferred the United Mine Workers union to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. He said that he has never been arrested.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 10, 1943.

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

"I live at [REDACTED] Springfield, and am employed at Mine A. I was born [REDACTED], and started work at Mine A in [REDACTED]. I've been there since that time.

"In the summer of 1941, I don't know just when, all the men at Mine A got a letter saying that Ryan no longer had any interest in Mine A. The mine had been closed down since April, and, in September, their unemployment compensation was running out. The miners were talking among themselves of getting their jobs back. The consensus of opinion among the men, after they heard that Elshoff had bought Mine A, was that it was possible to work the Mine A through Mine B. No one ever said anything about this to me.

"I feel sure that a large percentage of the men at Mine A were anxious to get back into the U.M.W. I personally was never satisfied with the P.M.A. because I didn't think the leaders of the union were capable men.

"I don't remember being present at the P.M.A. meetings on September 8 and 11, 1941. I was told by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that I had been appointed to a committee. I'm sure I didn't go to the meeting at which the committee was selected, because I would have disputed my appointment. An appointment was made for the committee to meet with Falcetti at Mine B. As I remember, the other members on the committee, and those that saw Falcetti, were [REDACTED]. We asked Falcetti for the lowdown on the set-up at Mine A, just what the men could expect. Falcetti saw they had bought the lease from Ryan, and were figuring on starting the mine about October first. I don't remember any talk on the part of Falcetti pertaining to the U.M.W. The report of the committee's conference with Falcetti was given to the P.M.A., by [REDACTED] I believe.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I don't remember any conversation at any P.M.A. meeting, or anywhere else, to the effect that it was necessary to join the U.M.W. before we could go back to work at Mine A. It was sort of taken for granted. We knew that Falcoetti was dealing with the U.M.W. at Mine B, and knew he didn't want to have to deal with another union in Mine A. I don't know where I got this idea.

"One afternoon, at either the Elks Club, or the K. C. Hall, we signed up with the U.M.W. I think a vote was taken, and the majority agreed to join the U.M.W. I don't know of any force or coercion used. After we had decided to join, Edmundson came into the Hall, and said he was glad to see the men back in the U.M.W. I left right after joining, and don't know if Edmundson took the new officers to meet Elshoff or not.

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

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Special Agents, FBI  
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] advised Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that he had no information of value to instant case. There is set forth below the signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943.

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

"I was born on [REDACTED] and I started working at Mine A in 1936. I quit working at Mine A in February, 1940 to take [REDACTED]. I know nothing concerning the switch from P.M.A. to U.M.W. at Mine A in 1941. I am now employed at Peabody #59.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] At the outset of this interview [REDACTED] stated that he had a good job now and wasn't going to say anything that might get him involved in any trouble with any union. [REDACTED] also expressed the opinion that the government should have taken action against John L. Lewis years ago when the U.M.W. was more active. [REDACTED] was quite reluctant to discuss instant case although he stated he would testify if called upon to do so.

He speaks good English and seems to be of average intelligence. It is believed he would be only a fair witness to testify for the Government.

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

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and presently reside at [REDACTED] I am presently employed at Peabody mine #59. I have been a miner all my life and I joined the U.M.W. at that time. I was president of the U.M.W. local at Peabody when they turned over to Progressive and at that time I was in favor of the change. The men were dissatisfied because of a cut in wages and I think they wanted to break away from the U.M.W. when they did in 1932. I joined the PMA in 1932 and worked at the Peanut Mine in about 1933 and 1934. I started at Mine A in 1936.

"As far as my opinion goes I think the PMA had a bunch of men as officers who were nothing but office holders & I don't think they could represent the men as they should. The officers didn't seem to be aggressive enough to represent the men & never seemed to be able to get any place.

"When Mine A shut down in the spring of 1941 I got a job at the Peanut mine and was there when Mine A was sold to Elshoff by Ryan. When I heard that Elshoff bought the mine I formed the opinion that in all probability Elshoff would operate the mine with U.M.W. men. In my opinion it was only logical to assume that a man like Elshoff would operate Mine A with U.M.W. men since Mine B was already a U.M.W. mine. I thought that Elshoff in all probability would immediately decide to put both mines under one union so he wouldn't have two unions in his mines.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

I learned some time during this period that the PMA held several meetings to discuss their future policy, but I never attended any of those meetings as I was working at the Peanut Mine. I next heard that all of the men at Mine A had joined U.M.W. so I found out that the balance of the men were going up to the U.M.W. hall to sign up. I decided I wanted to go back to Mine A so I went up to the hall and signed up. Nobody threatened me or forced me to sign up.

"I quit working at Mine A in March of 1943 because I found a job paying more money. Conditions at Mine A were better after the fall of 1941 because the U.M.W. raised our basic rate scale from \$6.75 a day to \$7.00 a day. The leaders in the U.M.W. local at Mine A seemed to be about the same as the PMA men.

"I have read over this statement of 3 pages & wish to state it is true to the best of my memory. I wish to clarify the above by stating that the basic scale as stated above was in connection with idle days at the mine.

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 13, 1943. Inasmuch as [REDACTED] was not at Mine A at the pertinent time he has no information of value. There is set forth below the statement executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 13, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of whom I know to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement. I was born [REDACTED] and started mining at Mine A in [REDACTED]. At that time I joined the United Mine Workers and I have never held an office in any union. In 1932 I joined P.M.A. I joined when the rest of the miners did but it made no difference to me what union I belonged to. I worked under P.M.A. until I quit mining in the spring of 1940. When I left Mine A I was satisfied with P.M.A. I left Mine A because I couldn't make enough money. I am now [REDACTED]. I know nothing concerning the switch back to U.M.W. by the miners at Mine A. I have read the above statement and declare it to be true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS. ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] September 13, 1943 at Springfield, Illinois. He is rather advanced in years and is not sure of any of the details surrounding the meeting at the Elks Club. It is believed he would only make a fair witness to testify as to the information set forth in the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 13, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] residing at [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of whom I know to be Special Agents in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make a statement. I am now a shot firer at Mine A.

"I was born in [REDACTED] and started working in the mines in [REDACTED] I joined U.M.W. in [REDACTED] I started working at Mine A in [REDACTED] and at that time belonged to U.M.W. In 1932 I joined P.M.A. because I always went with the majority. Mine A usually shut down every summer and it was during the shut down, as I recall, that we joined P.M.A.

"I was working at Mine A in the spring of 1941 when the mine shut down. We had always got along all right with Ryan, and the men were satisfied with P.M.A.

"Sometime the early part of September, 1941 I learned that a meeting of P.M.A. was to be held, either at the K.C.'s hall or the Elks Club. I think a fellow that worked at Mine A told me about the meeting. He didn't know the purpose of the meeting. I went to it and at that time learned that Elshoff had bought Mine A. I remember that [REDACTED] and if I recall correctly he said that the meeting was to decide whether we would join U.M.W. or stay with P.M.A. I do not remember any discussion about this, but a standing vote was taken and every one voted to join U.M.W.

"When I first learned that Elshoff had bought the mine I felt that we would have to join U.M.W. to keep my job. I knew that Mine B was U.M.W. and felt that Elshoff would not operate Mine A under P.M.A. I think that most men felt as I did, that Elshoff would not open Mine A unless it was United. I never heard anything about operating Mine A through Mine B.

"After the men voted to join U.M.W. someone sent after Edmundson and he came over, bringing some membership cards with him. We wanted to

Re. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

ask him what would happen to the exonerated members of P.M.A. and he said they could come in U.M.W., that is, those who had worked at Mine A.

"I was not threatened or intimidated in any way to influence my voting for U.M.W. I was old, and had a job at Mine A and I felt that if we didn't join U.M.W. we wouldn't go back to work. I know what had happened at Mine B and felt that Elshoff would not open the Mine A under P.M.A. I signed a U.M.W. card at the above meeting, and don't recall attending any other meetings. Conditions are about the same at Mine A now as they were under P.M.A.

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

/s/

"Witnessed:

/s/

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 13, 1943 at Springfield, Illinois.

[REDACTED] is not mentally alert and appeared to be unable to follow a logical line of questioning. It is not felt that he would make a desirable witness. He furnished the following statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 13, 1943.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] and started working at Mine A in [REDACTED]. I am still employed there and now reside at [REDACTED]. I joined U.M.W. when I started at Mine A and in 1932 I joined P.M.A. when the rest of the men did. I joined P.M.A. because the majority did and I had no particular feeling for one union over the other. P.M.A. got along all right with the men and the company.

"In the spring of 1941 the mine shut down and that summer I learned that Elshoff had bought Mine A. I got a letter from Ryan telling of this, and it was also in the paper. No one approached me to join U.M.W. and I didn't give it much thought.

"Sometime in September I saw a notice in the paper telling of a meeting of the men at Mine A to be held at the Elk's Club. I attended this meeting which I felt was to be held to see what would be done about opening Mine A. Nearly all of the men from Mine A were at this meeting. The men were talking among themselves for a while and finally someone, I don't remember who, got up and said we should vote and see if the fellows wanted to go back to U.M.W. A standing vote was taken and the men voted to join U.M.W. The men elected officers then, and Edmundson came over and talked for a while. We all signed up for U.M.W. then.

"I joined U.M.W. because the rest of the fellows did, and also, I had belonged before and never had any trouble with them.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re, JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 13, 1943. He is [REDACTED] years of age, has a poor memory and under no circumstances would he make a good witness. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 13, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] residing at [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of who 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. At the present time I am unemployed.

"I was born [REDACTED] and have been a miner for the past [REDACTED] years. I first joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] and I started to work at Mine A in about [REDACTED]. At that time I was a member of U.M.W. In 1932 I joined P.M.A. and continued working at Mine A. Conditions were good under P.M.A., the officers were well liked and the union got along fine with Mine A officials.

"In the spring of 1941 Mine A shut down for the summer, as it had in the past. Sometime that summer Elshoff bought Mine A. I first learned of it through some friends, I don't recall exactly who told me. I remember going to a meeting at the U.M.W. hall and signing up for U.M.W. I had been told that if we didn't join U.M.W. the mine would not open up. I didn't want to join U.M.W. but I felt that I had to if I wanted to work. I don't remember hearing anything about working Mine A through Mine B. I do not remember going to any other meetings other than the one I mentioned before.

[REDACTED] has read the above statement to me, and it is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by  
[REDACTED] Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
on September 13, 1943 at Springfield, Illinois.  
He is [REDACTED] years of age and unable to read. He appears mentally  
sluggish and does not understand questions put to him. He furnished  
the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 13, 1943

"I, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED]  
and [REDACTED] both of whom have identified 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 [REDACTED] and when I was  
[REDACTED] years old I started working at Mine A. At that time I joined  
U.M.W. and I am still employed at Mine A.

"I joined P.M.A. in 1932 but inasmuch as I was only [REDACTED]  
yrs. old then, I didn't know much about unions and one was as good  
as another. The mine shutdown in the spring of 1941 and that summer  
I got a letter from Ryan telling that he had sold Mine A to Elshoff.  
I also saw this in the paper. At that time I didn't know what Elshoff  
would do, whether he would open under P.M.A. or United. We had been  
satisfied with P.M.A. and had been getting along well with Ryan.

"The only meeting I attended during this time was held at the  
Elk's Club. Nearly all of the men from Mine A were present at this  
meeting. As I recall, [REDACTED] asked if the men wanted to join  
U.M.W., a standing vote was taken and the men voted to join U. W.  
After the vote was taken, the men sent for Edmundson who came over  
and talked to us. I don't remember what he talked about. No threats  
were made to me to make me join U.M.W. I joined U.M.W. because the  
rest of the men did, they all stood up and I did too. As far as I am  
concerned, one union is the same as another.

"The above statement has been read to me by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and I declare it to be true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"WITNESSES

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL,

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"After the man leading the meeting told us that we could not go back to work at Mine A unless we joined U.M.W., the men by a majority vote decided to join the U.M.W. All of us knew that Elshoff wanted the U.M.W. in Mine A because of the trouble that had happened in Mine B, and we knew that we could not work in Mine A unless we signed up with U.M.W..

"I don't know if any U.M.W. organizers were at this meeting, but they could have been there. After the vote by the men, Ray Edmundsen came into the meeting, made a little talk, and left the meeting. I don't recall what he said.

"When the men signed up with U.M.W., I think that they felt as I did. I needed a job, and if I did not join the U.M.W., I felt that I would not be able to work in Mine A. I felt the intention of the mine company was to get U.M.W. into the mine, but was not sure that they would not work in the P.M.A. I figured that the only thing that I could do was to join the U.M.W., so I joined of my own free will. No force was used on me to make me join the U.M.W. I went home right after the meeting.

"Under the U.M.W. conditions were just the same and as good as they were under P.M.A. As far as I am concerned, the U.M.W. is just as satisfactory as the P.M.A. I was just as satisfied with the P.M.A. as I am with U.M.W. Either union was O.K. for me as long as the leaders were honest.

"When I first heard that Elshoff had bought Mine A, I did not think that the union would have to change. When I heard that Elshoff wanted to run both mines under the same union, I knew that I would have to join the U.M.W. if I wanted to work in Mine A. I know this from the talk that I heard from the men who work in the mines. I don't know any particular person who told me this. I also heard that Elshoff was planning to run Mine A through the Mine B shaft if the miners did not join U.M.W. No one talked to me about joining U.M.W.

"I had been perfectly satisfied with P.M.A., but all of the circumstances which I have told about above made me think that it was necessary for me to join the U.M.W. if I wanted to work in Mine A.

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

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., was interviewed at his residence on September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This man understands English very well, and can speak English coherently. He said he is willing to testify if necessary. He stated that he has no criminal record.

Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943

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

"I am living at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine A. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I became a citizen at Newport, Indiana, in [REDACTED]. I joined the United Mine Workers [REDACTED] and was a member of that union until 1934, when I began working at Mine A, and joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I rejoined the U.M.W. when all the men at Mine A did in 1941. I never held an office in any union. Of the two unions, I preferred the P.M.A. a little, although there isn't a lot of difference between it and the U.M.W. In P.M.A. meetings, men were allowed to speak up, while you can't do it in U.M.W. meetings.

"I heard from some men that ELSHOFF had bought Mine A from RYAN. We wondered about it, because I had heard that ELSHOFF was supposed to be broke, and wondered how he got the money to buy it. As soon as I heard that ELSHOFF had bought the mine, I felt that I would have to join U.M.W. to keep my job, because of what had happened at Mine B. I was not contacted by anyone about joining the U.M.W., and I don't remember much conversation about going U.M.W. to avoid trouble at Mine A.

"I heard at a P.M.A. meeting that Elshoff was going to work Mine A through Mine B, and had sent an entry toward Mine A from Mine B. At this meeting I heard a report that ELSHOFF would put one hundred men in Mine A and pull coal out through Mine B. There had been a committee that had met with FALCETTI, and FALCETTI may have told the committee this. I don't know where the report started. I think that this report was a bluff on the part of ELSHOFF, and that it couldn't be done. I heard other stories about what ELSHOFF was going to do; I can't remember them now, but I think they were all a bluff to get the men to join the U.M.W. I don't

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(CONTINUED)

remember hearing anything about ELSHOFF saying that he planned to operate Mine A with the U.M.W. men. There was a lot of talk in this meeting, wondering what ELSHOFF going to do, but I don't know of any committee being appointed.

"I went to a P.M.A. meeting at K. C. Hall on a Sunday afternoon. A big man, whose name I don't know, conducted the meeting, and said it was best for the men to stick together and join the U.M.W. if we wanted to work, and if we wanted to avoid trouble like Mine B had. After the vote to go U.M.W., EDMUNDSON spoke to the men, and said he would welcome us back. He said the mine would open as soon as possible, and that we wouldn't have to pay an initiation fee. There had been several meetings just before this at Progressive Hall, but I don't remember any committees being appointed, or anything special going on.

"Since the U.M.W. has been back at the mine, things are about as they were under P.M.A., although they might have been a little better under P.M.A. The only reason I rejoined U.M.W. was to keep my job at Mine A.

"The foregoing, consisting of two pages, has been read to me and I state it is true to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

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



Re. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well. He said that everything contained in the statement set forth below is true and correct, but he declined to sign the statement claiming that it would be embarrassing for him if he did. He would not elaborate upon this statement. It is believed that his father [REDACTED] who previously had refused to sign a statement without the approval of his attorney, had told [REDACTED] not to sign any statements. [REDACTED] does not appear to be a person of strong character.

The following statement was executed by [REDACTED]:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943.

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am employed at Mine A. I was born [REDACTED]. I started to work at Mine A in [REDACTED] and that is when I joined the United Mine Workers. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America when all the rest of the miners did. The change to P.M.A. made no difference to. However, it seemed to me that the dues in P.M.A. were a little higher than they were in U.M.W.

"I read in the newspapers that Elshoff had purchased Mine A from Mr. Ryan. At that time I was doing some carpenter work. I met [REDACTED] up town one day, and he asked me if I wanted to work at Mine A. He said that the mine was going to open with a U.M.W. contract, and that if I wanted to work in Mine A I would have to join the U.M.W.

"In the early fall of 1941 I did not go to any of the union meetings. I joined the U.M.W. at the U.M.W. headquarters on the day before I went back to work at Mine A. I had to work to support my family, and if I wanted to work in Mine A I had to join U.M.W. It really made no difference to me to which union I belonged, either the P.M.A. or the U.M.W. would have been O.K.

"The only person who ever talked to me about this matter was

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I never heard any other discussions on the matter.

(continued)

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

[REDACTED] said everything in this statement is true, but declined to sign it, saying that it would be embarrassing for him if he did.

[REDACTED] Special Agent, F.B.I., Springfield, Ill.  
[REDACTED] Special Agent, F.B.I., Springfield, Ill.  
9-16-43."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 15, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. During the interview [REDACTED] was present. This man speaks and understands English well. He was friendly, but was reticent. He said that he has always preferred the UMW to the PMA. [REDACTED] refused to sign the statement set out below without the consent and approval of his attorney. He said he did not know the name of his attorney, but admitted that it was the attorney for the UMW. [REDACTED] said that no one had told him not to cooperate with Federal Agents and to refuse to sign any statements. He said that he has always declined to sign any statements. [REDACTED] however, said all the facts set forth in the statement are true and that he will stick to the truth.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 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 on [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am employed in Mine A. I was born [REDACTED] In [REDACTED] I came to the United States and became a citizen of the United States in Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED]

"About [REDACTED] started to work in Mine A. At that time, I was in the United Mine Workers Union. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America with the rest of the miners. I went along with the majority of the miners. Personally I would have preferred to have UMW at Mine A because I had always liked UMW. All the time I was in PMA I would have preferred to be in UMW.

"I read in the newspapers that Mr. Ryan had sold or transferred his interest in Mine A to Mr. Elshoff. I did not have any ideas as to how this change would affect me. I remember that I heard some of the miners talking in town and saying that the mine was going to sign a contract with UMW, but I did not hear anything about the miners having to join UMW to save their jobs at Mine A.

"I did not go to any PMA meetings in the summer or fall of 1941. I don't recall signing up with UMW. It seems to me that I merely started to pay dues to UMW. When I went back to work at Mine A, it felt good to be back in UMW. I don't know anything about any discussions or talks in meetings of the unions in the summer of 1941.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"Conditions at Mine A now are just as good under UMW as they were under PMA.

"I have had this statement consisting of this and one other handwritten page read to me, and I state that it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

"[REDACTED] declined to sign this statement without the consent and approval of his attorney, but admitted the truth of the facts contained herein.

"Witnesses:

/s/  
/s/

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well. The statement set forth below was read to [REDACTED] who said everything in it was true. He declined to sign it, saying that it was against his policy to sign any kind of a paper. [REDACTED] said that no one had told him not to sign a statement taken by Federal Agents and also added that he has not been in any kind of trouble.

Springfield, Illinois  
September 18, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to 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 Mine A. I was born [REDACTED]. I began working at Mine A in [REDACTED] and joined the United Mine Workers at that time. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, and rejoined the U.M.W. in 1941. The switch to PMA in 1932 made no difference to me. I neither favored or opposed it. I am only interested in making a living, and stick with the majority of the men in anything they want to do.

"I saw in the newspaper that RYAN had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF. I had made up my mind that I wanted to keep on working at Mine A, and if all the men went U.M.W., it was all right with me, just so I could keep my job. Because of all I had heard of the trouble at Mine B, under ELSHOFF, I felt that I probably wouldn't have a job if, for any reason, I didn't want to join U.M.W. I didn't hear any rumors about ELSHOFF pulling coal from Mine A through Mine B, or that ELSHOFF was going to work Mine A only with U.M.W. men.

"I didn't go to any meetings held by the P.M.A. union in September of 1941, and don't know anything that went on. No one approached me before the purchase to join the U.M.W. I signed up with the U.M.W. at U.M.W. Hall. I was told to go to their headquarters to sign up with them, just before the mine opened. I don't remember who told me about it. I saw a lot of men signing up there, and I felt that I had to sign too, if I wanted to keep my job.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(CONTINUED)

"Since I've been working under U.M.W. again at Mine A, I haven't noticed any great difference in conditions at the mine. As I said before, the union in control doesn't make any difference to me, just so I can work and keep my job.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of a little more than one page, and state it is true to the best of my knowledge."

[REDACTED] stated that everything he said in this statement is true, but declined to sign.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in his residence on September 16, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This man understands and speaks English well enough to testify, which he is willing to do. He said he has no criminal record.

Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943

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

"I am living at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., and am working at Mine A. I was born [REDACTED]. I began working at Mine A in [REDACTED] and joined the United Mine Workers in that year. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932, and rejoined the U. M. W. in 1941. In 1932, when we switched from U. M. W. to P. M. A. I was in favor of the switch because I was not satisfied with the way LEWIS was running the union. In all the time I was a member of the P.M.A. I was satisfied until toward the last, just before I joined U.M.W., when I grew dissatisfied because the dues were too heavy. The P.M.A. needed the same upkeep as the U.M.W., and didn't have the membership to take care of the expense as well as U.M.W. Then, too, the P.M.A. didn't have the power the U.M.W. did.

"I saw in the newspaper that ELSHOFF had bought Mine A from RYAN. It was a surprise to me, and I didn't think it would affect my job, because the mine would have to be worked, and if we never struck together, we'd be the ones to work the mine. No one talked to me about joining the U.M.W. previous to that time. I heard, from some of the other men, that ELSHOFF might operate Mine A through Mine B. I heard that he might be doing this to save the overhead of two shafts, and I knew that both mines could be operated out of the same shaft. I don't know if this rumor was spread for a bluff, to get men to join the U.M.W., or not. I also heard about this time, that ELSHOFF would operate Mine A under a U.M.W. contract, which he had already signed. I thought this might be so, because I knew of all the trouble they had had at Mine B, and that ELSHOFF had U.M.W. at Mine B.

"Shortly after I heard these stories, because I needed a job, I went to Mine B for a job. The bosses there told me to hang on for a while, that Mine A would open up in ten days or so. I knew [REDACTED] one of the bosses at Mine B, but I don't remember if he was the one that told me this or not.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(CONTINUED)

"I went to only one P.M.A. meeting during this time, and that was held at the Elks Club, on a Sunday. The meeting was for the purpose of trying to decide what the men would do. There were some P.M.A. officials there and [REDACTED] and some other men did most of the talking. A chairman was elected for the meeting, and tellers were also elected. [REDACTED] put the questions to the men, whether they wanted to go U.M.W., or stay P.M.A. He said that all the men would go the way the majority went. Ballots were prepared, there was a secret vote, each man putting his choice on a piece of paper, and when the votes were counted, we were told that the U.M.W. had a majority. After the vote was announced, someone suggested that EDMUNDSON be invited to come over. He came over and said that he was glad all the men were back together again, that there had been a lot of trouble, but that was all ended now. Before the vote, in talking to the men around there, it seemed to me that most of the men seemed to favor the U.M.W., and to get it over with.

"Since that time, there hasn't been much difference under the U.M.W. from what it was under the P.M.A., except that there's possibly less wrangling.

"I have read the foregoing, consisting of about three pages, and stated that it is true as well as I can remember.

/s/ [REDACTED]

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks, reads, and understands English sufficiently well to testify. He said he is willing to testify. He claimed to have no criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

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

"I am living at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill., and am working at Panther Creek Mine #2. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized in [REDACTED] at Springfield. I was a member of a union [REDACTED] and when I came to this country in [REDACTED] I was switched to the United Mine Workers. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932 when I was working at Peabody Mine No. 57. In [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the Peabody Local. I have never rejoined the U.M.W. In August of 1931 I began working at Mine A, and worked there until April of 1941, when the mine closed down. I didn't go back when it opened up that fall, because I didn't want to change from P.M.A. to U.M.W. In all the time I was in the P.M.A., I was entirely satisfied with the union, and was in favor of the original switch from U.M.W. to P.M.A. in 1932.

"I read in the paper that Elshoff had bought Mine A from Ryan. After hearing what had gone on at Mine B in the switch from P.M.A. to U.M.W., I felt that the same thing might happen at Mine A. I felt, when I saw the notice of the sale, that I wouldn't have a job unless I joined the U.M.W. After I saw this notice in the paper, although I was never approached by anyone to join the U.M.W., I heard that the U.M.W. was circulating a petition to get a majority at the mine. I don't know how I heard this, for no one came to me with any such petition. There were several rumors circulating about this time, one to the effect that Elshoff would work Mine A through Mine B, another that he would operate the mine only with U.M.W. men. These rumors just added to the feeling I had that I no longer had a job, because I would never join the U.M.W.

"After Elshoff bought the mine, I went to a regular P.M.A. meeting, held at Progressive Hall, at which meeting there was a discussion about joining the U.M.W. I think [REDACTED] was chairman of this meeting. [REDACTED] and old man [REDACTED] had a lot to say in the discussion, and favored a switch to the U.M.W. Some men, whose names I can't remember, spoke in favor of the P.M.A.,

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

but nothing was decided at this meeting, as to what the future action of the men would be. I don't remember anything being said or done about a committee being appointed to see Elshoff at this meeting.

Another meeting was scheduled for the following Sunday, at a neutral place. I didn't go to this planned meeting, or any others at all.

"I never went back to Mine A, but I heard that some of the men were beat up there. I don't know who told me, or who the men were. I also heard that [REDACTED] and some of the others from Mine B were doing the beating. I don't know anything more about this. On a Tuesday after the Sunday meeting mentioned above, which I did not attend, at which all the men switched to U. M. W., [REDACTED] who had been on the P. M. A. Pit Committee, met me on the street and told me that the next day was the last day men could join U. M. W. and go back to work, and that I'd better join up U. M. W. with the rest of the men. He didn't threaten me in any way.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Although [REDACTED] was sincere and cooperative he had no information of value to instant case. There is set forth below the signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen in [REDACTED] after I came back from the U.S. Army. I now work at Mine A and reside at [REDACTED] I started mining in [REDACTED] and joined U.M.W. at that time. In 1932, when the State went Progressive, I joined P.M.A. and at that time I was working at Peabody #53. I started at Mine A in 1935 and was satisfied with P.M.A.

"Mine A closed down in the spring of 1941 and in August of that year, [REDACTED] I did not come out until October 6, 1941. When I came back Mine A had gone United Mine Worker. My wife had sent me a card and I signed it while I was at [REDACTED] which was the way I joined U.M.W. I don't know what happened while I was away, except that the mine was sold and the men joined U.M.W. It doesn't make any difference to me which union I belong to. The above statement was read to me by [REDACTED] and it is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] understands and speaks English sufficiently well to testify. The statement set forth below was read to him, and he stated that everything in it is true. However, he declined to sign it. [REDACTED] said that no one had told him not to sign any statement given by him to Federal Agents. He said he has no criminal record.

September 18, 1943  
Springfield, Illinois

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

"I am living at [REDACTED] and am working at Mine A. I was born [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I became a citizen in [REDACTED] by virtue of having served in the World War. I began working at Mine A in [REDACTED] having been a member of the U.M.W. since [REDACTED]. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers in 1932, when all the men at Mine A switched over. I rejoined the U.M.W. in 1941.

"In the summer of 1941, I was working in [REDACTED] and didn't see anything in the papers about the sale of Mine A. I didn't know anything about it being sold, or anything about it, until one day, some man, whose name I can't remember, told me there was going to be a meeting of all the men at the Elks Club. I didn't know the purpose of the meeting, until I got there. [REDACTED] presided at the meeting, and the discussion was whether to join the U.M.W. or not. I was in the back of the room, and didn't pay much attention to what was going on. I don't remember who put the question of P.M.A. or U.M.W. to the men, and don't remember who took part in the discussion. I voted to join the U.M.W. at that meeting, because everyone seemed to be in favor of it, and not for any particular reason. It doesn't make any difference to me which union is in, and conditions have been just about the same at the mine under U.M.W. that they were under P.M.A.

"This statement has been read to me, and I state it is true to the best of my knowledge.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] stated that everything in this statement is true, but declined to sign it.

(CONTINUED)

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 18, 1943, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] at his home, [REDACTED]. At the time of this interview [REDACTED] advised he has no criminal record. [REDACTED] was entirely cooperative but did not appear to have a very good knowledge of pertinent matter. He is above average in intelligence for a miner. It is felt that in the event he is called as a witness he will be only fair.

[REDACTED] gave the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 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 threats or promises have been made me to get me to give this statement. I am working at mine A as a driver. I have been there about [REDACTED] years. I was born [REDACTED] I have been a citizen since about [REDACTED]

"I was [REDACTED] on vacation when the switch from U.M.W. to P.M.A. was made when I came back I joined P.M.A. While the P.M.A. was our union I was satisfied with them.

"When Elshoff bought Mine A I got a letter telling me of this. When I got this I talked with the others and we all felt there was nothing to do but go to U. M. W. because Elshoff had taken the mine over & if we didn't join over there would be no job for us. At the time Elshoff took over Mine "A" a couple of fellows from P.M.A. came to see me and said they would help us if we stayed out & I didn't join U.M.W. No one from U.M.W. came to see me. I heard that Elshoff might take the coal from Mine "A" through Mine "B" if we didn't join U.M.W. I don't recall hearing that Elshoff would keep mine "A" closed if we didn't join U.M.W. but what I heard amounted to the same thing. From hearing these things I felt I would have to join U.M.W. if I wanted to go back to Mine "A" to work.

"I attended a special meeting at P.M.A. hall where they had some argument and a fight down stairs. The P.M.A. men wanted to decide what we could do about getting the mine opened but the officers wouldn't let us and the meeting was closed. I feel the P.M.A. officers should have let the men have a chance to talk all they told us was to stay out and not go back. The men tried to appoint a committee to see what could be done but the officers wouldn't let them.

"I attended a meeting at the Redmans Hall this was to see if they could get a majority, enough did not show up so they had a meeting at the Elks Club.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

They then decided to hold a meeting at the Elks Club. I think both of these were advertised in the paper. At the Elks Club meeting the men decided to go on back to U.M.W. so there would not be any trouble like at Mine "B". [redacted] was in charge of the meeting. We had a standing vote to decide whether or not to go back to U.M.W. and all of us voted for it. I voted for U.M.W. because I wanted to go back to work. Edmundson came over before it was over and gave a talk. He said the men should all be back in U.M.W. and welcomed us back. We signed up for U.M.W. right there that day. I was not on any committee at this time. I did not go to Elshoff's or Edmundson's office after the meeting.

"Since the return of U.M.W. in 1941 things at Mine A are about the same as under P.M.A. It makes no difference to me which Union we have.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read this 3 page statement to me and it is all true and correct to the best of my knowledge and is as I have told it to the Agents. I am signing this of my own free will."

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses

[redacted]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well and will testify if necessary. He stated he has no criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"September 14, 1943.  
Springfield, Ill.

"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], and employed as [REDACTED]. I was born on [REDACTED]. I came to the United States in [REDACTED] and became a United States citizen in Springfield, Ill., in [REDACTED].

"I began to work in Mine A about [REDACTED] and quit working there in 1942. Before 1932 I was a member of the United Mine Workers, but I never was an officer of that union or any other union. In 1932 I was in favor of the switch from U.M.W. to the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I thought the P.M.A. would be a better union. After 1932 I was satisfied with P.M.A. and I wanted nothing to do with U.M.W.

"As I recall the purchase of Mine A by Elshoff was announced in the newspapers. The change in management in Mine A did not bother me. I did not think it would affect me or my job. Conditions between P.M.A. and Mr. Ryan always had been O.K.

"No one ever asked me to join the U.M.W. prior to the purchase of Mine A by Elshoff. When Elshoff bought the mine, I had the idea that he would try to change the union there because I had heard of the trouble at Mine B between the management and P.M.A. and I also heard that Elshoff favored U.M.W.

"I heard rumors that Elshoff was going to work Mine A through Mine B. I believe that this was being talked about to force Mine A men to join the U.M.W.; this was the pressure being used on the miners in Mine A. I never heard any talk that Elshoff would open Mine A only if the miners switched to U.M.W. When I heard that Elshoff bought Mine A, I believed that sooner or later the miners in Mine A would have to join U.M.W. to work in the mine. I had this idea because of the trouble that had occurred at Mine B, and because of Elshoff's general reputation of being pro U.M.W.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I went to quite a few P.M.A. meetings, and went to the one at P.M.A. hall in September 1941, which was a regular meeting. I did not go to any of the meetings in the Elks Club or Redman's Hall, and did not know anything about them until after they happened. I don't remember any special union meetings about that time.

"I was not elected to any committees to meet with the management of Mine A. I did not hear anything about U.M.W. organizers or talk about joining U.M.W. I heard that a committee of miners contacted Elshoff, but I did not hear their report, and I don't know the results of their meeting.

"After Elshoff purchased Mine A, I went back to work without signing up with U.M.W. [REDACTED] was president of the U.M.W. local at Mine A, and he told my brother that if I did not join U.M.W. I could not work any more in Mine A. After working about six months at Mine A under Elshoff's management, I quit. I did not want to work under U.M.W. I don't remember whether [REDACTED] talked to me before or after U.M.W. signed a contract with Elshoff.

"I did not go to the meeting when the miners voted to join U.M.W. I never did rejoin that Union. I did not take an active part in union affairs and did not know what went on in union meetings. After I went back to work in Mine A I paid dues to U.M.W. because they were checked off my pay. I never did sign a U.M.W. membership card.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

/s/ [REDACTED] - Special Agent, FBI, Springfield, Ill.  
[REDACTED], Special Agent, FBI, Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

On September 13, 1943 Special Agents

and interviewed

at his home at

Street, Springfield, Illinois. During the course of this interview it was observed that did not appear to be too bright or reliable, but he did, however, try to be cooperative to the best of his ability. It is not believed that would make a reliable witness.

The following signed statement was procured from

Springfield, Ill

Sept. 13, 1943

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

"I was born I came to the U.S. in and became a citizen around I am now working at the Co., have been there for about 4 months. For the past 12 yrs. I have worked at Mine A off and on. I was a digger and driver at Mine "A". I quit because I couldn't make a living there. When in 1932 they switched from U.M.W. to P.M.A. At the time of the switch at Mine "A".

When the men decided to go to P.M.A. I was in favor of this. While we had the P.M.A. union from 1932 to 1941.

"I first heard that Elshoff had bought Mine "A" through reading of it in the paper. I was not glad of this at the time. When the mine opened a man who wanted to go back to work could, but the Co. didn't care whether he did or not. If you wanted to work there you had to be a member of U.M.W. The excuse they gave for this was that it was the same Co. operating both Mine "A" & "B" and they couldn't have a contract with both union. No Co. or Union official told us this we just heard this talk and felt that it must be the situation. I never had any kick when the P.M.A. was handling the relationship at mine A. Before the Elks Club meeting a couple of men came to see me about joining over to the U.M.W. I don't know who they were. I went to one meeting that was the one at the Elks Club where they voted to switch over. I heard that Elshoff might operate Mine A through the Mine B shaft & at that time, I guess it could have been done. I didn't pay much attention to this however.

"I read about the meeting to be held at the Elks through

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

the papers. [REDACTED] at that time. The understanding of the men at this meeting was that if we didn't get mine "A" opened and go back to work there we wouldn't have any work and the only way we could get to go back to Mine "A" was as U.M.W. Ray Edmundson, talked to us at this meeting and assured us that our rights would be fully protected. It was the understanding then that if we went back as a group we wouldn't have to pay any initiation fee. There was a standing vote at the meeting and most of them voted to join U.M.W. and get back to work. I did not belong to any committees appointed at this time. I voted to go U.M.W. because there was nothing else I could do at that time if I wanted my job at Mine "A". It was our feeling that if we didn't go U.M.W. there would be the same sort of trouble there that they had had at mine "B". I did not go to Edmundsons office or the Leland Hotel the night of the meeting. There were cards at this meeting and we signed up right there. The mine opened shortly after this meeting. I did hear that Elshoff didn't have any money, but I don't know how he got the money to buy Mine "A".

"Since 1941 under the U.M.W. the dues I believe have gone up over what they were under the P.M.A.

"I have read this statement which is written on this and 2 other pages, it is the truth so far as I know and is as I have told it to the F.B.I. Agent. I am signing this statement of my own free will.

Signed [REDACTED] --

Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, F.B.I. (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill  
Sept. 13, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

On September 18, 1943 Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] at his home, [REDACTED]. He advised that he was not a citizen of U. S. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had an excellent recollection of pertinent events and if it were not for the fact he is an alien with [REDACTED] he would make a fine witness. He was most friendly and entirely cooperative at the time of this interview.

[REDACTED] gave the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I came to the U.S. when I was about [REDACTED] I am now applying for my citizenship papers. I worked in mine "A" from 1931 to about July 1942 as a digger. I have now been back since about Feb. or March. I went over to P.M.A. in 1932 at the time I didn't know much about it so I just went along with the rest. I had little preference at the time. I read in 1941 about Elshoff buying Mine "A". It didn't make any difference who owned the Mine I was just wondering when it would reopen. I was always satisfied with the way P.M.A. handled things at Mine "A". At the time Elshoff bought Mine "A" I was not approached about going to U.M.W. I heard rumors that Elshoff might operate mine A thru Mine B. I felt I would be out of a job, that he would mechanize then and make one mine out of it. I heard rumors that Elshoff would only operate mine A as a U.M.W. mine. [REDACTED] told us that he would see Elshoff about this at the last P.M.A. meeting. When I heard about this I felt that if I could get another job I would never go back. [REDACTED] sort of appointed himself to see Elshoff. At one of the last P.M.A. meetings there was a fight or scuffle. I heard of the meeting at Redmans Hall [REDACTED] I heard of the meeting at the Elks Club but didn't go there. I was not a member of any committee and I did not go to Elshoffs office or Edmundsons after the Elks meeting. I joined the U.M.W. at the Miners Bld. on the 7th floor. They had a majority and had already formed a local and there was nothing for us to do but sign up. [REDACTED] was there and he told us we need not worry about any picket or anything. This meeting was held to give us a last chance to go over to U.M.W.

RE. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

before the mine opened. The mine was going to open as U.M.W. and you had to sign up if you wanted to work. Now things under U.M.W. are just about like they were under P.M.A. At first it was pretty tough but it is about the same now. I have read this 2 page statement and it is all true to the best of my knowledge & belief. I am signing it of my own free will."

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent FBI

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

Spring., Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

On September 18, 1943, Special Agents

interviewed

at his home,

Springfield, Illinois. At the time of this interview, he advised that he had no criminal record. was friendly and entirely cooperative, he seemed to have a fair knowledge of pertinent matters but had a good deal of trouble expressing himself in English. In the event it is deemed advisable to call him as a witness, it is felt he will be entirely willing and will make a fair witness.

gave the following signed statement:

Springfield, Ill.

Sept. 18, 1943.

"I am giving this information to who have identified themselves as being Special Agents of the F. B. I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this information. I was born in years ago & I became a citizen years ago. I am at Mine A yet & started about as a digger. In 1932 I changed over to P. M. A. as everybody went over & there were better conditions & no arguments or fights. I heard from other men that Bill Ryan sold Mine A & also heard that Mine A would stay shut down & that they would take coal out of Mine A thru Mine B. I went out to Mine A & saw & he said I should wait a while & that the mine might re-open as I wanted to get my mining paper from him. Several men, and another man told me that at 1 o'clock the following day there would be a meeting at Redman's Hall. also said to me that he had seen Elshoff who said that if they went over to U. M. W. he would re-open Mine A otherwise he would let it shut down. was with who is When I saw I believed it & inasmuch as I wasn't working I told him I would join up to U. M. W. if the others did. I went to meeting at Redman Hall & was in charge & he told us that on Sunday there would be a meeting at the Elk's Club. I did not attend the meetings at P. M. A. Hall regarding this matter. I went to Elk's Club meeting too & saw Edmundson & 4 other men but I don't know when they came. started the whole business at the Elk's Club. We had a standing vote & so did I as I felt if I didn't they would throw us out. I did not want to go back to U. M. W. but I had to otherwise I would not have a job & I did not want to see any trouble. Now at Mine A we get docked & never know why but under P. M. A. we were told & then we had Pit Committee but now under U. M. W. just about 5 or 6 men run the whole local & we miners don't have a thing to say any more. It never was like this under P. M. A. At the Elk's Club Edmundson said if we signed up then it wouldn't cost anything but if we signed up later it would cost us \$10.00 or more & he also said he would guarantee that Mine A would re-open in a few

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS. ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

days so we all signed up cards there. I signed up to get a job & not because I liked U. M. W. but I needed work. I never belonged to a committee then & I did not go to office of Ellshoff or Edmundson. I went home & then went to work at Mine A even tho it was U. M. W. Things were better under P. M. A. than under U. M. W. The men don't have much to say now any more. I have had Agent [redacted] read to me this (3) three page statement & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge & I have signed it of my own free will.

/s/ [redacted]

"Witnesses:

/s/ [redacted]  
Special Agent F. B. I.  
/s/ [redacted]  
Special Agent, F. B. I.  
St. Paul, Minn.  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943."



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois on September 15, 1943.

At [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] with the help of [REDACTED] as he was unable to understand or speak the English language. She advised [REDACTED] has never been arrested in his life and it is felt he would make a very poor witness as he did not seem to know much about the pertinent period and if he is to be a witness and interpreter would have to be obtained for him.

Agents obtained the following statement which [REDACTED] signed for [REDACTED] as she said he can't write. This statement is as follows:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] who have identified themselves as being Special Agents of F.B.I. and [REDACTED] has acted as interpreter for me. I was born in [REDACTED] & came to U.S. about [REDACTED] & became a citizen in [REDACTED] I worked at Mine A for [REDACTED] years & I quit in Jan. 1942 as I got sick. In 1932 everybody joined over to P.M.A. so I did too. It never made any difference to what union I belonged. In 1941 everybody else joined over to U.M.W. so I did too & I never was threatened or forced to sign up. I had not been told by anyone that Mine A would be closed if it didn't go over to U.M.W. I heard that Mine A might be kept closed & opened thru Mine B. To me one union was just like another and I didn't care which one was there. I went to one meeting on a Sunday & we voted over then & raised our hands but I didn't sign anything then.

(signed [REDACTED])

Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED]  
Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943.



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] At [REDACTED] Illinois, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] on September 17, 1943. He stated he had never been arrested in his life. It was noted that he is a rather intelligent person and answered the questions in a clear tone of voice. He seems to know what went on at the mines and he appeared to be honest and very cooperative. It is felt that he would make a very good witness if his testimony were necessary.

Interviewing Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[REDACTED] 1.  
Sept. 17, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI. No threats or promises have been made to me to give this information. I am now employed at [REDACTED] Ill. as a digger for about a year. I quit Mine A then & had worked there about [REDACTED] years. I was born in [REDACTED] In 1932 I joined PMA as all the rest did. It didn't make an difference to me which union was there & I never had any trouble before or after 1932 with either UMW or PMA. I heard it from others & from papers that ELSHOFF bet Mine A. I was almost sure there would be a change there & that I would have to go back to UMW because ELSHOFF had Mine B and had so much trouble before at Mine B. I don't worry so it didn't bother me if I went back to dig coal or not but I was anxious to get back to work then. No one saw me personally about joining over to UMW. There was a lot of talk that ELSHOFF might take coal from Mine A thru Mine B & I felt it could have been done then. I heard that EDMUNDSEN told a committee or some men that ELSHOFF said if they went to UMW he would open Mine A at once, otherwise he was going to take coal out thru Mine B and that our PMA local would have to join over to UMW & then I felt ELSHOFF would cut thru from A to B. I went back to UMW because the local & majority voted to go back so they would not have to starve during the winter. I attended about 3 meetings then. At the Elk's Club & Rodman Hall & PMA. I was at the meetings at the PMA. I recall it was a special meeting & I heard about it from other men. Something happened there that night. Some committee was sent out & I heard some men jumped on the committee & I did not see it. This committee did not see anyone to my recollection. I understand it was a regular called meeting & was presided over by PMA officials. No decisions were reached then to my recollection. I also heard of meeting at Rodman Hall from other miners & I don't know why it was held there. The local officials presided over it, too. I don't believe EDMUNDSON was there to my recollection. Everybody was talking there. At PMA meeting some PMA official said we ought to stay & fight. At Rodman Hall I just don't recall what was said anymore. They said they were going to have another meeting later. I went to a meeting

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(CONTINUED)

[REDACTED] at Elks Club on a Sunday afternoon. We voted to go back to UMW by a standing vote. All voted to go back under the circumstances. [REDACTED] was in charge of the meeting & he told us what the question was. It was either to go back to UMW or to picket Mine A & then ELSHOFF would take coal from Mine A thru Mine B. Someone got EDMUNDSON then, too, & he was there. Several men came in with EDMUNDSON. EDMUNDSON talked to us & said what they would do & that he would see that Mine A would reopen & that they could have their own local & officers. I think we signed up that afternoon over to UMW. I did not attend any meeting at EDMUNDSONS or ELSHOFFS office. I could not see any difference between UMW & PMA except that the dock boss got stricter but dues were about the same. I never had any complaint against PMA at any time & they handled things smoothly while at Mine A. We men went back to UMW to keep off picket lines & because they needed jobs & did not want to see things happen at Mine A as they did at Mine B when all the trouble was there. I have had Agon [REDACTED] read to me this three (3) page statement & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge. I am signing this of my own free will.

Signed [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, FBI  
St. Paul, Minn.

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, FBI  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

18, 1943.

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

At his residence - [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois -  
Agents interviewed [REDACTED] who advised he has no criminal record.  
It was noted that he was very cooperative, and he expressed himself rather  
good, even though he is an elderly man, and he seemed to have a good knowledge  
of what went on. It is felt that he would make a fair witness.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943

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

"I have been at Mine A since 1928 as a digger. I was born in  
[REDACTED] I became a citizen about [REDACTED]

In 1932 when we changed from U. M. W. to P. M. A. I joined the  
P. M. A. because everybody else did. I joined because if I wanted to stay  
at Mine A and work I had to join. I don't care much which union we have  
however the Progressives were a little bit worse, they would fine you and  
not tell you why.

"When Elshoff took over Mine A I got a letter from Ryan telling  
me of this. I also read of it in the paper. I heard that Elshoff was  
going to take the coal from Mine A through Mine B, if this happened we Mine  
A men would be out of a job. No one came to see me about going back to U.  
M. W. I heard he was just going to run one mine with U. M. W. men. I  
didn't much care about this I felt I could get a job some place.

"I attended a meeting at the P. M. A. there they discussed whe-  
ther we were going to fight to stay Progressive like they had at Mine B or  
whether we would go over to U. M. W. and not have to fight. The P. M. A.  
officers would let the men talk if they talked their way but if they didn't  
they would not let them talk. They had a committee which reported that  
Elshoff had said he would open the Mine with U. M. W. otherwise he would  
leave it shut down. I didn't see any fights I heard about them.

"We had a meeting at the Redman's Hall to see what we were going  
to do, this was to see what Elshoff was going to do. [REDACTED] was in

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

charge of this meeting he told us that Elshoff had said if we signed up with U. M. W. he would open the mine but he wasn't going to open it with P. M. A.

"The meeting at Elks Club was also in charge of [REDACTED] this was to see what we were going to do, they gave us papers to sign up for the U. M. W. and all there but 26 signed. Edmundson came over after we had signed up with U. M. W. He said he was glad we had come back so there would be no trouble. He told us we would not have to pay any initiation fee. I signed up that afternoon. I signed up with U. M. W. because I liked them better because they are all over the U. S. and Canada. The Progressives are only a small organization and they can't push anything.

"I was not on any committee in connection with the Union switch. I did not go to the office of Edmundson or Elshoff after this meeting. Conditions at Mine A are very good and the same as they always were.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read to me this 3 page handwritten statement and it is all true and correct to the best of my knowledg. I am signing this statement of my own free will.

"Signed: [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943."

re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

13, 1943.

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

Agents went to the residence of [redacted]  
[redacted] Springfield, Illinois and he advised he had heard of  
instant investigation but had nothing to say about it as he did not know a  
thing about it, and he denied that anyone told him not to say anything.

He was interrogated by Agents and shorthand notes were taken  
by Agent [redacted] which are being retained in the exhibit section of this  
case. He advised Agents he has been at Mine A about [redacted]  
years, that he is on the top, doesn't associate with the miners and that  
he is a dock boss. He further said he is a citizen of the United States  
and was born in [redacted]. He said he has not been con-  
tacted by anyone in regard to this investigation and that he did not know  
a thing about it. He also said it does not make any difference to him what  
union he belongs to just so he has a job. [redacted] advised he was at Mine A  
in 1932 and went over the way the bunch went. He said just so he works is  
all that he cares about. He advised there was a meeting at the Elks  
Club and that they voted to go into UMW and that that was the only meeting  
he attended. He further said he did not know why they voted that way. He  
stated that all he wanted was work and he did not care anything about the  
union at all. According to [redacted] there was a notice in the paper about the  
meeting to be held. He advised that he heard through someone that Carl  
Elshoff was going to buy the mine A and that he also heard it in the  
papers. He also advised he did not know if Elshoff was going to reopen  
Mine A or not and that he never heard anything about going through Mine B.  
He also said nobody contacted him about going back to Mine A. He further  
said he did not know if the men were satisfied with PMA or not and that  
he did not attend very many meetings and that he still does not go to  
many. He also advised he never heard anything that Elshoff would only open  
Mine A as UMW. At the Elks Club he said the men just voted over to UMW  
and that the chairman got up and took a vote and that [redacted] got up  
and asked what way. He further said that after the meeting Ray Edmundson  
came over but that Edmundson did not say anything but just took them into  
the UMW union. [redacted] said he voted to go back to UMW and that he went along  
with the rest of the men and he said he guessed his job depended upon  
which way he voted and he again said he did not know why they voted over to  
UMW. [redacted] also said he wasn't a member of any committee and that he did  
not go over to Elshoff's office after the meeting nor to the Leland Hotel.  
He also said that since Mine A has been UMW his job is just the same and perhaps  
a little better now as he now has one job to do while with PMA he had  
three or four things to do. He further said he did not know why they changed  
back nor where Elshoff got the money to purchase Mine A. [redacted] said this

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

is all that he knows and that it is true to his knowledge and he said he would not sign anything even if it were written up. He said it "ain't none of his business" and that he doesn't bother with anything out there and that he didn't want to get mixed up in the matter. He further said he is still working out there and they don't bother him and he doesn't bother them and just so he works is all he cares about. He also advised he never has been arrested in his life.

It is felt that [REDACTED] would make a poor witness but it is felt he has not told the truth and probably has been contacted by someone to keep still.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
at Springfield, Illinois, on September 16, 1943:

At his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, agents interviewed [REDACTED], who advised he never has been arrested in his life. He also advised agents he was not contacted by anyone in regard to being seen by Federal men and he said he would answer any questions he could. It was noted that [REDACTED] is rather intelligent and appears to know a lot about union matters and, as noted in his statement, he is in favor of UMW and has been for years.

It is to be noted that [REDACTED] would not sign the statement which he gave and which is set out hereinafter. It is felt that [REDACTED] would make a rather impressive witness.

The following is the unsigned statement obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED], give the following information to [REDACTED] who have identified themselves as Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this information.

"I was born in [REDACTED] & came to U. S. in [REDACTED] & became a citizen thru my father. I have been at Mine A since [REDACTED] am still there as a company man. In 1932 I went Progressive because everybody else did & I would never have split if I had anything to do with it. I did not have anything to do with getting U.M.W. back again at Mine A.

"I read in the paper in 1941 that Ryan sold Mine A to Elshoff & I was worried a lot about it as I felt Mine A would shut down as I felt that Elshoff would not operate Mine A. While P.M.A. was at Mine A I had no complaint against them at all. No one saw me in regard to going back to U.M.W. at all. I heard that they were going to drive an entry from Mine B into Mine A & I know that could not be done as it would cost too much to do it altho it could be done. I never heard that Elshoff would open Mine A if men joined U.M.W. I attended a meeting at Progressive Hall. That was a regular meeting if I remember right & that was the last P.M.A. meeting I attended. They discussed the matter & they had a controversy there so I left & went home. [REDACTED] told us all it was one of those bad situations & that we would have to wait till the whistle blew. I heard they had an argument or fight down stairs later on but I had gone. I heard later on there were some strong arm men there at the meeting from the southern part of Illinois. No committees were appointed while I was there. I also

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] attended the meeting at the Elks Club & I heard about it thru someway & I voted to go back to U.M.W. & it was a standing vote. I always have been a U.M.W. since [REDACTED] & that was why I voted over & my job also bothered me, but I felt it would be better for us all to get together again under U.M.W. I believe the local P.M.A. officers had charge of it. [REDACTED] was the temporary chairman. I don't recall just what was said at the meeting regarding going back to U.M.W. The vote was taken to see if we wanted to go back to U.M.W. I voted of my own free will. I was not on any committees then. I came home after meeting at Elks Club. I believe Ray Edmundson was called over to the meeting & he didn't have much to say & I believe we all signed up then at the meeting to be with U.M.W. Since Mine A has been changed back to U.M.W. I don't see a particle of difference as dues are same now as they were under P.M.A. I have read this three (3) page statement & it is true & correct & no one influenced me to vote the way I did. This is all true but I won't sign anything unless I first see our attorney Mr. Fitzgerald, who is the attorney for the union.

"Witnesses:

"(This statement was read by  
[REDACTED] he said it was  
(true but he would not sign it.

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

[REDACTED] (signed)  
Special Agent F.B.I. (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943."



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on 9-15-43. At his residence [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, agents interviewed [REDACTED] who advised he has no criminal record. It was noted that he is rather illiterate and although he understood the questions his answers were in a very low tone of voice and it is felt he would make a very poor witness.

He furnished the following statement but said he would not sign it unless he really had to and inasmuch as he was told it was up to him to decide whether or not he wanted to sign the same he said he would not sign it but that it was true.

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to give this information & I am giving it of my own free will.

"I was born in [REDACTED] & came to U.S. in [REDACTED] became a citizen in [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. I have been at Mine A 8 years & I'm still there as a digger. In 1932 I went P.M.A. as I believed it was the best union then. Now it don't make any difference to what union I belong. I heard that ELSHOFF had bot Mine A when the time came to open up in the fall of 1941. It didn't make any difference to me what happened. I heard from other miners we would have to join U.M.W. if we wanted to go back to work. I was satisfied with both P.M.A. & U.M.W. & it didn't make any difference what union was there. No one asked me then to join over to U.M.W. I never heard that ELSHOFF would take coal out thru Mine B from Mine A. I never heard that ELSHOFF would close Mine A unless it was U.M.W. I attended one meeting at P.M.A. hall & they had an argument there & talk was as to whether we would go back to work or not & I think they decided to go back whether under P.M.A. or U.M.W. & I don't recall if any committees were made as I don't understand things very well. I did not attend any meeting at Elks Club or at Redman's Hall. I signed up for U.M.W. back at Mine A when it re-opened. Since U.M.W. has been back at Mine A things are just the same for me as they were under P.M.A. I had to sign up with U.M.W. as the Mine A was that way and in order to go to work I had to join up as the local went that way I heard altho I did not vote over that way. I did not know there were to be any meetings at the Elks Club & at Redman's Hall. As far I am concerned just so I have a job is all I care for & it don't matter which union is there for me. I have

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

had Agent [redacted] read this two (2) page statement to me & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge and I will not sign it the unless it is absolutely necessary but it is true.

Witnesses:

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

[redacted]  
Spec. Agt. F.B.I. (Milw)  
Springfield, Ill.,  
Sept. 15, 1943."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 10, 1943:

At his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, agents interviewed [REDACTED] who advised that up until about five years ago or so he also was known as [REDACTED] which last name was that of his [REDACTED] but that he legally had his name changed to [REDACTED] and that it was originally [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised agents that [REDACTED] but he said he never was convicted of any crime.

[REDACTED] appeared to be rather intelligent and he took great pride in telling agents of his activities in connection with Mine "A". He would make a good witness if his testimony is necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

"Sept. 10, 1943  
[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I first joined a mine union in Springfield, Ill. about [REDACTED] this was U.M.W. [REDACTED] I am now working at the Capitol Mine. I worked at Mine A from [REDACTED] until August 1943 as a driver.

"When the switch came in 1932 we didn't want to go over to P.M.A. but it looked like there was nothing else we could do. I took no active part in this. From 1932 to 1941 there was always some who wanted to return to U.M.W., I was one of them. There was no certain group but you could tell the way some of them felt they wanted to go back. There was no active organizing or agitation to return to U.M.W. P.M.A. local 51 was just like any other union as far as I know. Mine A was closed each year for a seasonal shut down. There was no rumor when the mine shut down that the union would be changed to U.M.W. The first I know was when along in the fall it came out in the papers that Elshoff had bought the mine. After this was in the paper every man you met on the street seemed to

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

feel that the only way we could go back to work was as U.M.W. Also the men were getting tired of the dues that they were having to pay P.M.A. I have paid as high as 12 or 14 dollars a month for dues & assessments to P.M.A.

I don't know why the dues in P.M.A. are so high. No one approached me about going to the meeting to change over to P.M.A. I was of the first to start trying to get a meeting organized to discuss among all the miners working at mine A as to what we would do. When anyone got up in a P.M.A. meeting to discuss this matter the P.M.A. officials were standing around ready to pounce on us and wouldn't let us talk. At one of the P.M.A. meetings a committee was appointed of 6 or 8 men, by the union members. They were to go to see Elshoff as to what was to be done. The P.M.A. officials wouldn't get information as to what was going to happen and wouldn't accept the committee appointed. Some of those on the committee were [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We left the hall to make an appointment with Elshoff, [REDACTED] was to phone Elshoff but we couldn't get him. As we went out some one pushed [REDACTED] and hit me in the back of the head with their fist. There was a group around the door of [REDACTED] and some others they held [REDACTED] back when the rest of us went out and beat him up on the floor. We did not get in touch with Elshoff but [REDACTED] contacted with Falsetti and we all went out to see him. He told us when the Company buys anything it has a contract with U.M.W. already and he guessed whatever was bought would have to be that way too. He said they really did not know if they were going to open Mine A or not that they might get the coal out of Mine A through Mine "B". He didn't say so but it was felt that this would knock us out of a job. We then told Falsetti that we wanted to go over to U.M.W. anyway because of the dues the P.M.A. was charging us. We did tell him we would like for them to keep Mine A going and not abandon it. [REDACTED] and I went around with a check paper to see if the men wanted to go back to U.M.W. or wanted to stay P.M.A. We got over a hundred names and only one man turned us down. We told them we were going to have a piece in the paper announcing a meeting we had a meeting at Redman's hall and about 95 to 100 men were there. This meeting was about a week before the meeting at the Elks Club. We told the men at this meeting what Falsetti had said and asked them if it would be OK to go see the U.M.W. officials. We told them we would put in the papers when and where another meeting was to be held. All of these men wanted to go over to U.M.W. We went up to U.M.W. and saw [REDACTED]. We told him how the men felt and even suggested that Edmundson talk to the men at a meeting & explain the U.M.W. proposition. The following Sunday afternoon we held a meeting at the Elks. This meeting was announced in the paper & about 240 men were there. [REDACTED] was the man in charge of the meeting. He had not previously been contacted by us. [REDACTED] was at the last P.M.A. meeting mentioned, he was not at the meeting at Redman's Hall though. [REDACTED] were two officers under P.M.A. who attended this meeting and carried over as U.M.W. officials.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "At the Elks Club meeting we explained to the men what had happened. We had previously seen Edmundson and he (continued) had said he would be glad to have us return. We told the men what Falsett [REDACTED] and Edmundson had told us and that Edmundson was in town and would come up and talk to us, this was after the vote to return to U.M.W. this was a standing vote and there was not a one against it. Another fellow and I went down and asked Edmundson to come up which he did. He gave a short talk and told the men when they came over to U.M.W. he would do all he could to keep Mine A going.

"The men were given cards for the U.M.W. that night so they would know how many members we had. That same evening Union officers were elected and later on I think we went over to Edmundson's office and were sworn in.

[REDACTED] In talking with Edmundson that night we asked him if he couldn't get the mine opened right away, he told us that he would see if he could get in touch with him. We then went to the Leland and had dinner and then over to Elshoff's office where we waited until he came down. I don't know how Edmundson got in touch with Elshoff. Edmundson explained to Elshoff that the men wanted to go over to U.M.W. and he wanted Elshoff to sign a contract. Elshoff said he didn't want to sign until he knew the men had made up their mind and wouldn't change back to P.M.A. [REDACTED] and I both told Elshoff that we had over 240 at the meeting and had met about 12 others on the street and they had signed up. He told him he needs not worry that there would be no trouble. We waited till after 12 midnite before signing a contract as Elshoff didn't want to sign on Sunday. I don't know of their being anything special about this contract. The mine opened in about a week after this. All the men joined the U.M.W. of their own free will. The men joined to keep Mine A from being shut down and to get away from the high P.M.A. dues. I don't recall anything about any letter inviting the Mine "A" men to join the U.M.W. It is possible to operate Mine "A" through the shaft of Mine "B" and at one time they actually started to tunneling and went about 40 feet and stopped. I heard nothing about where Elshoff got the money to buy Mine "A". I never received one penny for anything I did in regards to this matter. My interest was just to keep Mine A going and to keep a job for myself and the other men.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this 9 page handwritten statement to me. It is to the best of my knowledge and belief all the truth and just as I have told it to the agents. I am signing this of my own free will.

"Signed [REDACTED] S/

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

Special Agent, F.B.I.,  
St. Paul, Minn.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 10, 1943."

6 0

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] In regard to the persons mentioned above, [REDACTED] said that  
(continued) [REDACTED] is still at Mine A. He said that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] in Springfield, Illinois,  
and that both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are still at Mine A.



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is a person of average intelligence, and would make an average witness. He declined to sign the following statement on the general principle that he does not sign things. He read it over, however, and assured that it was true as far as his knowledge of affairs was concerned.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 1943.

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

"I have worked at Mine A for about [REDACTED] years. I was employed there when Ryan sold the mine. Prior to that time I had heard no talk among the men about changing unions. I think they were satisfied with the union as it was. I know that I was satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I do not know why the men changed unions. I did not see any men or talk to them about the change. I did not especially care what they did about unions. Either union would be alright with me. I did not go to any meetings where this matter was discussed. I went back to work. I did not sign an application to join the UMW. I had my card in the PMW transferred, and went on working as before the mine had been sold.

"I do not know much more about the situation than that. I do not see that there is any change in working conditions than under the Progressive Mine Workers. At the time I was satisfied with the PMW. Now I am satisfied with the UMW.

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

[REDACTED] FBI.

[REDACTED], FBI

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was jointly interviewed at his residence [REDACTED] on September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at which time he furnished the following statement. He was eager to discuss the matter involved, and stated he would be a willing witness to testify to the facts as set forth below:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 18, 1943

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

"I reside at [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. I am presently employed at Mine A as a digger, and have worked there continuously since about June, 1932. I was born on [REDACTED]

"The first mine union I joined was the UMW in June, 1932 at Mine A. I voluntarily joined the PMA in September, 1932 with the majority and I favored the PMA after 1932. In 1941 I first learned Elshoff had purchased Mine A from Ryan from the newspapers. My reaction, after knowing about the previous Mine B trouble, was that Elshoff would sign a contract with the UMW and I would have to join the UMW, the United Mine Workers of America, to keep my job. I would rather have worked for Ryan.

"When Ryan operated the mine, it was a good place to work, and the working conditions were very satisfactory.

"I did not hear the rumor that Elshoff might operate Mine A through Mine B or that it would stay closed until we joined the United Mine Workers.

"I only attended two PMA meetings, meaning the Progressive Mine Workers of America, when the men of the PMA local at Mine A were discussing joining the UMW. One was at the PMA Hall and one was at the Elks Club.

"I received notice of the PMA Hall meeting from the newspapers. They did not decide anything at that meeting, but wanted to get in touch with Elshoff to determine what he was going to do. A couple of the men went out of the meeting to telephone Elshoff, but could not reach him. There was a fight on the stairway between some PMA members who did not want the local to join the UMW. I did not see the fight, and the meeting broke up.

"I am not interested in either union. I felt that the men were going to join the UMW, and that if I wanted to continue working at Mine A, I would have to join also. It is my opinion that the only men who went to



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] the Elks Club meeting had already decided to join the UMW. I had learned of the meeting from the newspapers. [REDACTED] Presided at this meeting, and in a standing vote they voted to join the UMW. After that, Ray Edmundson of UMW was called in and he brought a notary public with him. All the men filled out UMW membership cards. After this, [REDACTED] (phonetic) [REDACTED]

"I heard talk at the Mine A, among the miners that there had been a meeting in the wash house at the mine last week before work in the morning, and some UMW officials whose names I do not know, had stated that the miners should be careful what they said to the F.B.I. agents and instructed the miners not to sign anything. Since I was not at the meeting, I can not furnish accurate information about this.

"The working conditions at Mine A have become worse since Elshoff bought the mine.

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

[REDACTED] (signed)  
[REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 13, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He is presently employed as a digger at Mine A. He did not desire the change of operators and stated ELSHOFF treated the men like slaves when he first started operations at Mine A. He attended the four meetings prior to the shift of Mine A employees to the UMW but is vague on details of these meetings. He executed the following written statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 13, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed at Mine A, Springfield, Illinois as a mine digger. I was born at [REDACTED]. I first joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW at the Woodside Mine Local 999 at Springfield, in [REDACTED]. I remained a member of the UMW until about 1932 when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMWA, at Mine A when it signed a PMWA contract. I started working at Mine A in [REDACTED] and have continued working there to date.

"In 1932, when I joined the PMWA, there was a vote taken in the PMWA Hall at 6th and Washington streets and the majority voted for the PMWA. I went with the majority to retain my job. I would just as soon have stayed with the UMW as I was a charter member of UMW.

"After 1932, I paid my dues to the PMWA and I was interested in keeping my job, and not in any union. The first I heard of the change in operators was in 1941, through the newspapers. I did not welcome the change, and would have preferred working under Ryan. I did not think I would lose my job, but felt that after a vote, the mine would go UMW. It worked out that way. I thought the miners would vote for the UMW because if the PMWA won, Elshoff would bring into the mine to work, other UMW miners. We had a vote at the Elks Club on a Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM. It was a fair election. The UMW won.

"When Ryan was the Operator at Mine A, the working conditions there under the PMWA were good, and the men were satisfied. I was not approached by any UMW organizer to join the UMW. I heard rumors that Elshoff would operate Mine A through Mine B. My reaction was that he would not do it, but I did think he would hire some UMW men who might take my job, and I still wanted to work, so I voted for the UMW. There were rumors that

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

Elshoff would open Mine A if the miners would join the UMW and we would start to work by October 1, 1941. I do not recall the sources of these rumors. I had all ready made up my mind to join the UMW, going with the majority, so I would not be out of work.

"I attended the four PMA meetings in September, 1941. I believe I got notice of part of these meetings through the newspapers and the others by word of mouth on street corners.

"At the two PMA meetings at the PMA Hall, the President of that union presided. [REDACTED] He tried to hold the local at Mine A, in the PMA. The first meeting broke up in an argument. The second meeting broke up in a fight. As to this fight, it was started by some men who were not employed at Mine A, who were standing on the stairway. I think they were PMA men who wanted to keep us PMA members.

"At the meeting at the Redman Hall, [REDACTED] (phonetic) [REDACTED] At this meeting, we agreed to have another meeting the next Sunday at the Elks Club and to notify the men of the coming meeting.

"At the two meetings at the PMA Hall and Redman Hall, there were no UMW organizers present to my knowledge. Ray Edmundson did not talk at this meeting and was not there.

"On a Sunday afternoon at the Elks Club, in September, 1941, there was about 190 PMA men present [REDACTED] There was no one present, but the PMA present, and we were all counted. There were no UMW organizers present before that vote. Some one made a motion to join the UMW and all in favor stood up. Practically all voted for the UMW. There was no discussion about having to join the UMW before going to work.

"After the vote, we sent for Edmundson to see if he would accept us as a local. Edmundson came over to the Elks Club with a notary public. Edmundson took an affidavit that we all wanted to join the UMW voluntarily, and then he sent three men to see Elshoff to find out when the mine could open. They came back within thirty minutes and said the mine would open by October 1, 1941.

"I made up my mind to vote for the UMW the day I saw Elshoff had bought the mine. No one influenced me. I figured Mine A would go UMW because Mine B had gone that way, and I did not want a long period of unemployment like they day in Mine B.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"When Ryan had Mine A, with a PMA contract, he treated us miners like men, but when Elshoff took it over, he treated us like slaves. He did not have enough rooms for the men and doubled them up to get the coal out. He docked the men a lot and would not show us why we were docked. He calimed it was because of dirt in the coal etc. Elshoff knew he could get plenty of men at that time, however, at the present time, Elshoff treats us well, because men are hard to get.

"I have read this statement consisting of three and a quarter pages and it is the truth to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent F.B.I.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has an accent which is difficult to understand and he cannot read well. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 1943.

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

"I am now employed at Panther Creek Mine #5, which is located across the street from where I live. I worked at Mine A about [REDACTED] years, ending last January. I was employed by Mine A at the time that Ryan sold the mine. I do not know why the men changed unions at that time. I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America at that time, and I am a member of the PMA of A now. I did not attend any of the meetings of the local when the matter of changing unions was discussed. I did not hear any about it. I signed up with the UMW after all the other men had signed up, and there was a closed shop contract. I signed up with the UMW so I could go back to work. If I did not, I would lose my job. I did not hear any talk of changing unions prior to that time. I was satisfied with the Progressives, and I think most of the men were too.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] on the afternoon of September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a person having an intelligence which probably does not equal that of the average miner. He is not difficult to understand. He gave information set forth on the following statement:

Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

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

"I have worked at Mine A for [REDACTED] years. I was employed there at the time that RYAN sold out his interest in the mine. Before that time there had not been much discussion among the men about changing the unions. I do not know why the men voted to go back to the United Mine Workers. I thought that the Progressive Mine Workers were checking off too much dues. I also did not see why there should be two unions for coal miners, and all the trouble that two unions would cause. Because of this, I did not care much which union I belonged to as long as I could work. I did not go to the meetings or pay much attention to what was going on. I went to the meeting when the men voted to go over to the U.M.W. I voted to go over because the rest of the men were going to do that. I had no special reason. I do not recall anything said about the company favoring more the U.M.W., although [REDACTED] at that meeting, did say that he thought that we would get along better with the company if we joined the U.M.W.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 14, 1943, [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] appeared to be cooperative but he does not present the appearance of a man of character and it is not believed that he would be better than a fair witness. At the present time he is [REDACTED] and is not working in the mines. He disclaims any criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 14, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, do make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to me; I have been told I need not make any statement and that any statement I do make can be used in Court.

"I was born in [REDACTED] I began to work as a miner in [REDACTED] I began to work at Mine "A" in 1927 as a United Mine Worker. In 1932 I changed unions with the majority and became a Progressive Mine Worker because I didn't like John L. Lewis and the way he ran the U.M.W.

"I first heard about the sale of Mine "A" to Elshoff through talking to fellow miners. I personally didn't like this because Mr. Ryan was a good employer and a fine fellow to work for. I had also been satisfied with the Progressive Mine Union as they had fairly represented the miners. I heard the rumor that the officials of Mine "B" were threatening to operate Mine "A" through Mine "B" and also that Elshoff would not operate Mine "A" except through United Mine Workers Union. However, these stories did not influence me to change over to the United Mine Workers.

"I attended the meeting at the Progressive Mine Workers Hall where the sale of Mine "A" was discussed. I noted that [REDACTED] of the union took a prominent part in getting the miners to switch over from the P.M.A. to U.M.W. He told me that he and the Miner's Committee had talked to Elshoff and that Elshoff is reported to have said that he wouldn't open Mine "A" with the P.M.W. but that he would reopen the mine within 30 days if the men would switch over to U.M.W.

"I think that conditions under the P.M.A. were better than they were after Mine "A" went U.M.W. because we no longer were free to say what we wanted and we no longer had a vote as the U.M.W. organization railroaded



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

their own men in and handled the union to suit themselves.

"I have read the within statement consisting of two pages and it is all true.

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED] Special Agents, FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative but it is not believed that he would make a good witness because he didn't attend any of the meetings at the time the miners switched their affiliations from PMA to UMWA after the sale of Mine A. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily make the following statement to Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to cause me to make this statement and I know that these facts can be presented in court.

"I was born [REDACTED] emigrating to America in [REDACTED]. I became an American citizen in Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED]. I began working in mines in [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. I have never held any offices in any union. I am presently employed at Mine A as a digger.

"I joined Progressives in 1932 and still favor PMA because they have better working conditions even today.

"I learned of the sale of Mine A through the newspaper. I also got a letter telling me of the sale and advising me to join UMWA to keep my job. I heard talk to the effect that Mr. Elshoff was going to drive an entry and hoist coal from Mine A through Mine B. Also talk to the effect that Mine A would open only if the men joined UMWA.

"I never attended any meetings at PMA Hall where we discussed this matter. Neither did I go to Redmans Hall or the Elks Club when the miners met on this situation, because I was afraid of trouble.

"I went back to Mine A after it opened and had to sign UMWA before I went down into the mine. At present there are too many docks and you can't say anything against the union. I would rather work under PMA as they have better labor conditions, and some sayso at the meetings.  
been

"I have read the above voluntary statement made by me consisting of 1½ pages. The same is true & correct.

/S/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/S/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness, inasmuch as he only worked at Mine A for two months and never returned after the shut down on March 31, 1941. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

[REDACTED] Ill.  
September 13, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and started working in the mines in and around Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED] joining U.M.W.A. at that time. I am presently employed at Panther Creek Mine #2, Springfield, Ill.

"I was only employed at Mine A for a period of two months, February and March of 1941. I never returned to Mine A again but started at Panther Creek #2 in October 1941.

"I was in favor of the Progressive Mine Workers of America in 1932 and joined up with them while working at [REDACTED] Ill. I am still a member of P.M.A. I have never held an office in either PMA or U.M.W.A.

"I have no knowledge of the facts surrounding the opening of Mine A in September of 1941. I never attended any of the PMA meetings before the mine opened at which time they switched their union affiliations. All I know about the situation is what I read in the Ill. State Register and I wouldn't go back because I didn't want to have anything to do with U.M.W.A. When I read that Mr. Elshoff had bought Mine A I just said to myself, 'well I haven't got any job'.

"During the two months I worked at Mine A conditions seemed alright and the miners seemed satisfied with P.M.A. I worked nights and didn't have a lot of contact with the men.

"After Mine A reopened under Elshoff [REDACTED] one of the miners came by and said that Oscar Falcetti wanted me to come back.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

I told him, 'Nothing doing, I don't want anything to do with UMWA.'

(Continued)

"I never heard anything about Mine A going to be operated through Mine B, or that Mine A would open on condition that the men join UMWA.

"I have read the above statement consisting of 1 3/4 pages. The same is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, F.B.I."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 19, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] will make a fair to good witness. He has no criminal record. His statement follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 19, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois do make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to me; I have been told I need not make any statement and that this statement can be used in court.

"I was born in [REDACTED] I came to the United States via New York City in [REDACTED] I became a citizen of the United States at Springfield, Illinois in September, [REDACTED] I have been working in the mines since [REDACTED] first joining the United Mine Workers.

"I began work at Mine 'A' in [REDACTED] as a digger as a member of the United Mine Workers. I was satisfied with this union until 1932 when the Mine 'A' signed up with the Progressive Miners Union. I decided to join the PMA and was in favor of that union. The conditions were O. K. in this union too but I did not think there was much difference between UMW and PMA.

"I first heard about the sale of Mine 'A' by reading the newspaper. I did not think anything about the sale as affecting my job. I attended the meeting held at Redman's Hall presided over by [REDACTED] at which the question of going over to the United Mine Workers was discussed. I attended the meeting held at the Elks Hall presided over by [REDACTED] Ray Edmundson spoke at this meeting and signed up the miners for the United Mine Workers.

"I heard that Elshoff would keep Mine 'A' closed unless it was operated with the UMW and that he would operate Mine 'A' through Mine 'B'. This influenced me to join United Mine Workers which I did at the meeting at the Elks Hall. I don't care which union I belong to just that I have a job.

"I have been read the within statement consisting of 2 pages and it is all true.

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]  
/s/ [REDACTED]

/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 but it is not believed that he would make a good witness inasmuch as he had very little knowledge of the Mine A situation. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 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] and came to America in [REDACTED] being naturalized in Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED]. I began to work in the mines about [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. [REDACTED] I never held any office under UMWA. I began at Mine A in [REDACTED] and worked until July 1942. At present I am working [REDACTED]

"I learned about the sale of Mine A from the papers. I wasn't much interested and didn't think much about it at the time as the mine was closed.

"I heard talk to the effect that Mr. ELSHOFF was going to take the coal out of Mine A through Mine B, but I never heard that Mine A would be closed until all the men joined UMWA.

"I never attended any of the meetings held by the miners on the Mine A situation, except the first one, at PMA Hall, where there was a lot of arguing. I didn't want to get mixed up in any trouble so I never went again.

"I returned to the mine two or three days after it opened and signed up UMWA at the mine before I went to work. I remember that we had more docks when we first started up.

"Both unions were about the same but I favor PMA because it is more democratic and responsive to the rank and file.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I have had the above statomont consisting of 1½ pages  
[REDACTED] read to me by Agent [REDACTED] The same is true & correct.  
(CONTINUED) /s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

On September 15, 1943

of [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED] presents an average appearance and it is believed that he will make a fair witness. He disclaims any criminal record. His statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] do make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me; I have been told I need not make any statement and that this statement can be used in court.

"I was born in [REDACTED] I began to work at Mine "A" in about 1932. I belonged to the Progressive Miners union until 1941 when Mine "A" was sold. I have never held any office in any union. At the present time I am employed [REDACTED] I left Mine "A" in January of 1942. While I was a member of the P.M.A. union I was satisfied with the P.M.A. union.

"I first found out about the sale of Mine "A" either through the newspaper or by a letter which I received from Mr. Bill Ryan in which he said he hoped he was still my friend. When I heard the mine was sold my thought was that they were trying to break the Progressive union. I realized that if I wanted to work in Mine "A" that I would have to change unions from PMA to U.M.W.

"I attended one meeting of the employees of Mine "A" presided over by [REDACTED] at which the sale of the mine was discussed. As I remember Ray Edmundson spoke and that we were given membership cards to sign. I signed up with the U.M.W. union at that meeting. I figured that Elshoff would operate the mine with the United Mine Workers union only and that I had better sign up to keep my job.

"I have read the written statement consisting of one and a half pages and it is all true.

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his place of employment by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative but it is not believed that he would make a good witness inasmuch as he was employed elsewhere at the time of the sale of Mine A. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement;

" Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 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 at [REDACTED] I first started working at Mine A about [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. I joined PMA in 1932 along with the rest of the men. I was satisfied with both unions and all I cared about was my job. I never held an office in either union. I am presently employed at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill.

"I first learned of the sale of Mine A from the newspapers. It didn't make any difference to me at that time because I was working for [REDACTED]. At the time of the sale so far as I know PMA was getting along alright with Mr. RYAN. During the period following the sale no one approached me and tried to get me to join UMWA.

"I heard the rumors that Mr. ELSHOFF was going to close Mine A and hoist the coal through Mine B, and that Mine A wouldn't open unless all of the miners joined UMWA. I didn't pay much attention to these rumors as I was already employed at the time.

"I never attended any meetings at PMA Headquarters, Redman's Hall, or the Elks Club, where the matter of the sale of Mine A or change in union affiliations was discussed.

"All I know is that when I went back to the mine after it reopened I had to join UMWA.

"The only difference I noticed at Mine A was that you got more docks under UMWA, and for that reason I favored PMA.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(CONTINUED)

"I have read the above statement consisting of 1 1/2 pages. The same is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]

Special Agents, FBI  
Springfield, Ill."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 17, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had difficulty in understanding the questions asked of him, but he responded in a cooperative way. It is not believed that he would make a good witness. He said he has no criminal record. His statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 17, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to me; I have been told I need not make any statement and that this statement can be used in court.

"I was born in [REDACTED]. I entered the United States at New York City about [REDACTED]. I became a naturalized citizen of the United States at Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED].

"I am now employed at Mine 'A' as a digger. I have been employed here since about [REDACTED]. At that time I belonged to the United Mine Workers. The union at this time seemed to get along all right with the Mine 'A'. I was in favor of the change to the Progressive Mine Workers because we thought we would have better conditions. I liked the Progressive Mine Workers union during the time I belonged to it as I felt it represented the miners. I would belong to it now if I had my own way.

"I heard about the sale of Mine 'A' to Carl Elshoff through the newspaper and through my fellow miners. I also received a letter from Bill Ryan saying he had sold the mine and that I was no longer an employee of Mine 'A'. I thought that my job was gone unless I joined the United Mine Workers.

"I was satisfied with the way the Progressive Mine Workers handled grievances with Mine 'A'.

"I heard that Elshoff was going to operate Mine 'A' through Mine 'B' and that he wouldn't operate Mine 'A' unless it was under the United Mine Workers. I didn't think Elshoff would reopen Mine 'A' under the Progressive Mine Workers and so I voted to become a United Mine Worker so I could keep my job. These stories which I heard from the other miners influenced me to become a United Mine Worker.

"I did not attend any of the meetings of the employees of Mine 'A' at which it was decided to become United Mine Workers. I decided to join

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

up with UM, because the majority of the men  
voted to go over.

(Continued)

"This statement of two and a fraction pages has been read to me  
by [REDACTED] in the presence of [REDACTED] and it is all true.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Street, Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] appeared cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his ignorance of the Mine "A" situation. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED]. I just started working at Mine A in [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. I have never held an office in any union. I was at Mine A when PMA was formed and joined up Progressive with the rest of the miners there. I think that the two unions are about the same. At present I'm working at [REDACTED].

"I learned of the sale of Mine A from the newspaper, and I figured that I would either have to join UMWA or lose my job.

"I never heard any talk to the effect that Mr. Elshoff was going to close Mine A and hoist coal through Mine B, or that Mine A would open only if all the miners joined UMWA.

"I can't clearly recall attending any meetings at PMA Hall, Redmans Hall, or Elks Club where the sale of Mine A was discussed. I was out of town for a few days visiting [REDACTED]. When I came back I heard that the men were going to join UMWA and that Mine A was going to open up. I remember [REDACTED] coming over to my house and asking me to come to special meeting. Seems to me that I went to the meeting and joined UMWA at that time. I don't recall the meeting place, or any particulars of the meeting.

"I returned to Mine A when it opened as a [REDACTED] member. I remember that we had an excessive number of docks after we returned to work.

"If I had a free choice I would choose Progressives because they treated me better. The UMWA gave me a bad room over at Mine A and I quit [REDACTED].

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

"I have had the above statement consisting  
of 1 3/4 pages read to me by Agent [REDACTED]  
The same is true and correct.

/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 by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was very cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness inasmuch as he was away when Mine A changed from PMA to UMWA. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily make the following statement to Special Agents [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 in [REDACTED] I first started working in the mines in [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] at the present time I am a member of the Pit Committee at Mine A, where I am employed as a trip rider. I have been an employee of Mine A since 1933 or 1934. Before starting at Mine A I had joined PMA while working at Peabody Mine #59 in 1932. I was in favor of the split and the new PMA at that time and they always treated me alright.

"I found out about Mr. Ryan selling the mine to Mr. Elshoff from the newspaper and from a letter Mr. Ryan sent to all the miners. It made me kind of sick when I first found out about it as I figured that we were going to have trouble again.

"Up till the time Mr. Ryan sold Mine A he was getting along fine with PMA and I was satisfied with PMA at that time,

"I don't recall any rumors to the effect that Mr. Elshoff was going to close down Mine A and hoist the coal through Mine B, or that Mine A would open only if the miners joined UMWA.

"I attended one meeting at PMA Headquarters where the men discussed what was going to be done about the sale of the mine. The regular PMA officials were in charge of the meeting. The meeting was just sort of an uproar and nothing much was done. The men decided to wait and see how things were going to come out. About that time I went to [REDACTED] and worked a few days and when I came back the mine was running again.

"I heard that the men had one or two meetings after I left and

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

the majority voted to join UMWA.

(continued)

Wack Keirrs, Supt. at Mine A came after me and asked me to come back to work,

and I signed up with UMWA the next day. All the men who signed up at once didn't have to pay any initiation fee.

[REDACTED] was a leader in swinging the Mine A men back into UMWA. I knew him well and I've heard him say that he favored UMWA way before the mine was sold. I recall him saying several times, "We'd be a dam sight better off if we were UMWA".

"I have read the above statement consisting of two pages and the same is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he did not attend any PMA meetings when the miners at Mine A turned UMW and had little knowledge or understanding concerning the matter under inquiry. He is presently a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] executed the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 14, 1943

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

"I was born at [REDACTED], live at [REDACTED] and I am presently employed as [REDACTED] both addresses being in Springfield, Illinois.

"The last time I worked at Mine "A" was in June, 1942.

"In [REDACTED] started working in coal mines as a digger, working in the Old West Mine, Springfield, Ill. under the United Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I worked as a digger in Mine A off and on from [REDACTED] to 1942. I have never held an office in a mine union.

"I have no opinion to express regarding the formation of the Progressive Mine Union of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, in 1932.

"For several years before 1932 I worked under the UMW as check weighman. At the time PMA organized I had been defeated for the job of check weighman and had become a coal digger again.

"I joined the PMA in 1932 because the majority of the miners joined. However, I did not like the high handed way John L. Lewis tried to push the new wage scale on the miners without their consent. I did not have any interest in either union as a miner.

"I first knew definitely that Elshoff had become operator of Mine A when my salary check showed the change. I also heard of the change through some of the miners.

Re: JOHN A. JONES, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"It was the general opinion among the miners that Elshoff would try to swing the mine from PMA to UMW like he had at Mine B. I felt this way too.

"I think the PMA were more honest at Mine A than the UMW had been and that the men wanted the PMA to remain as the bargaining agent there.

"I heard the miners talking about the fact that Elshoff would try to take the coal out of the South section of Mine A through Mine B. I did not draw any conclusions. The g rumors did not influence me to join the UMW.

"I am sure I did not attend any of the PMA meetings at all when the men at mine A. signed up with UMW. I had no interest in going to any meetings either to vote or to li ten to any talks. I wanted to stay away from all union affairs so I just waited until the miners had decided what union they wanted and I joined with the majority.

"After the UMW got the bargaining rights at Mine A in 1941, conditions became rapidly worse than when the mine was operating under the PMA.

"Elshoff brought in a couple of Peabody Mine 'Face' bosses from Peabody Mine #53 and #59. These bosses took an insolent attitude toward the miners. They tried to make slaves of us.

"The UMW fined me illegally. There was no hearing, no trial, and no charges presented against me.

[REDACTED]

"I have read this statement consisting of two and one half pages and it is true and correct.

[REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnessed:

[REDACTED] (signed)

Special Agent F.B.I.

[REDACTED] (signed)

Special Agent F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He appeared cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of the neutral attitude which he adopted and his lack of knowledge of pertinent facts. [REDACTED] as no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 13, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily give the following 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 in [REDACTED] and came to America in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized at Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED]. I first joined U.M.W. in [REDACTED] when I began to work in the [REDACTED] in Springfield. I have never held an office in any union. I am presently employed at Mine A starting in Nov. [REDACTED]

"I was neutral towards either U.M.W. or P.M.A. in 1932. All I was interested in at that time was keeping my job. I joined Progressives at Mine A but did so only because I wanted to keep my job.

"In the summer of 1941 I heard that Mr. Ryan had sold Mine A to Mr. Elshoff. My wife also read about the sale to me from the paper. When I heard the news I decided to go along with the majority and if Mine A went U.M.W. I decided I wouldn't be first and I wouldn't be last to join U.M.W. The P.M.A. took care of me just about as good as now. I was not approached by any organizers to join U.M.W.

"I heard nearly all the men talking about Mr. Elshoff going to take the coal out of Mine A through Mine B. I heard this talk in Beer Taverns when I was talking with the other miners. I was scared that I would lose my bread & butter if this was true. I thought that I would have to look for another job.

"I don't recall hearing anything about Mine A being opened if all the men would join U.M.W.

"I attended a meeting at the Elks Club on Sunday. Most of the miners from Mine A were there. [REDACTED] asked me to come come to

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

that meeting. I don't know who was in charge of that meeting. Four or five men talked but the only one I remember was the last one who talked, Mr. Edmondson. We all voted to join UMW. I was influenced to vote UMW so I could keep my job. Mr. Edmondson promised to take care of all the workers.

"I was not a member of any Committee during this time. Before the mine closed down PMA it was good. When we first went back to work in 1941 there was an awful lot of docks but now it is alright again.

"I have had the voluntary statement made by me consisting of 2 pages read to me by Agent [REDACTED]. The same is true and correct and I do hereby sign my name.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agents, F.B.I."

RE. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Street, Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 17, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] appeared to be fairly intelligent and had a fair understanding of the events under inquiry. It is believed that he will make a good witness. He disclaims any criminal record.

His statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 17, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois do make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises of any kind have been made to me; I have been told I need not make any statement and that this statement can be used in court.

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois and was born in [REDACTED]. I first was employed at Mine "A" in [REDACTED]. I joined the United Mine Workers at that time. [REDACTED] United Mine Workers but I have never held any other office in any union. I am presently employed at Mine "A" as a digger. I have been employed at Mine "A" since [REDACTED].

Prior to 1932 I was not satisfied with the United Mine Worker's Organization because the officials did not truly represent the miners and they seemed to play into the hands of the mine operators. Being dissatisfied with the union I was in favor of the switch over to the Progressive Mine Workers. I felt that the Progressive Mine Workers Union was a good organization, represented the miners and was conscientious in handling grievances. There was no trouble between P.M.W. and the operator of Mine "A" up until the sale of Mine "A".

"I first read about the sale of Mine "A" by reading it in the newspapers. I knew immediately that Elshoff would operate the mine with miners from the United Mine Workers and that my job was probably gone unless I was able to join U.M.W.

"I heard that Elshoff was going to operate Mine "A" through Mine "B" and that he would only operate Mine "A" with U.M.W. miners. I heard these rumors at the meetings the employees of Mine "A" held to decide what they were going to do. I figured that these stories were true and that I had better join the U.M.W. if I wanted to keep my job.



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I attended the meetings which the Mine "A" miners held. [REDACTED] presided over the meetings held at Redman's Hall and at the Elks Hall. I also attended another meeting at the Progressive Hall.

At the first meeting arguments took place as to whether or not the men should join U.M.W. At the next meeting I attended held at Redman's Hall a Committee on which were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was appointed to go and see Mr. Elshoff and get his opinion. The Committee reported back to the miners on the following Sunday afternoon at the Elks Club and said that Oscar Falcetti, the super, said that the men could either change to U.M.W. or he would hoist the coal out through Mine "B" shaft. Then the miners voted to join U.M.W. After that a committee went out and got Roy Edmundson of U.M.W. and he came over and made a speech in which he promised the men all the rights and privileges of the U.M.W. and promised the men that there would be no initiation fee. About 150 to 200 miners joined up there and then. Edmundson said that he would get a contract from Elshoff or call a strike of the men at Mine "B". He also told us to go out to the Mine the next day and we could go to work. I did go out the next day and went right to work using the same check number as when I had quit 5 months before. The next morning I read in the paper that Elshoff had signed a contract the preceding night. There is no question in my mind that the whole procedure was pre-arranged between the United Mine Workers and Elshoff and that Edmundson's talk about calling a strike was just so much "hot air."

"I voted to switch over to the U.M.W. because the majority had decided to go over and because I was convinced I couldn't go back to work as a Progressive miner. If I had my own free choice in the matter I would still be a member of the Progressive Mine Workers because my vote would then mean something and the officers would be responsive to the rank and file members which is not true in the United Mine Workers."

"I have read the within statement consisting of four and a fraction pages and it is all true."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed

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

MR. JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed in his residence on September 14, 1943,  
by Special Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] speaks and understands English very well. Considering that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] seemed to have either a very poor memory, or indifference to union activities or a reluctance to talk about union activities. [REDACTED] was friendly, but he did not furnish much important information. He would not commit himself as to his willingness to testify. He said he has no criminal record. The following signed statement was obtained:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 14, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I entered the United States in [REDACTED] and derived my citizenship through my father, who was naturalized before I was twenty-one. I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, and am working at Mine A. I joined the U.M.W. at [REDACTED] and was a member of that union until 1932, when I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I am a member of the U.M.W. at the present time.

"In 1932, the fact that the union at Mine A changed from U.M.W. to P.M.A. made no difference to me. I was satisfied to go with the majority, and have seen no difference in the unions. Both unions have treated me all right, and I have no kick coming with either.

"I don't know who owns Mine A now. I don't know just when it was that Ryan sold the mine, or who bought it. It didn't make any difference to me that the ownership of the mine changed, for I felt that my work was satisfactory, and I would be kept on. I don't remember hearing anything about the possible operation of Mine A through Mine B, or hearing anything about the mine being worked only under U.M.W. No one asked me to join the U.M.W. I didn't go to very many P.M.A. meetings, and don't remember that I ever attended any at all in September of 1941. I didn't hear any talk about a switch to the U.M.W. by the P.M.A. local at Mine A, and don't remember voting in any referendum to get the U.M.W. back at the mine.

"Just before the mine opened up in the fall of 1941 [REDACTED] told me I'd better go to U.M.W. hall and join up, because I couldn't go back to work in the mine if

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

I didn't. I also heard, from other men around Springfield, that if I wanted to go back to work in the mine, I'd have to join U.M.W. It made no difference to me. If the majority of the men wanted to swing over to U.M.W., it was all right with me. I'd be satisfied under either union. I have no preference.

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

/s/

Special Agents, FBI, Springfield, Ill.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., was interviewed at his residence on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This man understands English fairly well and can express himself in a limited manner. He said he has no criminal record. He is willing to testify. [REDACTED] said that his first name is [REDACTED] but he always signs as [REDACTED] because he cannot write [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement.

Springfield, Ill.  
September 14, 1943

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

"I am living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and am working at Panther Creek Mine No. 4. I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the United States in [REDACTED]. I was naturalized in Springfield in [REDACTED]. I joined the U.M.W. in Springfield in [REDACTED] and was a member of that union until 1932, when the local at Mine A, where I was working, swung over to P.M.A. I worked at Mine A until [REDACTED], when I quit and began working at Panther Creek. I was in favor of the switch from U.M.W. to P.M.A., because I felt we had better conditions with that union. I always liked the P.M.A. better than the U.M.W.

"In September of 1941 I saw a notice in the paper that Elshoff had bought Mine A from Ryan. I was sore about it because I liked the way Ryan ran a mine, and because I didn't want to work under a company that had had all the trouble Elshoff had had at Mine B. At a P.M.A. meeting, I heard that Elshoff might operate Mine A from Mine B, and figured that this would put me out of a job unless I joined the U.M.W. I also heard in a P.M.A. meeting that Elshoff wouldn't open up Mine A unless it opened up U.M.W. I didn't like the idea, but had to do it, because I couldn't get a job anywhere else at that time.

"I went to some of the regular P.M.A. meetings, but I don't remember being at any meeting where a special committee was appointed, or where such committee made any report. I attended a meeting of the P.M.A. one Sunday evening at the Elks Club. I signed up with the U.M.W. at that time. Edmundson spoke at this meeting and said that when the mine joined the U.M.W., the Mine A would reopen. I don't

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(CONTINUED)

know who led the meeting. No one forced me to join the U.M.W. The entire local went. I felt I had to join to keep my job.

"Under Ryan, when the P.M.A. had the union, there weren't any docks. After the U.M.W. and Elshoff got in, there were many docks, and no explanation for them. I quit Mine A because I didn't get enough air down in the mine, and also because I was getting docked so much. I didn't like working there under the U.M.W. with the officers they had.

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

/S/

/S/

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This individual is presently employed by the Panther Creek Mine #5, Springfield, Illinois, which is a PMA mine. He can read English, was cooperative, and answered questions in a straight forward manner. He was under the impression Elshoff would force Mine A employees to join UMW stating he knew Mine B would not open until Elshoff had signed with UMW. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 14, 1943

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

"I presently reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, and I am employed at the Panther Creek Mine #5, Springfield, as a digger. I was born in [REDACTED] I arrived in the U.S. in [REDACTED] at the Port of New York. I was Naturalized at Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED]. The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at the Peabody Mine #6, near Sherman, Illinois in November, [REDACTED]. I worked in Mines in the Springfield area from [REDACTED] to 1935.

"On [REDACTED] 1935 I started working at Mine A as a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I worked at that mine until [REDACTED]. I quit on that date as the Panther Creek Mine #5 was closer to my home, and I started working there.

"I was working at Peabody Mine #57 at Springfield in 1932 when that mine went PMA. I went along with the majority and voluntarily joined that union, to have steady work. I never had any trouble with any union. After I joined the PMA I liked that union.

"I heard that Elshoff had bought Mine A through the newspapers. I also heard a rumor that the mine would open under the UMW. I thought I might lose my job if we did not sign up with the UMW, as Mine B did not open until they signed with the UMW. I decided to go with the majority. The mine under the PMA and Mr. Ryan was operating satisfactorily.

"I heard rumors that Elshoff might operate Mine A through Mine B, or on the condition the men would join the UMW. I do not know the source of the rumors or whether they were true. It looked like Elshoff was

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

going to force the miners to join the UMW if they wanted to work. I decided to do what the majority did about this.

"I only attended two meetings of the PMA before the miners at Line A joined the UMW. Both of these meetings were held in the PMA Hall, and I saw a notice of the meetings on a bulletin board at the PMA Hall.

"I think the President of the Local at Mine A, [REDACTED] (phonetic) took charge of the first meeting. At this meeting, nothing was decided. There were arguments for and against going over to the UMW. There were no fights and as far as I know, no UMW organizers were present.

"At the second meeting I think the President of the PMA local was in charge. Nothing was decided at this meeting. There was a fight on the stairway. I was in the hall, and did not see it. They were both PMA men, as far as I know. I did not take an active part in the meeting and I was not on any committees. No UMW members were there to my knowledge. No one told me I had to join the UMW.

"I did not go to the Elks Club when they voted for the UMW, but someone told me about it later. I knew that since the UMW won the vote, it would be necessary for me to join the UMW in order to go back to work.

"On [REDACTED] I went to the UMW office and signed a membership card. I think conditions at the mine under the UMW was about the same as before the UMW was there. I quit on [REDACTED] and went to the Panther Creek Mine #5 and joined the PMA, just to be nearer to my home.

"I have read and I understand enough English so that I understand each of the three pages of this statement, and I wish to say that it is the truth to the best of my knowledge. [REDACTED] was present during the time this statement was given by me and she also has read the three pages of this statement.

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 16, 1943, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] who was entirely cooperative at the time of this interview. He did not seem to have a very good understanding of the situation at Mine A during the period in question. He appeared to be an honest and reliable person. [REDACTED] advised that he has no criminal record. It is felt that he would be a willing but poor witness should his testimony be necessary.

[REDACTED] gave the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943

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

"I have been working at Mine A for [REDACTED] yrs. and am still there as a digger. I was born in [REDACTED] I came to the U. S. when I was about [REDACTED] yrs. old. I have been a citizen for about [REDACTED]

"I joined the P.M.A. in 1932. I was glad to do this and was always pleased with the Progressives. I heard from the other miners in 1941 that Elshoff had bought the Mine "A" and that if we wanted to go back to work we would have to go back to U.M.W. When we heard that Elshoff had bought Mine "A" everyone was worried, when we had Bill Ryan it was nice working there. No one came to my home to see me about going back to U.M.W. I heard that Elshoff might close Mine "A" and take coal out through Mine "B" the men were all talking about this. I didn't think this would be done. I thought it was too expensive. I heard that if we all went back as U.M.W. Elshoff would open Mine "A" otherwise he would not open it. I felt bad about this because I had worked there a long time and jobs were scarce. I felt I either had to go back to U.M.W. or be out of a job. I guess everybody felt like that.

"I only went to one meeting around this time that was at Elks. I heard about some others but I didn't go. I heard from the other men that the meeting was to be held at the Elks. I think Edmundson was brought over to the meeting after we took the vote. All I heard was that if we went back U.M.W. the mine would open otherwise it wouldn't. I just voted along with the rest of them to go back to U.M.W. because otherwise we would be out of work, we had already been off about 6 months. I know Edmundson gave a talk and afterwards we may have signed cards. I am not sure about this.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

After the meeting at the Elks Club I returned home at once. The whole local went back to U.M.W. as a group and I don't recall ever having signed anything. Conditions at the mine were better under P.M.A. than they are now under U.M.W. The dues are about the same.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this 2 page statement to me as I can not read english. This is all true and correct and just as I have told it to the Agents. I am signing this of my own free will.

"Signed:.....  
[REDACTED] (signed)

"Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED] (signed)  
Spec. Agt. FBI (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] as jointly interviewed by  
[REDACTED] Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield,  
Illinois on September 15, 1943. He speaks broken English and appeared to  
have little understanding of the pertinent issues involved in this case. His  
appearance is poor. He would be willing to testify to the facts as set  
forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943

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

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I am  
presently employed at Mine A as a coal digger. I was born on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I arrived in the United States in [REDACTED] I was Naturalized  
at [REDACTED] while I was in the Army. I started  
working at Mine A about 1933 or 1934 and have worked there continuously  
ever since. The first mine union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers  
of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at the Peabody Mine, which  
is now mine #59, at Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED] I was working at that  
mine in 1932 as a member of the UMW, when that mine closed on strike. The  
men voted for the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to here-  
inafter as the PMA, and I voted for the PMA with the majority of the  
miners. This mine did not open, so I went over to Mine A and worked as a  
member of the PMA. It did not make any difference to me which union I  
belonged to, just so I could work. After I joined the PMA, I liked that  
union.

"I first heard that Elshoff had bought Mine A in 1941 from the  
newspapers and later, Mr. Ryan sent me a letter saying he had sold this  
mine. When I heard this, it did not make any difference to me who owned  
the mine, or who was operating it.

"When I worked in Mine A under the PMA I was satisfied. No one  
contacted me about joining the UMW. I did not attend many union meetings.  
I did not hear that Elshoff might operate Mine A through Mine B, or that he  
would open it if the men joined the UMW. Even if this was true, it would  
make no difference to me. I know that if I do my work, I will get my pay.

"In September, 1941, when the miners at mine A were discussing  
joining the UMW, I attended two meetings, one at the PMA Hall and one  
at the Elks Club. I learned of the meetings through the newspapers.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

"At the meeting at the PMA Hall, the President of PMA local at mine A presided. I did not understand what happened as it was hard for me to understand the English while they were all talking at the meeting. There were no fights and I did not see any U.M. men there. I do not know who made talks. I was not on any committees.

"At the Elks Club meeting, [REDACTED] (phonetic), presided. There were no U.M. men present. There was not much discussion and we all voted to join the U.M. After we decided to join the U.M., we sent for Edmundson of U.M., and he made a short talk. I do not know what he said. We were all given U.M. cards to fill out, and I joined the U.M. As far as I know only PMA men were present when we voted to join the U.M. I wanted to join the U.M. because it is bigger and stronger than the PMA. No one talked to me to get me to join the U.M.

"The conditions at Mine A are just the same for me now as they were under the PMA.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the two and one quarter pages of this statement, and it is all true to the best of my knowledge.

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was jointly interviewed on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. [REDACTED] is an engineer and stated his working conditions remain the same under either union and it made little difference to him who had bargaining rights. He stated he believed Mine A would open when Elshoff signed with UMW. He had therefore prepared to join prior to any meetings. He executed the following written statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 14, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED], make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. This statement is being given voluntarily be me and no threats or promises have been made to induce me to make this statement.

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I was born at [REDACTED] I am presently employed at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois as [REDACTED]

"I first joined the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, about [REDACTED] Illinois, at the [REDACTED] I worked in coal mines in the Springfield area from [REDACTED] to 1932 under the UMW. In 1932, I went to Mine A. The PMA had the bargaining rights, so I joined that union. I am now referring to the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA. I worked in Mine A until December, 1941.

"Before going to work at Mine A, I worked at the Jefferson Mine, Springfield, Illinois as a member of the UMW. The Jefferson mine closed down for financial reasons, so I went out to Mine A. I voluntarily joined the PMA at Mine A. It did not make any difference to me which union had the bargaining rights. I was an engineer and the working conditions under either union were the same.

"I first learned Elshoff had purchased Mine A, through the newspapers. I did not welcome the change as I was satisfied, and I did not know how secure my job was or what changes would be made. The labor conditions under the PMA and Mr. Ryan, the operator were good and the men were well satisfied as far as I could determine. I was not approached by anyone to join the UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I heard a rumor, source not known, that Elshoff might operate Mine A through Mine B. I did not think this was possible as Mine B could not handle that volume of coal as it had all it could handle already through the Mine B Tipple.

"It was talk at the mine that Elshoff would open Mine A on the condition that the miners would join the UMW. I thought this was possibly true, knowing what had happened at Mine B. Elshoff opened Mine B after the UMW got bargaining rights. Therefore, I thought I had better join the UMW to keep my job. I made up my mind to do this before any meeting. It made no difference to me which union had the contract with the operators of Mine A.

"I went to two union meetings during the time of the discussions concerning Mine A employees joining the UMW. One was at the PMA Hall and the other was held at the Elks Club, Springfield. Some PMA member presided at the meeting which was held at the PMA Hall. I do not recall how I got notice of this meeting. They discussed whether the miners should join the UMW. Some miners wanted to and others did not. There were no threats or fights but they argued about the matter. I was not elected or appointed to any committee. There were no UMW organizers present to my knowledge. I also went to the meeting held at the Elks Club on Sunday, in September, 1941. I do not remember how I got notice of this meeting. I do not know who presided at this meeting. There was practically no discussion, and the vote was taken by a standing vote and all I saw, voted in favor of UMW. No one influenced my vote. Before this vote, I do not recall that there were any UMW organizers present.

"After this vote, the PMA members asked Ray Edmundson of the UMW to come over to take them in as a local of the UMW. Edmundson came over with one or two men I did not know. He made a short speech saying Elshoff would open Mine A in a short time, date not recalled. I do not recall anything else that might have happened at that meeting.

"I started working at Mine A as soon as it opened but only worked about three months which was about December, 1941, and then I quit.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 17,  
1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

He stated it made no difference to him what union he was in, that working conditions were better under RYAN, and that he did not attend any of the meetings of PMA because he was too old for that sort of thing. He had nothing of value to contribute to this inquiry, but executed the following statement:

[REDACTED] Illinois  
September 17, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] and became a naturalized United States citizen in [REDACTED] I am presently employed at Mine A, Springfield, Ill., and have worked there continuously since [REDACTED] I live at [REDACTED] Illinois.

"I started working at Mine A as a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter, as the PMA. I liked this union, but it made no difference to me when I changed over to the United Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW.

"I heard no rumors or talk about the mine not opening unless the miners joined UMW or that the mine would be operated through mine B.

"I liked Mr. Ryan better than Elshoff as the mine operator because working conditions at the mine were better under Ryan.

"I thought I would have to join the UMW when Elshoff bought the mine because Mine B was operating under the UMW.

"I attended none of the meetings in the Fall of 1941 which were called by the PMA to decide what union to work under. I was too old for that sort of thing.

"The only reason I signed with the UMW was because I wanted to work and not because I liked the UMW.

"No one ever contacted me to get me to join the UMW.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]

"I was satisfied to work under the PMA and I liked that union better than the UMW.

[REDACTED] (signed)

"WITNESSED:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the morning of September 9, 1943 by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] was born in [redacted]

He is presently [redacted]. He would make a good witness because of his ability to express himself, plus an intelligence above that of the average miner. He gave information which is set forth in the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 9, 1943.

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

"I started to work at Mine A in [redacted] of the Mine A local before it joined the Progressive Mine Workers in 1932, and [redacted] Mine of A, at Mine B. I was [redacted] at the time that the men at Mine A mostly switched over to the U.M. I had been sick, and had not worked at Mine A since 1935, but I stayed active in the local, [redacted]. I saw the men quite frequently around town, and at the meetings. I attended all the meetings.

"During the summer of 1941, the mine was closed, as it usually was. There was no discussion among the men about any dissatisfaction with the operation of the local or of changing over to the U.M. Suddenly, an announcement came out in the paper that Elshoff was going to run Mine A. Right away there was talk among the men about changing. There was a meeting of the local about two nights after the announcement. I do not recall exactly what happened that night, because I was pretty busy filling out exoneration papers, etc., for men that cannot read or write so well. There was a lot of confusion that night. No one knew what was going to happen. I do not know what was said from the floor, but I did hear many men talking in private conversations about the possibility of taking the coal out of Mine A through Mine B, which Elshoff ran, and not open Mine A at all. That would have been possible, and the men knew that, because these two mines were joined and used the same escape. There was also talk that if the men joined the U.M. that the mine would be reopened. I do not know why they thought that it would open if it was U.M., but that was what everyone thought. I think the men who favored the U.M. were passing that word around. The men knew that Mine B was U.M. and the men wanted to

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

to work, and figured that Elshoff would probably operate mine A through Mine B. The men thought that Elshoff was favoring the UMW. That was the general opinion, and that was probably the reason that they thought that Elshoff would not operate Mine A with PMA men.

"At the first meeting not much happened. Nothing was decided, because no one knew much about what was going to happen. A little later there was another meeting. That night, [REDACTED] and some of the other men wanted to vote right there in the Progressive Hall about joining the UMW. Some of the men from other PMA locals were there and would not let them take such a vote in the PMA hall. They elected a committee to go and see Elshoff and find out what he was going to do. [REDACTED] was on that committee. I think [REDACTED] was on that committee, but I do not remember exactly who. That was about all that was done, besides more talk among the men about the possibility of mining Mine A through mine B.

"The committee never reported to the local again, because the next meeting was held at either the Elks or the K of C, and I did not go to that meeting. I do not know when that meeting was called.

"After that meeting the local had a few other meetings. It is still in operation, and has about 30 members, men, who did not go back to Mine A and work under the United Mine Workers.

"There was never any violence that I know of caused by the PMA in keeping the men in the PMA at Mine A. The men there were all pretty well satisfied with the local and the PMA until Elshoff started operating the mine, and then they all changed, because they wanted to work, and were afraid that they could not work without joining the UMW. At least that is the way it appeared to me.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent FBI  
F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois was interviewed at his home, September 13, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak English well but would make a poor witness as he favors U.M.W.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

[REDACTED] Ill.,  
September 13, 1943

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

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

"I was employed at Mine "A" in about 1939 and I am still employed at Mine "A" as a driver.

"I became a member of UMW [REDACTED] and transferred to the U.S. in [REDACTED] I changed from UMW to PMA in 1932 because UMW stole the votes cast concerning a cut in the wage scale.

"I thought PMA was a good union being operated for its members but it made no difference to me, whether I was a member of PMA or UMW. I took no active part in union activities. I did not attend union meetings and I have never held office in any union.

"In about August 1941 I heard some of the miners talking about Mine "A" being purchased by Elshoff. This was the first I know of the sale of Mine "A" to Elshoff. I felt at the time I heard Elshoff bought Mine "A" that Mine "A" would become an UMW mine rather than a PMA mine as Mine "B", which was operated by Elshoff was an UMW mine. It made no difference to me whether Mine "A" changed from PMA to UMW or not.

"Up until Elshoff purchased Mine "A" in August 1941 the employees at Mine "A" were satisfied with PMA.

"I was never approached by UMW organizers.

"I did not hear any rumors that Mine "A" could be operated though Mine "B".

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

through Mine "B".

"I did not hear any rumors that Elshoff would only operate Mine "A" if it changed to UMW.

[REDACTED] who resides in Springfield informed me that he heard a meeting was to be held at the Elks Club to decide something about Mine "A". No one told me the reason the meeting was to be held at the Elks Club in Sept. 1941.

"I did not receive notice of any other meetings. I reside a long distance from Springfield, therefore, I took no interest in any meetings.

"Some of the miners informed me after the meeting at the Elks Club, that the local PMA decided to join UMW.

"I returned to Mine "A" about a week after Mine "A" opened in Sept. 1941 at which time I joined UMW in order to go to work.

"I do not see any difference between PMA and UMW, conditions at Mine "A" subsequent to Sept. 1941 have been the same under UMW as they were under PMA prior to that time.

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

(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 at his residence on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak English well and would make a fair witness. He furnished the following signed statement to Agents:

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 14, 1943.

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

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

"I became a member of UMW in Auburn, Ill. in [REDACTED] and I remained a member of UMW until [REDACTED] at which time I joined PMA as UMW wanted to cut the wage scale.

"I thought PMA was a good union being operated for its members.

"In Sept. 1941 I read in the newspaper that ELSHOFF bought Mine "A" from RYAN. I thought at that time that Mine "A" would change to UMW as I did not think ELSHOFF would operate Mine "B" as UMW and Mine A as PMA.

"Prior to the time ELSHOFF bought Mine "A" the employees at the mine were satisfied with PMA.

"No UMW organizers attempted to get me to join UMW after ELSHOFF bought Mine "A".

"I heard a rumor among the employees of Mine A that it was possible for Mine "A" to be operated through Mine "B" and ELSHOFF would operate Mine "A" through Mine "B" if the employees of Mine "A" did not join UMW. When I heard that Mine "A" could be operated through Mine "B" I did not decide to join UMW but decided to wait and see what happened.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"A few days after ELSHOFF bought Mine "A" in Sept. 1941 a special meeting of PMA at PMA hall was held, nothing was decided at this meeting and it was not known what would take place in the operation of Mine "A".

"A few days after the first meeting, a special meeting was held at PMA hall at which time a committee was appointed to see ELSHOFF to find out if Mine "A" was to be put into operation. The committee could not locate ELSHOFF.

"I cannot remember who was in charge of the above meetings.

"A few days after the second meeting, a meeting was called at Redman Hall by someone. I did not attend as nothing took place of interest at the first two meetings. I do not know what took place at this meeting.

"A fourth meeting was called [REDACTED] at the Elks Club on a Sunday in Sept. 1941. As well as I remember no one made a statement before a vote was taken to see if those attending wanted to change from PMA to UMW. I voted for UMW as I wanted to go to work at Mine "A" and I did not think the mine would open if we did not join UMW, but no one made a statement at the meeting that the mine would not open if the employees did not join UMW. EMMUNDSON of UMW made a talk at this meeting after the vote was taken. I did not hear him. I joined UMW that day and went home. I did not go to the UMW building after the meeting. [REDACTED] was in charge of this meeting.

"I know of all the above meetings as I spent a good part of my time at the PMA hall as I was not working at the time.

"Conditions at Mine "A" have been the same under UMW as they were under PMA.

"I joined UMW to keep my job at Mine "A", but I prefer PMA over UMW.

"I have been employed at Mine "A" since about 1932 as a digger and I am at the present time employed at Mine A.

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

Witnessed:-

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

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

[REDACTED] was cooperative but it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of pertinent facts on the Mine A situation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., do voluntarily make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have made themselves known to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I was in [REDACTED] and emigrated to U.S. [REDACTED] I was naturalized in Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED] I started working in the mines around Danville, Ill. in [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. I have never held any office in any union. I am presently employed at Mine A as extra shot firer. I started out at Mine A in [REDACTED] I joined PMA in 1932 and changed back to UMWA when Mr. Elshoff bought Mine A in 1941. I don't see any difference in either union, both of them have been the same to me.

"I learned about the sale of Mine A by Mr. Ryan to Mr. Elshoff from the newspaper. I was surprised and thought I would lose my job or at least have trouble about changing unions. I heard that if we didn't go back to UMWA Mr. Elshoff was going to close Mine A and hoist coal through Mine B. This was the talk between miners. No organizers came to see me to try and get me to change unions. I came to the conclusion that if I didn't join UMWA that I would lose my job and being [REDACTED] years old I couldn't get a job anywhere else.

"I attended a couple of meetings at PMA headquarters and one at Redman's Hall where the sale of Mine A and what we were going to do was discussed. Some men were for UMWA and some for PMA. I don't recall who was in charge of the meeting or know anything about any Committees being chosen to talk to Mr. Elshoff. [REDACTED] is the one who got me to go to the meetings. I didn't attend the meeting at the Elks Club and Mr. Edmondson never spoke at any of the meetings that I was at. I joined UMWA at the United Mine Workers Bldg. along with a lot of other miners, and went

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

This page and one-half of statements voluntarily made  
by me is true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 14, 1943. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak English well, but would not make a good Government witness as he favors UMW.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 14, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I am unemployed at the present time.

"I became a member of UMW about [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. and remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I became a member of PMA. I became a member of PMA because my local UMW union changed to PMA. I did not want to change to PMA and only made the change because majority of the miners wished to change to PMA.

"I have never taken an active part in any union activities and never held office.

"I liked PMA as a union and I can say nothing against PMA, but I always preferred UMW as I did not wish but one union.

"I read in the newspaper in about Sept. 1941 that Elshoff bought Mine "A". I did not think at that time there would be any change in the operation of Mine "A".

"So far as I know the employees at Mine "A" were satisfied with PMA at Mine "A" prior to the time Elshoff bought the mine.

"No UMW organizers asked me to join UMW after Elshoff bought the mine.

"I heard that it was possible for Mine "A" to be operated through Mine "B" and that Mine "A" would not be opened unless the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

employees became members of UMW. On hearing the rumor I did not decide to become a member of UMW, but decided to wait to see what majority of the miners did.

"I did not attend any PMA meetings between the time Elshoff bought Mine A and a meeting I attended at the Elks Club in Sept. 1941. I do not know if I received notice of any meetings other than the meeting at the Elks Club or not. Someone told me that there was going to be a meeting at the Elks Club on a Sunday in Sept. 1941 to decide if Mine "A" should become an UMW mine. I attended this meeting. [REDACTED] was in charge of the meeting. As well as I remember Edmondson of UMW made a statement prior to the time a vote was taken, that Mine "A" would not operate unless the employees became members of UMW. I do not remember anyone else speaking. A vote was taken and all present voted to join UMW. So far as I know only employees of Mine "A" were present at the meeting and there were no UMW organizers. I joined UMW that day at the Elks Club. I did not go to the UMW building after the meeting.

"I was employed at Mine "A" as a digger in [REDACTED] and stopped working at Mine "A" in Oct. 1942 because of my health.

"So far as I know the conditions at Mine "A" were the same under UMW as under PMA. I see no difference in the unions.

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

Witnessed:

(Signed) [REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence by Special Agents [REDACTED] on September 15, 1943. [REDACTED] is presently employed at [REDACTED]. He was born [REDACTED] and came to the U.S. in [REDACTED]. He became a U.S. citizen in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] speaks and understands English well, and would make a satisfactory witness for the information he has to offer. He advised he has never been arrested.

[REDACTED] executed the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen in about [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. I am presently employed as [REDACTED]

"I first started working in mines in the U.S. in about [REDACTED] I then became a member of the United Mine Workers of America union. I started to work in Mine "A" Springfield, in about [REDACTED]

"In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union. I joined PMA because I did not like what UMW was trying to pull, like John L. Lewis stealing the ballot box.

"I was satisfied working under PMA at Mine "A". I thought PMA was an honest union.

"In about Sept. of 1941 I read that Elshoff had bought Mine "A" from Ryan. I felt that this was just a deal to get us to join UMW at Mine "A". I felt and thought that Elshoff would only operate Mine "A" under UMW. I felt if I wanted to keep my job at Mine "A" I would have to join UMW.

"I heard that Elshoff might pull coal from Mine "A" thru Mine "B" if we would not go UMW. No one from UMW or the company told me I had to join UMW, but I felt if I wanted to go to work I would have to join UMW. All the talk among the PMA men was the same.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] "I remember attending two PMA meetings held right after Elshoff bought the Mine "A". There was a lot of arguing at these meetings. I remember a committee was appointed to see Elshoff to see if he would operate and the men went UMW. We had heard Elshoff had said he would not operate under PMA. The committee later reported that after talking with Falcetti, who was supposed to have talked with Elshoff, they had been told that if the men would vote to go UMW Elshoff would open Mine "A". I did not attend a meeting at the Elk's Club - but the next day I heard there had been one and that the men had voted to go UMW. About a week later I went down to UMW and signed up with them. I joined UMW to keep my job, but I would rather have stayed with PMA, because I was satisfied with it. We remembered the trouble there had been at Mine "B" and we did not want that.

"I stopped working at Mine "A" Aug. 19, 1942, because I wanted to get out of the mines. I did not like working at Mine "A" under UMW. They kept guards around the mine to keep men quiet and it made us feel like criminals to be guarded. I would prefer to have worked under PMA and only changed because I felt I had to, to keep my job.

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

(Signed) [REDACTED]

Witness:

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

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 17, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak and understand English but would not make a good witness as it was obvious from the information furnished that he was not telling the truth.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 17, 1943.

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

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

"I was employed at Mine "A" in about [REDACTED] and I am employed at Mine "A" at the present time as a digger.

"I became a member of UMW in [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., and I remained a member until 1932 at which time I became a member of PMA, because my local UMW union changed to PMA for some unknown reason. I took no active part in union activities and it did not make any difference to me whether I was a member of UMW or PMA.

"In Sept. 1941 I heard the whistle at Mine "A" blow for work. I went to work and someone told me that ELSHOFF bought Mine "A" and if I wanted to work I had to join UMW as Mine "A" was a UMW mine. I joined UMW that day so I could go to work and I did not ask any questions.

"I did not know when ELSHOFF bought Mine "A", nor did I know of any meetings being held after ELSHOFF bought Mine "A" to change from PMW to UMW. I can furnish no information as to what went on between the time ELSHOFF bought Mine "A" and when I joined U.M.W. in Sept. 1941.

"Conditions at Mine "A" are the same under UMW as they were under PMA.



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH C.

(continued)

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

\*Witnessed:

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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] in the Springfield Field Office. [redacted] was reluctant to discuss any phase of his activities and only after it was called to his attention that he had been beaten at the Progressive Hall would he mention it. He insisted that he did not know the identity of his attackers. He denied being approached by anyone trying to influence his actions in the event he was questioned by Agents of this Bureau. He stated that if called on to testify he would tell the truth. It is doubted that he would be a favorable witness. He announced his complete satisfaction with U.M.W., stating that he was much better off with them than Progressive. His statement, which he refused to sign, is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
Sept. 10, 1943

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

"I was born in [redacted] and now live at [redacted] I started mining in [redacted] and joined the U.M.W. at that time. I have never held any office in the union.

"I started working for Mine A in 1933 and prior to that had worked at the [redacted] mine for [redacted] years. I joined the Progressive union in 1932 when the state went progressive. I don't know anything about the strike at Mine B in 1937 and don't know anything about the union activities at that place.

"I recall that as usual, Mine A shut down in the spring of 1941 for a seasonal shutdown. I was then a member of progressive. I was out of town in the summer of 1941 and when I came back I heard that Elshoff had bought Mine A from Ryan.

"I recall that a meeting was called by Progressive to try and discuss as to what was going to happen at Mine A. That is we were wondering if it was going to be progressive or united. As I recall it a committee of six was appointed by the union to go and see Elshoff about Mine A. These men as I recall it were [redacted]

Those of us who were on the committee went downstairs at the Progressive to call Elshoff and I guess one of our men called Elshoff. When I came down the stairs somebody in a group in the hall jumped on me and kicked me. I don't know for sure even that one of our crowd called Elshoff. I heard some one yell that they were going

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

to cut my throat, but all I know is that a gang jumped on me. I don't recall the names of any of the men who were in the crowd that beat me. The meeting broke up as far as I know, but I kept right on out of the building as fast as I could. I was hurt, but not bad enough to require medical attention.

"I never went out to Mine B to see Falcetti or Elshoff about how the mine was going to operate. I believe it was around a week or so after that I joined the U.M.W. I joined U.M.W. the Monday after the progressive group had their meeting on Sunday at the Elks Club. I did not go to the meeting at the Elks on Sunday because I didn't feel good. All I know is that I joined the U.M.W. because I wanted to and did so of my own free will. In my opinion our working conditions have improved 30% since we joined united. I recall also that I went up to the united hall to sign up for that union.

"I have read over this entire statement of three pages and wish to state it is true.

"The above statement was read by [REDACTED] who admitted it was true, but refused to sign.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, Et Al

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
was interviewed September 13, 1943 by Special Agents  
[REDACTED] at his home.

[REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak English but has a very bad memory. He would make a poor Government witness due to his age.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 13, 1943.

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

"I was in [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

"I became a member of UMW in [REDACTED] I remained a member of UMW until 1932, when I became a member of PMA. I was in favor of the change from UMW to PMA as UMW stole notes cast concerning the change in the wage scale.

"I considered PMA a good union being operated for its members. The employees at Mine "A" so far as I know were satisfied with PMA prior to the time the mine was bought by Elshoff in 1941.

"In about August 1941 I was told by some of the miners at Mine "A" that Elshoff had bought the mine. I did not welcome the change. I thought Elshoff would make Mine "A" change from PMA to UMW, as he had forced Mine "B" to change from PMA to UMW.

"I did not hear anything about Elshoff operating Mine "A" through Mine "B".

"I thought Elshoff would not operate Mine "A" unless the employees became members of UMW; most of the miners I talked to thought the same thing. I decided to change from PMA to UMW so as to keep my job at Mine "A" although I did not want to change. I was not approached by any UMW organizers to join UMW.

"I did not attend any PMA meetings between the time Elshoff bought Mine "A" in August 1941 and a meeting on a Sunday in Sept. 1941