

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] at the Elks Club. Some of the miners at Mine "A" told me that there was to be a meeting at the Elks Club in Sept 1941 to decide if the PMA local should change to UMW. I cannot remember much about the meeting. A man the name of whom I do not know made a statement at the meeting, that the miners at Mine "A" would have to change to UMW or the mine would be closed. A vote was taken and I voted to change to UMW as I am old and I thought I would have been out of a job if I had not voted for UMW.

"After the vote, Edmonson of UMW made a talk at the meeting, but I do not remember what he said. I do not know of any UMW organizers being present at the Elks Club, so far as I know those present were members of PMA.

"I worked at Mine "A" about one day in Sept. 1941 as a member of UMW at which time I was forced to stop working in the mine because of my health. I know nothing about the activities at Mine "A" since Sept. 1941.

"I prefer PMA over UMW and only joined UMW in order to keep my job at Mine "A".

"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]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on September 12, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is presently unemployed and his telephone number is [REDACTED] was born in the United States. He speaks and understands English well, but he is rather slow mentally and would make only a fair witness. [REDACTED] advised he has never been arrested. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 13, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, 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 [REDACTED] I first started working in coal mines in Illinois in about [REDACTED] I then joined the United Mine Workers of America Union. I started to work at the Mine "A" Springfield in about [REDACTED] In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America union. I joined the PMA because I did not like the actions of John L. Lewis, especially when the ballots were stolen and he declared an emergency contract.

"I remained PMA from 1932 to 1941 and during this time I thought the PMA was an honest and good union. I never noticed any unfair or unusual assessments.

"I noticed no efforts by UMW to organize at Mine "A" before 1941 and I was satisfied with PMA.

"I do not remember where I was in 1941, but I read about Elshoff buying Mine "A" from Ryan. As soon as I read that I knew if I wanted my job I would have to join UMW. No one told me so, but I knew that because of what Elshoff had done at Mine "B".

"I remember attending about two PMA meetings right after we learned that Elshoff had bought Mine "A". I was a Pit Committee Man for PMA local #51, and at one of the meetings, I do not remember which, the members asked me to go to see Elshoff about whether he was going to open Mine "A". The other two committee men were not at the meeting, so I told the men I would not go to see Elshoff alone. So three men were elected to see Elshoff. These men were [REDACTED]

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I heard there were some fights after these meetings, but I did not see any. I did not see any UMW men at these meetings and I do not remember whether any one talked about going over to UMW.

"I heard that Elshoff might operate Mine "A" thru Mine "B" by hauling the coal out that way, but I do not remember where I heard this.

"I did not attend the meetings held at Redmen's Hall or the Elks Club because I thought these meetings should have been held at the PMA hall.

"I joined UMW after Mine "A" reopened in the fall of 1941. No one forced or threatened me in any way at any time. I joined UMW to get my job back at Mine "A". I would have preferred to stay in PMA and go back to work, but because I could not work in Mine "A" as a PMA, I had to change to UMW.

"I believe most of the men at Mine "A" felt the way I did, that if they did not go over to UMW they could not work at Mine "A" and this was the reason they changed.

"I have not held any UMW office and was not on any of the committees appointed by PMA to see Elshoff.

"I stopped working at Mine "A" three weeks ago because of my health. I am presently not working.

"I have noticed no difference in working at Mine "A" under either UMW or PMA.

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

Witness

(Signed) [REDACTED]

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

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

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Street was interviewed at his place of employment, [REDACTED] where he works as [REDACTED] on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and stated he has never been arrested. He is hard of hearing and very slow mentally. He would make an unsatisfactory witness.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 14, 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 [REDACTED] I am presently employed as [REDACTED] Springfield.

"I first started working in coal mines in about [REDACTED] in Illinois. I joined the United Mine Workers of America Union in 1932. I was not forced in any way to change from UMW to PMA. I wanted to get back to work so I joined PMA because most of the men had.

"In the summer of 1941 I read that Elshoff had bought Mine "A" from Ryan and I was not happy. I thought conditions would not be good, because of the trouble there had been at Mine "B".

"I did not talk with any one about the matter and I did not attend any meetings between the time Elshoff bought Mine "A" and the time I went back to work at Mine "A", which was about a month after Mine "A" opened in the fall of 1941.

"I knew there were some meetings during this time, but I did not go to any, and I heard and read that most of the men who had worked at Mine A had voted to go over to UMW. But I did not go back to work at Mine "A" until about a month after it opened, in about Oct. 1941, and when I did I went down to UMW headquarters and joined UMW. No one forced or threatened me in any way, and I joined UMW so I could work in Mine "A". I would have preferred to stay with PMA because I thought it was a better union.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I worked at Mine "A" as UMW for about three weeks and then I quit because of my health.

"I have had this statement of two pages 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] was interviewed at his residence at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 18, 1943, by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] advised that he had worked for Ryan at Mine A up until the time that the mine was closed in the spring of 1941. During the time that the mine was closed, [REDACTED] obtained employment [REDACTED] at Mine B and at that time joined the United Mine Workers. After Mine A was reopened, he was retransferred to Mine A. He is difficult to understand due to a strong accent. No statement was obtained. He was born in [REDACTED], and is an American citizen.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence at [REDACTED] on the afternoon of September 18, 1943, by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is a person of average intelligence, and would make an average witness. At the time that Mine A was sold, [REDACTED] expected to return to work there, but when he heard that Elshoff has purchased Mine A, he immediately left Springfield, and went to [REDACTED] where a relative of his had a small mine which he was going to operate. He advised that he left Springfield, because he did not want to get mixed up in the trouble that he expected would follow the change of ownership, as had happened at Mine B. He has a strong hatred for John L. Lewis, but joined the United Mine Workers in [REDACTED] and is now a member of the UMW in Springfield, where he is employed at the [REDACTED]. He was born in [REDACTED]. No statement was obtained.

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 14, 1943. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED]. He is employed at Mine "A" as a digger. He speaks and understands English well, but his memory is bad and he would not make a satisfactory witness. He stated he has never been arrested.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 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. I make it without fear of threat, force, or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [REDACTED] I am employed as a digger at the Mine "A", Springfield.

"I first started working in coal mines in about [REDACTED] I joined the United Mine Workers of America Union in Springfield in about [REDACTED] I started to work at the Mine "A" in about [REDACTED] In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union. The entire local of UMW changed to PMA and that is why I did. I cannot remember why we changed.

"In the early fall of 1941 I read that ELSHOFF bought Mine "A" from RYAN and I thought we would have trouble at "A" like there had been at Mine "B". I didn't attend PMA meetings and the only meeting I went to after ELSHOFF bought Mine "A" was one Sunday at the Elks Club. The men told me I would have to join UMW if I wanted to keep my job. I do not remember who told me this but they were men I worked with. I went to this meeting at the Elk's Club of my own free will and no one forced or threatened me in any way. I voted to go over to UMW because I did not want to lose my job at Mine "A" and because I was afraid we would have the same trouble at "A" as they had at "B", and I was too old to want to fight or get beat up. I heard rumors that the company could operate Mine "A" by hauling coal thru Mine "B". I don't remember very much that took place at this Elk's Club meeting.

"I was satisfied with PMA and would have preferred to stay PMA, but I joined UMW to keep my job and avoid trouble. Conditions are

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

the same at Mine "A" under UMW as they were under PMA. Now it doesn't make a great deal of difference to me that we are UMW, but when we changed I did not like it, because I wanted to stay PMA.

"No one from UMW and no one from the company ever told me to join UMW. I joined voluntarily by signing at the Elk's Club that Sunday afternoon.

"I am [REDACTED] years of age, and cannot remember as well as I used to. This is all I can remember and this statement of two pages is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have read this statement.

"Witness:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of September 13, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is considered as a good potential witness. He is [REDACTED] years of age and has been a coal miner for [REDACTED] years. He is not difficult to understand, has a keen memory, and an intelligence above that of the average miner. It is not believed that he would be easily confused on cross examination. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 13, 1943.

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

"I worked at Mine A from about [REDACTED] until February, 1941. I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America until September 1941. Before I read the announcement in the paper that Mine A had been purchased by ELSHOFF, I had heard of no dissension among the PMW members. All of the men were satisfied, except a very few, and I think they were strong PMW members.

"When ELSHOFF bought Mine A, there was no contract with any operator. It was my understanding that because there was no contract that the operator could hire or deal with anyone that he wanted to. We thought, and it was my opinion too, that ELSHOFF would not operate mine A unless he could operate it with UMW men. I thought this, and I think most of the men thought this, because of the things that they had heard about what had happened at Mine B during the trouble there. From what we had heard, ELSHOFF favored the UMW, and we all thought that we would have to join the UMW in order to get our jobs back. That was the idea most of the men had at the Progressive meetings that I attended. That was my idea. At the meetings of the Progressives, we discussed that, and [REDACTED] told us all that we would have to join the UMW in order to get our jobs back.

"At the first meeting held at the Progressive Hall, the men did not know what to do. They did not decide much. At the second meeting they were pretty discouraged, and did not get much done either. At the meeting in the Elk's club, the men had come to the conclusion that there was not much that they could do to get their jobs back, and that it was the best chance for them to join the UMW and maybe we could get our jobs back. That was my idea. We joined the UMW that night, not because we wanted to, but because we had to in order to keep our jobs. At least, that was my reason.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"Edmunson came to the meeting after it had been going for a while. He talked to us, and told us that if we joined the UMW that he would go to bat for us and that we would get our jobs back. He did not exactly def-  
inetely say so, but he left it pretty plain to us that he thought that he could make ELSHOFF do anything that he wanted him to do, and he almost promised us our jobs back. That is the reason that I joined the United Mine Workers.

"Nothing unusually happened after the mine reopened, but things were not as good as before, and I left the mine as soon as I had a chance to get back into a Progressive Mine, because I liked the Progressive Union better. I am now at [REDACTED] a Progressive Mine.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI

[REDACTED] FBI"

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"Edmunson came to the meeting after it had been going for a while. He talked to us, and told us that if we joined the UMW that he would go to bat for us and that we would get our jobs back. He did not exactly def-  
inetely say so, but he left it pretty plain to us that he thought that he could make ELSHOFF do anything that he wanted him to do, and he almost promised us our jobs back. That is the reason that I joined the United Mine Workers.

"Nothing unusually happened after the mine reopened, but things were not as good as before, and I left the mine as soon as I had a chance to get back into a Progressive Mine, because I liked the Progressive Union better. I am now at [REDACTED] a Progressive Mine.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI

FBI"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 13, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would not be considered as a good witness due to the fact that he does not understand and speak English well. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 13, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED] I have been an American citizen since [REDACTED] I make the following statement to [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 worked at Mine A from [REDACTED] until about March 1943. I belonged to the Progressive Mine Workers of America until September 1941 when Mine A opened up. Before that time I was well satisfied with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I preferred then to work under the PMW, and do now, because it is a better union, and they treat us better. I was not at any of the meetings when the matter of changing unions was discussed because I was in the hospital at that time. I was told that they were going to take the coal out of Mine A through Mine B if we did not join the UMW. [REDACTED] told me that. I joined at the UMW building, in order to go to work. I did not like it under the UMW out there, because of the way they were treating the men and would not let them talk or anything. I quit and went to the arsenal, and am now working at [REDACTED] a Progressive Mine. I do not want to go back to a UMW mine.

"The above statement on this page has been read to me by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] It is all true and accurate."

/s/ [REDACTED]

F.B.I.

FBI"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence [REDACTED] on the afternoon of September 15, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] can be easily understood, but appears to have an intelligence below that of the average miner. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am now working at Mine A. I make the following statement to [REDACTED], who have identified themselves to me as 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 six years. I was working there when the mine was sold by RYAN. I remember that the men at the mine changed unions when the new company took over, but I do not remember why. There had been no talk before then about changing unions that I know of. I was satisfied to work under the Progressive Mine Workers, but it did not make much difference to me which union I belonged to. I went to some of the meetings at the Progressive Hall when this matter was discussed. I also went to the meeting at the Elk's hall when the men voted to go to the UMW. I sat in the back that night and cannot recall what happened or what was said. EDMUNSON talked that night, but I do not know what he said because I could not hear him. I joined the UMW that afternoon because the rest of the men were signing up. After the mine re-opened, I saw [REDACTED] around the mine once. I do not know what he was doing out there.

"I was always satisfied, and I think most of the men were satisfied with the PLW.

(signed) [REDACTED]

WITNESSES:

[REDACTED] F.B.I.

[REDACTED] F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois on the afternoon of September 15, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] and is an American citizen. He was very difficult to understand and advised that he could not read. He did not attend any meetings of the local and joined the UMW only when he went back to work and they asked him to sign before he could work. He did not know what he had signed. He had always been satisfied with the union before but did not really know much about what the union was or what the difference was. Due to his inability to read, no signed statement was obtained.

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence located on [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 13, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] is not considered as a good witness inasmuch as he is very hard of hearing. He gave information set forth in the following statement which he refused to sign, but which he stated was true and accurate:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 13, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I make the following statement to [REDACTED]  
[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 7 years. I am working there now, and worked there at the time that the local of Mine A changed from the Progressive Mine Workers of America to the United Mine Workers of America. I do not know much about what happened at that time. I know that a new company took over, and they changed the unions. I did not attend any of the meetings, or know anything about what happened at the meetings. I did not go anywhere until the mine was reopened, and went back to go to work. At that time I joined the UMW. Prior to that time I was satisfied with the operation of the PMW, and would have been just as satisfied to work under that union. I think most of the men felt the same way, but it did not make much difference to me.

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

(unsigned)

[REDACTED] FBI

[REDACTED] FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] working at Mine "A" under [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 18, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had difficulty in understanding the questions propounded to him and it is not believed that he would make a good witness. His statement is as follows: (He admitted one arrest for violation of the National Prohibition Act.)

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 18, 1943.

"I [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois do make the following voluntary statement to [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 America in [REDACTED] and was naturalized in Springfield, Illinois on [REDACTED] I have been employed at Mine "A" since about [REDACTED] I was a member of the United Mine Workers Union at that time. I am still employed at Mine "A" as a digger.

"I remember joining the Progressive Mine Workers union in 1932 and joining the United Mine Workers in 1941 but I have no preference for either union. I learned about the sale of Mine "A" through a letter from Mr. BILL KYLE. This didn't mean anything to me. I attended a meeting of the miners at the Elks Club at which the men voted to join the United Mine Workers. I voted to go over to the United Mine Workers so I could keep my job and because all the other men voted to go over. I voted to go over because I understood that ELSHOFF wouldn't operate Mine "A" with the Progressive Miners.

"I have no preference for either union, I only want to work.

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

Witnessed: [REDACTED]

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 15, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would make a good witness. He has an intelligence above that of the average miner. He makes a good appearance, and can express himself well. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 15, 1943

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED] I am now working at Peabody Coal Co. Mine #59. I make the following statement to [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 worked at Mine A off and on four about [REDACTED] years, ending in November 1941. I worked at the mine at the time that it closed for the summer of 1941. At that time, and up until the mine was sold, there had been no talk about changing unions. I had heard of none at all. Although the men were not entirely satisfied with the way the Progressive Mine Workers were taking care of them, they would have gone back to work as Progressives, and continued to work that way if nothing had happened. I am not sure what happened there to cause the men to change over, I was not seeing the men much in those days. [REDACTED] were close friends of mine, and they came to my house on night, and talked to me about the situation. I did not go to any meetings except the meeting at the Elks' Club when the vote was taken to go over to the UMW. As I understand, the men were told that they would have a better chance of getting the mine opened if they joined the UMW. Most of them wanted to get back to work pretty badly, and I think that is the reason that they changed.

"I personally did not care much which union I belonged to. I was a little disgusted with the Progressives at that time, and was willing to go over to the UMW if there was a chance that the mine would open any sooner. That is the reason that I joined the UMW. I do not know that there was any talk made to the men that ELSHOFF would close the mine down, or that he would not operate with PMW men. I do not know that the men thought that ELSHOFF had anything to do with unions or preferred one over the other.

"The night that the vote was taken to change unions, EDMUNSON talked. I cannot remember what it was that was said. I was not interested, and wanted to get home. I knew that they were going UMW and so I did not pay much attention to the details.

"I had ridden to the meeting with [REDACTED] They were

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] and since I had ridden with them, I stayed with them when the went over to the UMW building and EDMUNDSON's office. I do not recall what was said over there then. EDMUNDSON swore them into the UMW. ELSHOFF and some other man came to the meeting there, and there was some talk about the mine. I do not recall that ELSHOFF said anything about what he planned to do with the mine, or said anything about the unions. I was at his office when the contract was signed. I do not know or remember many of the details.

[REDACTED] were out at the mine for a while after it reopened. I did not know at that time that they were UMW organizers. I did not know what they were doing out there.

"I worked for a while, and quit at Mine A when they changed the work around, and put a lot more work on me. There was nothing about the union involved in my quitting.

"I am now a member of the UMW. I would have stayed in the PLW if the mine had reopened, hiring PLW men, but it did not make too much difference to me.

"There was no compulsion that I know of put on the men by either union either to keep them from joining the UMW or to get them to join the UMW.

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

(signed) [REDACTED]

WITNESSES:

[REDACTED] F.B.I.

[REDACTED] F.B.I."

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

was interviewed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 13, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would make a fair witness due to his average ability to express himself, and be understood. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 13, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED] I am now an American citizen through my father. I make the following statement to [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. It is all true and accurate.

"I went to work at Mine A in 1935 or 1936. I worked there until about February of 1943. I am now employed at [REDACTED] When I went to Mine A I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I joined the United Mine Workers in 1941 when ELSHOFF bought the mine and it was reopened, because I wanted to work.

"Until the time that I heard that ELSHOFF had bought Mine A, I heard no talk about changing unions, or any disatisfaction with the Progressive Mine Workers of America. There were some meetings about the change of ownership and what we would have to do about it. I went to a couple of meetings at the Progressive Hall, but did not go to any other meetings. As I understand and remember, we were told that they were going to take the coal out of Mine A through Mine B. They told us that they would close Mine A and not open it unless we would join the UMW. [REDACTED] is the one who did most of the talking and said this at the meetings that I attended.

"I did not go to the meeting when they voted to join the UMW. I did not want to become a member of the UMW, and did not go back to work at the Mine for about two weeks after it was reopened because I did not want to join the UMW. However, I finally joined the UMW because I wanted to work.

"After the mine reopened there was a lot of things that went on out there. They tried to get those of us who were still strongly PMW to quit, and gave us poor rooms, "docked" us, and had different weights. They also threatened us, and fined us all the time or threatened to fine us for everything.

"I stayed at Mine A until I could get another job at a Progressive

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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Mine. I joined the UMW and stayed in it just so that I  
(continued) [REDACTED] could work, and changed as soon as I could. I would never  
have changed from the PLW unless I had to to keep my job.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], F.B.I.  
[REDACTED] FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

was interviewed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Illinois, on the morning of September 13, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is not considered as a good witness due to the fact that he has difficulty understanding and speaking English. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 13, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I make the following statement to [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 have been made to me.

"I worked at Mine A about [REDACTED] years. I worked there until 1941 when the union at Mine A changed from PMW to UMW. [REDACTED] I do not speak or understand English well. I went to some meetings at the Progressive Hall when the company changed ownership of Mine A. I do not remember how many meetings I went to. As I remember, the pit committee made a report that the new company would not hire anybody but United Mine Workers, and I did not want to join the United Mine Workers, so I quit work at Mine A. I did not go to any meetings at any other place.

"I was satisfied with the operation of the Progressive Mine Workers of America and did not want to change unions.

"The above statement on this page has been read to me by [REDACTED]. It is all true and accurate."

/s/ [REDACTED]

/s/ [REDACTED]

F.B.I.

FBI

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 13, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is considered as a good potential witness. He is not difficult to understand, he can express himself fairly well, and he would be difficult to confuse on cross examination. He gave information set forth in the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill  
September 13, 1943.

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am a citizen through my father. I am now working at Panther Creek Mine #4. 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. It is true and accurate.

"I went to Mine A in 1933 or 1934. I was employed at Mine A in 1941, and stayed there until January 1943. During all of the time that I was employed at Mine A, I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America up until September 1941, when I joined the United Mine Workers. I joined the UMW in order to keep my job. All the time before that I had been satisfied with the PMW, and would have preferred to stay in that union. It was a strong PMW mine. I think all of the men were satisfied with the PMW, and I did not hear any talk about changing unions until the announcement in the paper that ELSHOFF was going to operate Mine A.

"Soon after that I got a card from [REDACTED]. He asked me to come to a meeting. I did not go. I did go to a couple of meetings at the Progressive Hall. I do not recall exactly what happened at those meetings. There was a lot of talk. As I recall the talk was that they were going to close down the mine, and take the coal out through Mine B. [REDACTED] and the men told us that they would close the mine down and not work it if we stayed PMW. They said that we would have to join the UMW in order to work at Mine A. I did not want to join the UMW, and did not go to the meeting when they voted about changing unions. When the rest of the men had joined the UMW, I decided to go back to work, and to work about three days later. I would rather have stayed in the PMW. After the mine became UMW, they would not let us talk at all about things at the mine. The old men were not allowed to speak their own languages. Those of us who they thought were still strongly PMW, were given poor rooms, and treated poorly. They were trying to get us to quit. They kept an armed guard at the mine shaft for quit a while after the change and the opening as UMW. There never had been an armed guard there before.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

They tried to keep us from saying anything about working conditions, and threatened those of us who were strongly PMW. They put a lot of "docks" on us, and there was a change in the weights of the coal.

"One day I heard [REDACTED] and several of the company men, who were strongly for the UMW talking, that pretty soon they would have Old West, and some of the other PMW mines in a short time.

"They also fined us if we did not buy our coal at Mine A.

"I know who [REDACTED] is. He stayed in the mine office every morning for along time after the mine reopened. I do not know what he was supposed to be doing there.

"As soon as [REDACTED] opened up, and I could get another job, I quit Mine A, and went to work [REDACTED] so that I would not have to continue to work under the UMW.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"[REDACTED] F.B.I.  
[REDACTED] FBI"



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] speaks very poor English, and although he appeared to be cooperative, he apparently does not have much pertinent information relative to instant case. It is believed he would be a poor witness. There is set forth below the signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

"Sept. 15, 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 became a U.S. citizen in [REDACTED]. I work at Mine A now and my address is [REDACTED]. I have been a member of the U.M.W. since [REDACTED] and have been a miner all my life. I started working at Mine A in about [REDACTED] and still work there.

"In 1932 when the rest of the men joined Progressive I also signed up for that union. I thought the PMA was a good union. I remember that Mine A was shut down in the spring of 1941 and some time in the late summer I heard that Ryan sold Mine A to Elshoff.

"I heard that the PMA had some meetings in the fall of 1941 after the mine was sold, but the only one I attended was the one at the Elks Club. It was at that meeting that the men decided to join U.M.W.

"I didn't want to join the U.M.W. but I saw that all the rest of the men were joining so I decided to join up because I didn't want to lose my job. Edmondson gave a nice talk at the meeting. He said he was glad we were coming back to the U.M.W. and that it wouldn't cost us anything. I can't remember any other speeches, but there was all kind of talking among the men that if they didn't join the U.M.W. they wouldn't work. I also heard some talk about the mining of coal from Mine A through Mine B.

"I joined the U.M.W. union that night at the Elks Club because they said I couldn't get another job. Since I was an old man I figured I had better sign up. No force was used to make me sign up other than the above.

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

/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] and [REDACTED] on September 14, 1943 at Springfield, Illinois.

[REDACTED] but it was difficult to make him understand. [REDACTED] he stated that he knew little of the facts concerning Mine A and it is felt that he would not make a satisfactory witness. He furnished the following signed statement.

"Sept 14, 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 in [REDACTED] and presently reside at [REDACTED] I am presently employed by a contractor by the [REDACTED]

"I started work as a miner in Mine A in about [REDACTED] and joined the U.M.W. at that time. I joined the progressive union in about 1932 when the rest of the men joined that union. I did not have anything to do with the starting of progressive. As far as I am concerned everything was going along fine in the mine in the spring of 1941. I have never held any office in any union and was never interested in union affairs.

"I remember that somebody told me in the fall of 1941 that Elshoff had bought Mine A. I never attended any of the progressive meetings that were held at that time. I didn't go to any meeting at the Elks. I went up with a bunch of men to the United Mine office and signed up with United. I joined to keep working and because the rest joined. Nobody ever threatened me or beat me up or made me join any union. I was in poor health [REDACTED] so I didn't pay any attention to anything that went on at the mine, and in fact [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I quit the mine in about [REDACTED] due to poor health.

"I have read this statement of 2 pages and it is true to the best of my memory.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] left Mine A when it closed down in 1941 and states that he has no knowledge of what happened subsequent to this. He is not, therefore, being recommended as a witness. He furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] residing at [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] I am now employed [REDACTED] I worked at Mine A from 1933 to the Spring of 1941. I belonged to Progressive Mine Workers during all of that time and I have never belonged to U.M.W.

"I left Mine A in the Spring of 1941. At that time the mine was strongly Progressive. I do not know anything concerning the switch over to United Mine Workers.

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

(signed) [REDACTED]

WITNESSED:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] does not read nor write English, and is presently suffering from eye trouble. Due to his inability to understand English well, he knows little of what happened at Mine A and is not recommended as a witness. His statement is as follows:

"Sept. 17, 1943  
Springfield, Ill.

"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 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] came to the U. S. in [REDACTED] and am not a U. S. citizen. I have been a miner all my life and started working at Mine A in about [REDACTED] and am still working there. I first joined the U. M. W. and in about 1932 I joined Progressive. As far as I know there isn't any difference between the two unions. I have never paid much attention to union activities.

"In the early fall I heard that Ryan sold Mine A to Elshoff. I didn't feel good about it, because I was afraid I would lose my job. I heard a lot of talk, but didn't understand much of it as I don't understand much English. Somebody said they might work Mine A through Mine B and somebody else said maybe no work at all.

"I didn't go to any of the Progressive meetings that I remember of. I know that I went to some hall and signed up for the U. M. W. after everybody else signed up.

"Nobody ever threatened me or beat me up. I joined U. M. W. because I wanted to keep my job. Since I am getting old I wanted to be sure I had a job.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

/s/  
/s/

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



INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
(Continued) [REDACTED]

(Continued)

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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

was formed there were 28 men who voted to take the cut that John L. Lewis wanted. The rest of us voted not to take the cut. That was when the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed. These 28 men at Mine A more or less stuck together during all the years, and I think they all wanted to go back to the UMW. Some of them went to the UMW meetings, I saw them. Aside from these men, the rest of the men were satisfied to belong to the PMW of A. Bill Ryan, who had been running Mine A had been hard to get along with for a long time, and had always wanted to have the mine go back to the UMW. I know, because I heard him say so.

"Along in the summer of 1941, rumors started going around that Ryan was going to sell Mine A and that the coal would be taken out through Mine B. I know that that could be done. It was well known that Mine A and Mine B were connected. They used the same air shaft, and there were several places where the entries from A and B went to within 20 feet of each other. Then there were some old workings that ran straight across from A to B. Most of us knew that because once we had to go out from Mine A through Mine B.

"Soon after the announcement came out in the paper that Elshoff was going to operate Mine A, I got a letter from the United Mine Workers. It was a form letter, printed, and was signed by Ray Edmanson. It came through the mail. As near as I can remember, the letter said that Elshoff was going to operate Mine A, and that he was going to take coal out of mine A through Mine B, and that we would not be able to work unless we joined the UNITED MINE WORKERS. The letter stated that if we joined the United Mine Workers that Mine A would be opened, and we would be able to work. He invited us all to join the United Mine Workers. I think all of the men at Mine A got such a letter. I do not remember what happened to my copy.

"Following the announcement in the paper that Elshoff was going to operate Mine A, and the receipt of this letter the Special Meeting of local #51 was held. I think that the committee which was elected that night could not find Elshoff, and came back and reported that. The men on that committee that I can remember are dead now. At the Second meeting, those men reported that fact, and a new committee was appointed to see Elshoff. This new committee was made up of men from the 28 who had not wanted to form the PMW in 1932. I think that they got ahold of Elshoff, but I do not know.

"At the first meeting not much was done but talk about the situation, the possibility of not being able to work Mine A when they were taking coal out from B, etc. The committee being appointed was about the only business taken place.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

"At the second meeting the committee which is named was elected, [REDACTED]

(Continued)

[REDACTED] but who had not been to a PM meeting, and others talked. They said that the mine would be worked if we would join the U.M. [REDACTED] threw his hat on the floor, and said that we were going over to the U.M. then. That is when I decided that they union would probably go over, so I got up and left right then.

"Another meeting was held at Redman's hall a couple of days later. I did not go to that meeting, but I saw announcements and advertisements in the paper about this meeting. Edmunson was supposed to have talked to the men at that meeting.

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

/S/ [REDACTED]

/S/ [REDACTED]

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] does not understand English very well and because of this, is not in possession of much pertinent information. Due to his inability to clearly understand, he is not recommended as a witness. His statement is as follows:

Springfield, Illinois  
September 18, 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 presently reside at [REDACTED] and am employed at Mine A.

"I was born in [REDACTED] and came to the U. S. in [REDACTED]. I am not a U. S. citizen although I have my first papers. I have been a miner most all of my life and joined UMW when I came to Springfield. I started at Mine A about [REDACTED] and when Progressive started in 1932 I also joined. I had nothing to do with forming P.M.A. and I am not sure why P.M.A. started; there was some trouble with JOHN L. LEWIS.

"In the fall of 1941, I got a letter from RYAN telling that he had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF. Everybody said if we didn't join U.M.W. the mine wouldn't open, others said that if we joined U.M.W. we would go back to work. I don't understand English too well and am not sure as to everything that was said.

"I went to a meeting on Monroe Street between 4th and 5th and there was a lot of discussion as to what the men would do. Most of the men said we would have to join U.M.W. if we went back to work. There was about eighty men at this meeting. I didn't see any fights, no one threatened or beat me. I next went to a meeting at the Elk's Club. EDMUNDSON talked there. I don't understand all of the English words but he said if we wanted to join U.M.W. we could, but we didn't have to. He said they didn't want any trouble. Everybody signed up for U.M.W. then, I did too. What else could I do - I wanted to keep my job and all the rest of the fellows joined U.M.W. The unions are about the same anyway.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[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]  
[REDACTED] barely understands English and  
speaks in a very broken dialect. It is believed that he would be a poor  
witness inasmuch as it was very difficult to make him understand the mean-  
ing of questions put to him by Agents. There is set forth below the signed  
statement executed by [REDACTED]

"Sept. 17, 1943  
Springfield, Ill.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] came to the U. S. in  
[REDACTED] and have been a citizen since Sept. or Oct. of [REDACTED] I have been a  
miner all my life and am still working at Mine A. My address is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

"I started working at Mine A in 1927 & joined the PMA in 1932.  
When I heard that Ryan had sold Mine A to Elshoff I was afraid I would lose  
my job. Everybody said Elshoff might not open the mine.

"I don't understand much English so I have never gone to many  
union meetings. I went to the meeting at the Elks Club in the fall of  
1941 and joined the U. M. W. when all the rest did. Nobody ever beat me  
up and I joined UMW because I thought I wouldn't be able to work if I didn't  
sign.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] He knows but little concerning matters at Mine A and is not recommended as a witness. His statement is as follows:

Springfield, Illinois  
September 16, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] residing at [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 am now employed by [REDACTED] I first started mining in about November, 1940 at which time I started at Mine A. Prior to that time I had been [REDACTED] When I started at Mine A I joined the Progressive Union and as far as I know, the union was all right and the men were satisfied.

"The mine was closed in the summer of 1941 and sometime during late summer I learned that the mine had been sold to ELSHOFF. It didn't mean anything to me when I heard of it. I know there were some meetings held by the Progressive men from Mine A, but the only one I attended was at the Elks Club. [REDACTED] talked at this meeting. I remember that at this meeting someone said that unless we joined U.M.W. ELSHOFF would not open Mine A, or else he would hoist coal from Mine A through Mine B.

"The men voted to join U.M.W. at this time, it seems to me the men stood up. We signed cards to join U.M.W. EDMUNDSON talked to us at this meeting but I do not remember what he talked about. I didn't pay much attention to what was going on, I was just fooling around. I was not threatened or beaten but joined U.M.W. freely, to keep my job, it didn't make any difference to me. When we went back to work under U.M.W. things were about the same, I didn't see any difference. I quit Mine A in January, 1943 because I wanted to get another job. The mines were not good for me.

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

true and correct.

Witnesses

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by SA's [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] seemed to be sincere in his statement that he had no information of value to instant case. It is believed he would make a poor witness. There is set forth below the signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

"  
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 on [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in [REDACTED]. I reside at [REDACTED] and have been employed at Mine A since [REDACTED].

"I was working at Mine A in 1932 when the progressive union was started and I joined the PMA then. I never have gone to many union meetings and never paid much attention to union business, so I do not know much about the union activity at Mine A. I don't like trouble and it doesn't make any difference to me which union I belong to as long as I work.

"I recall that Mine A shut down in the spring of 1941 and sometime in the early fall I saw in the paper that RYAN had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF. I didn't feel bad about it and had no feeling or opinion that the mine would be operated by united men.

"I know that the P.M.A. held some meetings in the month of Sept. as the other men told me about it. I didn't attend any of the meetings at the P.M.A. hall or Redman Hall. I also remember going to a meeting on a Sunday and at that time the men decided to join the United. I don't know for sure where this meeting was held, but I remember EDMONDSON talked. I know the meeting was not at the U.M.W. or the P.M.A. hall. I joined the U.M.W. at this meeting, but do not remember any of the names of the speakers or what they talked about.

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

Witnesses:

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is friendly and cooperative, but appears to have little information concerning the details of the switch in unions at Mine A. If necessary, however, he could be used as a witness to testify to those matters set out in the following statement:

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 on [REDACTED] and presently live at [REDACTED]. I started working at Mine A in 1933 & am still employed there. I had been a miner for some time before I went to work at Mine A. I think a lot of the men were in favor of the P.M.A. because they wanted to get rid of LEWIS. Most of the men liked P.M.A. & everything went along good until Mine A was sold by RYAN to ELSHOFF.

"I recall that in the early fall of 1941 I heard that RYAN had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF. I don't recall how I exactly heard about it, but remember I thought at the time that I might not have my job.

"I remember that some time in the first week of Sept. 1941, I went to a meeting at the P.M.A. This meeting was called for the purpose of finding out whether or not the men would join the U.M.W. I think it was settled that ELSHOFF intended to operate the mine only with United men. This meeting was presided over by [REDACTED] and I believe a committee was appointed to go see ELSHOFF about the opening of the mine.

"I also went to a second meeting at the P.M.A. hall a short time after the first and I believe that at that time the committee reported that if 200 progressive men joined U.M.W., then ELSHOFF would open the mine. I don't remember any other details of this meeting.

"I also went to a meeting at Redman Hall and [REDACTED] reported that ELSHOFF had said that if the men joined U.M.W. he would open the mine. I do not know of any fighting that took place at any of these meetings & I don't know any further details about these meetings.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(CONTINUED)

"I next went to a meeting at the Elks Club and I recall that it was at this meeting that we were told that unless we joined U.M.W. we wouldn't be able to go to work. I recall that a standing vote was taken to join the United & everyone indicated they wanted to join U.M.W. I signed a U.M.W. card that nite. I remember that EDMONDSON came to the meeting but I can't remember what he talked about.

"I had been out of work once before for over two years and the only thing I was interested in was in keeping my job. I didn't care which union I belonged to as long as I held my job. I was never beaten up or forced to join any union. Other than as set out above, I do not have any information as to why the men all joined United.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

Interview with [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is above the average miner in intelligence and although friendly, expressed his preference for U.M.W. over P.M.A. He furnished no information of particular value and his value as a witness for the Government is doubtful. His statement is as follows:

"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 induce me to make any statement.

"I was born on [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen through my father. I have been a miner all my life and was foreman for Peabody for about [REDACTED] years and other mines. I presently reside at [REDACTED]. I have been employed by the Mine A Coal Company for the past [REDACTED] years and presently work nights at the mine [REDACTED]. I joined the U.M.W. when I first started in as a miner.

"I was at Mine A in 1932 when the state went progressive and joined the P.M.A. at that time. I was satisfied with the U.M.W. and didn't approve of the formation of the P.M.A., but I didn't take any active part in the opposition. The truth of the matter is that although I paid dues in the P.M.A. I never actually signed a card for the P.M.A. I have never paid much attention to any of the union activities, but have always been more in favor of U.M.W. I always felt there should be only one union in the mines and there wasn't any need for P.M.A. For a majority of the time I have been at Mine A I have been working nights, and in view of that fact I have never had much contact with the men at the mine.

"I cannot recall dates at all, but we shut down at Mine A every spring that RYAN owned Mine A so I imagine we also shut down in the spring of 1941. I believe that I received a notice from RYAN to the effect that he had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF.

"At about that time there were a lot of rumors going around as to what was going to happen at Mine A. Some said it wouldn't open and others said it would be mined through Mine B.

"I went to a meeting at P.M.A. hall about that time at which time the meeting seemed to be presided over by [REDACTED]. I recall that [REDACTED] gave a little talk and suggested that the men take a vote as to what union they wanted to belong to. When the mine was sold by RYAN I heard that ELSHOFF had made the remark that he was going to operate Mine A the same as Mine B. I think most of the men felt there was a possibility that only U.M.W. men would

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"be employed at Mine A. I believe there was a group of 5 or 6 progressives who were members of another local, who came to that meeting. It was supposed to be only a meeting of the local at Mine A and I think some of the men resented the fact that these men were coming over to our meeting. When it was apparent that an argument might arise and maybe a little trouble, I decided to leave the meeting. I didn't attend any other P.M.A. meetings during this period and did not go to the meeting at the Elks Club.

"During this entire period I was working as a company employee on a salary basis so naturally I didn't pay much attention to the activity of the men at the mine during the days.

"I am quite sure no vote was actually taken at the meeting I attended as described above, but I heard at a later date that all of the men had signed up with United. I believe I signed up with United about a week or two before the mine opened that fall. I was the last engineer to sign up and to the best of my memory I signed up at the U.M.W. hall. No threats were ever made against me.

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

(signed) [REDACTED]

WITNESSES

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is a very excitable person and it was difficult to obtain a coherent story from him relative to his knowledge of instant case. It is believed he would make a poor witness. [REDACTED] executed the following signed statement:

Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 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 induce me to make any statement.

"I am presently employed at Mine A and reside at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I was born on [REDACTED] and became a U. S. citizen in about [REDACTED] I have been mining coal most of my life and have been a member of the U.M.W. since about [REDACTED] I started working at Mine A in 1940 and had previously joined P.M.A. in 1932. Most of the men were not satisfied with the U.M.W. and I felt that the P.M.A. should be started so the men would be satisfied.

"When I started working at Mine A it didn't seem to me that the men were satisfied. The officers in the P.M.A. wanted to hold their office longer than they were supposed to and were not keeping their promises made to the men in P.M.A. I don't believe the men were satisfied with the way the P.M.A. officers were acting.

"I recall that the mine shut down in the spring of 1941 and later on in the early fall I got a letter that RYAN had sold Mine A to ELSHOFF. When I heard that ELSHOFF had bought the mine I also heard that ELSHOFF was going to close the mine. I heard that the P.M.A. men had several meetings in the fall of 1941, but I never attended any of those meetings. I heard that all of our men had turned over to United at the meeting at the Elks Club, but I don't know any of the details of those meetings. I don't care what union I belong to as long as I have a job. After I heard all the men had joined U.M.W. I went up to the U.M.W. hall and signed up with United just a short time before I started back to work at Mine A in the fall of 1941. I do not know why the men all joined U.M.W. but I was not beaten up or threatened.

"I have read over this statement of 2 pages and wish to state it is true to the best of my memory.

Witnesses:

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 18, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was fairly intelligent but it is believed because of his appearance and demeanor in answering questions that he will be only a fair witness. He has been arrested on charges of investigation. His statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 18, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, do make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] [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 am now employed at Mine "A" as a driver and I have been working at this mine since about [REDACTED] at that time I was a member of the U.M.W. which union treated me O.K. I became dissatisfied in 1932 with the U.M.W. and was in favor of the change to the Progressive Mine Workers. I was a member of P.M.W. until 1941 and I was satisfied with this union all the time I belonged to it. I would be a member yet if the local hadn't changed.

"I first heard about the sale of Mine "A" to ELSHOFF when I received a letter from BILL RYAN in which he stated that he had sold the mine and that I was no longer an employee of Mine "A". When I got this letter I thought I was out of a job and that I would have to find another job.

"I did not attend any of the special meetings held by the employees of Mine "A" to decide what to do. I first found out that the local had swung over to UMW when I got a letter from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] telling me that if I wanted my job I had better come out there and sign up with UMW, that it wouldn't cost me anything. I was one of the last men to sign up which I did at the United Mine Workers Hall. If I had my own way I'd still be a member of the P.M.W. because the P.M.W. has more respect for the wishes of the rank and file and because P.M.W. is a more democratic organization. P.M.W. also provides better working conditions.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH  
[REDACTED]  
(continued)

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

[REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 18, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had difficulty with the language and it is believed that he will make only a fair witness. He has no criminal record but the files of the Springfield Field Office disclose that he [REDACTED]. His statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 18, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois do make the following voluntary statement to [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 in [REDACTED] I became a naturalized citizen of the United States at Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED]

"I began working in the mines in [REDACTED] joining the United Mine Workers. I never held any office in any union. I am presently employed at Mine "A" as a Track layer. I was first employed at Mine "A" in [REDACTED]. I joined the Progressive Workers Union in 1932 because the majority joined. I was satisfied with conditions under and in both the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Mine Workers Unions. It doesn't make any difference to me which union I belong to.

"I first heard about the sale of Mine "A" by receiving a letter from Mr. BILL RYAN telling me he had sold the mine. I thought maybe I would lose my job because I know ELSHOFF favored the United Mine Workers. I did not hear any rumors that ELSHOFF was going to shut down Mine "A" or was going to hoist coal out through Mine "B". I don't remember attending any of the meetings of the employees of Mine "A" at which it was decided to join the U.M.W. I signed up with U.M.W. at the United Mine Workers Building. I am not in favor of one union over the other.

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

Witnessed: [REDACTED]

Special Agents, FBI., Springfield, Ill."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed on [REDACTED] by Special Agents [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Although [REDACTED]  
was cooperative it is not believed that he would make a good witness inas-  
much as he was away from Mine "A" during the period when the men switched  
from P.M.A. to U.M.W.A. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 14, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. do  
voluntarily make the following statement to Special Agents [REDACTED]  
[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 emigrated to U.S.  
in [REDACTED] I claim citizenship through my step father who was naturalized  
when I was about [REDACTED] years old. I first started working in the mines about  
[REDACTED] joining U.M.W.A. at that time. I started at Mine A in 1940. When I  
started at Mine A I was already a member of P.M.A. having joined at Panther  
Creek #2 in 1932. I was in favor of the new Progressive Union and stuck  
out of work for four years on account of it. I am at [REDACTED]

"I found out about the sale of Mine A when I got a letter from  
Mr. Ryan saying that he had sold the mine and that I was released. At the  
time I got this letter I was working at Panther Creek #2 so I didn't worry  
a lot about my job at Mine A. Before Mr. Ryan sold the mine I felt that Mr.  
Ryan and P.M.A. were getting along smoothly. About the time of the sale of  
Mine A I don't recall any organizers contacting me and trying to get me to  
join U.M.W.A. I recall hearing that if the Mine A men didn't join U.M.W.A. that  
Mr. Elshoff was going to hoist Mine A coal through Mine B.

"I didn't attend any of the meetings where the P.M.A. or its Mine  
A miners discussed the sale of Mine A or talked about switching Union  
affiliations. I was working at Panther Creek #2 and building my present  
home at the time and didn't have time to attend the meetings.

"The day Mine A reopened Jack Kears the Supt. came after me to  
go to work. I went out there and had to join U.M.W.A. before I could go to  
work. I would rather have remained Progressive but I needed the job so I  
joined U.M.W.A.

"I have read the above 1½ pages of voluntary statements made by

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] me. They are true and correct.

(continued)

(s) [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Special Agents, FBI.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL,

INTERVIEW WITH

██████████ was interviewed on September 17, 1943, at his home ██████████ Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents ██████████ and ██████████

He was entirely cooperative and advised that no one had approached him concerning this investigation. He appeared to be more intelligent than the average miner and an honest and reliable person. It is believed that in the event it is felt his testimony will be of value that he will be found to be a good and willing witness.

██████████  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943

"I, ██████████, give the following information to ██████████, who are known to me to be Spec. Agts. of the F.B.I. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement. I am employed at Mine A and have been there for the past ██████████ yrs. I was born ██████████ I came to U.S. in ██████████ and became a citizen about ██████████ in Spring, Ill. In 1932 when the local at Mine A went to the P.M.A. I wanted to go with them, now I would rather be with U.M.W. as there are very few P.M.A. mines and if I had to get another job it would be hard if I was with P.M.A. In 1941 I read in the papers that Elshoff was taking over Mine 'A', I also heard this from the men. I felt when I heard this that I would have to go to U.M.W. or I would have no job. From 1932 to 1941 I was satisfied with the Progressives, they always treated me pretty fair. No one came to see me about going back to U.M.W. they were going some places but they never came to mine. At the time Elshoff bought Mine A I heard they might take coal from Mine A through Mine B this was just talk, I felt if that happened I would be out of a job. There were some guys in the P.M.A. who worked at Mine A who said that if we don't go to U.M.W. the mine will not reopen. I figgered that if I didn't join the U.M.W. I would loose my job forever.

"I attended meetings at P.M.A. Hall where some men wanted to go to U.M.W. and some wanted to stay. I saw trouble was coming so I left. I saw a fight in the street but I was across the street then. Some fellow in our mine named ██████████ got beat up, they tore his shirt off. They elected a committee while I was there and they went down to make a phone call and that's when the fight started, I don't know who caused the trouble.

"I also went to a meeting at Redman's Hall. I heard of this from the other men. The purpose was to see if we were going back to U.M.W. The majority at this meeting voted to go back. This was an open vote. Edmundson did not talk at that meeting. This was not a regular P.M.A. meeting the local officers were not there.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"I went to the meeting at the Elks Club a bunch of fellows asked me to go down and I went. We voted before Edmundson came down. As I recall the vote was to

decide whether or not we wanted Edmundson to come down to talk to us. [redacted] was in charge of this meeting. Edmundson made a speech and a lot of questions were asked, he told us if we came back we would not have to pay any fee and there would be no discrimination against us. I voted to go back, because I needed my job and felt I had to to keep it. I was not a member of any committee and did not go from the Elks meeting to Edmundson or Elshoffs office nor did I go to the Leland Hotel. There did not seem to be any divided groups at these meetings, it just seemed like a bunch of men trying to figure what to do.

"Since 1941 when the U.M.W. came back things have been a little better but I think this is because of the shortage of men, otherwise things are about the same.

"I have had Agent [redacted] read to me this statement which is written on this and two other pages. It is all true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am signing this of my own free will as it is all true.

Signed: [redacted]

"Witnesses:

/s/

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

[redacted]  
Special Agent F.B.I.  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943"



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was cooperative but it is not believed that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of important events in the Mine A case. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 14, 1943.

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I first started working in the mines about [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. I have never held an office in any union. I am presently unemployed having quit out at Mine A Sept. 7, 1943.

"I started to work at Mine A Sept. 1, 1935, changing over to the PMA at that time. I had been out of work for 3 years and 6 months and wanted a job. I didn't care which union I belonged to. I was working at Peabody #53 when PMA was formed. I took no active part in either union and hardly ever attended a union meeting. During the above mentioned period that I was out of work I stayed away from the mines because I didn't want to get into any trouble.

"I was employed at Mine A as a maintenance man at the time Mr. Elshoff bought it. We were not working at that time however. I just heard about the sale from the newspaper. When I read about the sale I figured that I'd have to change over to UMWA to hold my job as Mr. Elshoff's Mine B was UMWA.

"So far as I knew the PMA and Mr. Ryan were getting along fine at the time of sale.

"I was never approached by any organizers and asked to join UMWA.

"I never heard any rumors that Mr. Elshoff was going to operate Mine A through Mine B or that he would open Mine A on the condition that Mine A employees join UMWA.

"I have no knowledge of any PMA meetings where the sale of Mine A was discussed, and I never attended any meeting at the Elks Club where PMA voted to join UMWA. The first time I knew about Mine A going to open

RE. JOHN L. LEWIS. ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

UMWA was when I got a notice to come back to work. I did return to my same job, but had to join UMWA. I didn't care which union I belonged to so long as I was working again.

"I have read the above 1 3/4 pages of voluntary statements made by me. The same are true and correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agents, F.B.I

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed by  
[REDACTED] Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on  
September 18, 1943. [REDACTED] was intelligent but not overly  
cooperative. It is not believed that he would make a good witness because of  
his attitude. He disclaimed any criminal record. His statement is as  
follows:

" [REDACTED] Illinois  
September 18, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Illinois, do make the follow-  
ing voluntary statement to [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 employed at Mine "A" in 1937 and am still employed  
there [REDACTED] At that time I belonged to  
the Progressive Mine Workers Union [REDACTED] I have been  
elected to my position [REDACTED] by fellow members of local #7840.

"I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers union from  
1937 until September 1941 and I was satisfied with the union.

"I first heard of the sale of Mine "A" to ELSHOFF by reading  
about it in the newspaper. I thought that I was probably out of a job again.

"I didn't attend any of the meetings at which the miners  
considered whether or not they should go over to the United Mine Workers.  
When I read in the paper that the men had decided to go over, I went back to  
the mine and joined the UMW there.

"I have observed that both the Progressive Mine Workers and  
the United Mine Workers unions are about the same and I have no preference  
for either.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

WITNESSED:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agents, FBI  
[REDACTED] Illinois"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was very cooperative and appeared to have a fair knowledge of the Mine A situation, especially of the meeting at the Elks Club on September 14, 1941. However, it is not felt that he would make a good witness because of [REDACTED] when he is talking. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 14, 1943.

"I, [REDACTED], Springfield, Ill. do voluntarily make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] 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]. I came to America in [REDACTED] and was naturalized in [REDACTED]. I started working in the mines in America in [REDACTED] bringing my international union card with me and joining UMW. I have never held an office in any union. I am presently employed at Mine A Check #184, starting about [REDACTED].

"I felt that the new Progressive Union was a bona fide union as you could vote for your choice which you couldn't do in UMW.

"I recall getting notice in the mail of a release from Ryan's employment since he had sold the Mine A to Mr. Elshoff. When I got that notice I realized that my "bread & butter" was at stake and knew that I would have to join UMW to keep my job. Before Mr. Ryan sold Mine A to Mr. Elshoff we were getting along fine under the PMA union. We all lost our vacation pay amounting to \$20.00 because of the sale.

"I was never approached by any organizers and asked to join UMW. My changing from PMA to UMW was done of my own free will, but I knew that I had to change or lose my job.

"There were rumors going around at this time to the effect that Mr. ELSHOFF was going to work Mine A through Mine B, and also the Mine A wouldn't open unless all of the men joined UMW. These rumors did not cause me to change unions as I knew it would be hard to work Mine A through Mine B because the cars were different sizes.

"I attended a meeting at Redman's Hall in Springfield. [REDACTED]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was in charge and he said that because there was a lot of old miners at Mine A we would lose our jobs unless we joined UMWA. At this meeting a committee was selected to talk to Mr. Elshoff. When the Committee saw Mr. Elshoff he said that if they would affiliate with UMWA we could all go back to work with no discrimination. We had the meeting at Rehmans Hall because it was a neutral place and we wouldn't have any trouble.

"Later we had a meeting at the Elks Club and I remember pitching in a dime, each, to pay for the hall. [REDACTED] was also in charge of that meeting. At this meeting we all signed a voucher which made us a member of UMWA. Ray Edmondson of UMWA spoke before we signed the vouchers, saying there would be no discrimination and that we would have all the rights & privileges of the organization (UMWA). After Mr. Edmondson left we turned in those vouchers to Lee Ensell, Atty. for UMWA, and another man, whom I believe was Edmondson's private Secretary. He was a notary public. The above meeting was on Sunday and we went back to work the next day under UMWA.

"I recall Mr. Edmondson saying in his talk that if we would join UMWA he would secure authorization from Mr. Elshoff for us to go back to work before sunrise, that is he would get permission for us to return to work before sunrise although we wouldn't return until the regular time.

"I have had the above statement consisting of 2 3/4 pages read to me by Agent [REDACTED]. The same is true and correct.

(s) [REDACTED].

Witnessed:

[REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI.

INTERVIEW WITH

██████████ was interviewed at his residence, ██████████  
██████████ Springfield, Illinois, on September 12,  
1943, by Special Agents ██████████

██████████ was born in ██████████ came to the United  
States in ██████████ and became a United States citizen in ██████████ He speaks with  
an accent but understands English well and can express himself well. He  
is slow and methodical, but it is believed he would make a satisfactory  
witness. ██████████ is now employed at Mine "A" and advises he has never been  
arrested.

The following statement was obtained from ██████████

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 12, 1943

"I, ██████████ Springfield, Ill., make the following  
voluntary statement to ██████████ and ██████████ 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 ██████████, and came to the U. S. in ██████████  
I became a U. S. citizen in Springfield in ██████████

"I started working in coal mines in the U. S. in Springfield, Ill.,  
in ██████████ at which time I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America  
Union. I started working at the Mine "A" in Springfield, in about ██████████  
In 1932 our entire UMW local went over to the Progressive Mine Workers of  
America Union, and I became a member of PMA. I joined PMA because they  
obtained a contract with the company operating Mine "A" and I wanted to go  
back to work. I was not forced in any way to join PMA.

"I remained a PMA until Mine "A" was sold in 1941. From 1932 to  
1941 I thought PMA was operated as an honest union and I thought the officials  
were honest. I never noticed any unusual assessments and no one in any way  
tried to get me to join UMW. There were no labor disputes, strikes, close  
downs or picketing during this period of time.

"In the Spring of 1941 Mine "A" closed down due to the usual slack  
period of that time of year. In about August of 1941 we read that Elshoff  
had purchased Mine "A" from Ryan. The feeling among the men then became  
that they would have the same trouble which the men at Mine "B" had, with  
the UMW. We thought the company could pull the coal from Mine "A" thru  
Mine "B" and we thought the company would do this. Therefore, if we wanted  
to work at Mine "B" which would really be operating Mine "A" we would have  
to join UMW.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"The first time this entire matter was discussed by PMA was the night we found out that the Mine "A" had been sold, and this was on the same night as the regular PMA meeting. A special PMA meeting was then held at PMA hall to hear the Pit Committee's report, and I was present. The committee reported only one or two men working at Mine "A". At this meeting a committee of six was elected to see Elshoff but they could not reach him by telephone and another committee of six was elected to see Falcetti, about three or four of this committee being the same as the first committee. [REDACTED] I was present when we tried to locate Elshoff and couldn't, and we went back to the meeting and reported we couldn't locate Elshoff. We had intended to discuss the intentions of his to open the mine and how he was going to operate it. The next morning the committee, only five going, went to Mine "B" to see Falcetti, and we went to ask him what they were going to do about operating Mine "A". Falcetti said there were only two choices, that if the men didn't go back to Mine "A", they would have to pull the coal thru Mine "B".

"I had been reading 'The Progressive Miner', the PMA paper, and had read about a situation in Kentucky where the National Labor Relations Board handed down a decision that if a company is operating a mine under a certain union and that company purchases other mines, those other mines also had to be operated under that certain union. I believed that decision was binding in our case, and so I thought that the only two choices for us was either to join UMW to operate Mine "A" or Mine "A" would be operated thru Mine "B".

"Our committee then reported back to PMA at a PMA meeting. We were then instructed by PMA to see Edmundson to see what the chances were for us to go over to UMW. We saw Edmundson, and in answer to a direct question from me, he said we could come into UMW as <sup>an</sup> autonomous group and not have to pay initiation fees. I believed there would be no trouble to change to UMW.

"At the last meeting held in PMA hall, [REDACTED] requested me to make an announcement that there would be a special meeting at Redman's Hall the following Friday. It was at this meeting that the committee had reported what Edmundson had said.

"It was then moved that a special meeting be held the following Sunday at the Elk's Club to decide on our course. At that meeting the committee reported on all things which had happened for the benefit of those men who had not been at the other meetings when the committee had reported. There were 200 men at that meeting. A motion was made for these men to join UMW and it was adopted with one dissenting vote. No one talked at that meeting, except the committee, until after the voting to go to UMW had taken place - and until after the election of officers and committeemen. [REDACTED]



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

was elected president and he asked the men if they wanted to hear Edmundson, and then appointed a committee to get Edmundson. Edmundson then talked, but I cannot remember what he said, and then he invited all officers and committeemen to UMW headquarters.

"I feel certain there was no physical force of any kind used to make these men change from PMA to UMW. I feel it was just a situation which arose over which the men had no control, and they changed to UMW because they did not want to lose their jobs.

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

"This statement was read to [REDACTED] at his residence and he admitted everything in it was true and correct. He stated that if the same questions were asked him under oath as a witness, his answers would be the same as in this statement. He stated the information given in this statement would be given by him any time he was asked for it, but he refused to sign his name.

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Ill., was interviewed at his home on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was unable to speak and understand English and he was unable to understand the questions asked, therefore a complete statement could not be obtained.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statement, [REDACTED] noted as interpreter in obtaining the statement set forth below.

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 14, 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, no force, threats or promises have been made in obtaining this statement and I know that what I may say may be used in a court of law.

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

"I have been working at Mine "A" since about [REDACTED] and I am now employed at Mine "A" as a digger.

"I am unable to speak and understand English sufficiently to understand and answer questions.

"I have had this statement consisting of one page read to me and it is true and correct.

[REDACTED]

"Witnessed:-

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative but it is not believed that he would make a good witness because of his lack of knowledge of pertinent facts and events in the Mine "A" deal. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement.

[REDACTED] Ill.  
September 17, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Ill., do voluntarily give 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 it may be used in court.

"I was born at [REDACTED] and started in the mines in [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. I started at Mine A in [REDACTED] and have worked there continually since. I am presently employed as a driver.

"I was at Mine A when the whole group joined up with PMA in 1932. I thought PMA was alright.

"I learned about the sale of Mine A through a letter from Mr. Ryan. When I got that letter I thought 'there goes my job'.

"I didn't hear any talk to the effect that Mine A wouldn't open unless all the miners joined UMWA or that Mr. Elshoff was going to work Mine A through Mine B.

"They had a meeting at PMA Headquarters to discuss this situation and it ended in a dispute and a couple of men got beat up. After that the Mine A men held another meeting at Redmans Hall, but I never attended that meeting. I also heard about the meeting at the Elks Club where the men switched over but I didn't go to it.

"I returned to Mine A the day it opened and signed up UMWA. There was no work that first day because some of the men were undecided or didn't know about the change. I would rather have remained PMA but I had to join UMWA to keep my job and I needed my job. I noticed that the miners got more docks under UMWA than under PMA. The present policy is if you load 6 cars you don't get any docks.

"I have read the above statement consisting of 1½ pages. The same is true and correct.

"Witnessed:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 15, 1943 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was interviewed by Special  
Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] had difficulty in understanding questions propounded to him and it  
is believed that he will make a poor witness. He disclaims any criminal  
record. His statement is as follows:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois do  
make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of In-  
vestigation. No threats or promises 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 became a naturalized  
citizen of the United States in [REDACTED] I started work at Mine "A" in about  
[REDACTED] and at that time I belonged to the United Mine Workers. I have been  
working at Mine "A" ever since. I have never held any office in any  
union. Prior to 1932 I was satisfied with the U.M.W. and I didn't  
care much whether the mine changed over to the Progressive Mine Workers in  
1932. After 1932 I was satisfied with the P.M.A. union.

I know that Mr. Elshof bought Mine "A" but I don't know when or  
why. Neither do I know why the miners switched over to the United Mine  
Workers. I did not attend any of the meetings at which this was discussed  
and I took no part in the switching of the unions.

"I have been read this statement consisting of one and a  
fraction 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  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home on September 16, 1943 by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is unable to speak  
English very well and would make a poor witness.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statements:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 16, 1943

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

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

"I was employed at Mine A in [REDACTED] as a digger and I stopped working  
at Mine A in 1942 because the air was bad in the mine.

"I am now employed at Panther Creek Mine #5, Springfield, Ill. as  
a member of P.M.A.

"I became a member of U.M.W. in [REDACTED] and I remained a member until  
1932 at which time I changed to P.M.A. because my local U.M.W. union changed  
to P.M.A. for some unknown reason.

"I read in the newspaper in about Sept. 1941 that ELSHOFF bought  
Mine A. I thought at that time that ELSHOFF would operate Mine A as an U.M.W.  
mine as he operated Mine B as U.M.W.

"Prior to the time ELSHOFF bought Mine A the employees were satisfied  
with P.M.A. I thought P.M.A. was a good union, but it made no difference to  
me whether I was a member of U.M.W. or P.M.A. as both unions are about the  
same.

"About two or three days after ELSHOFF bought Mine A I attended a  
meeting at P.M.A. hall. I also attended another meeting at P.M.A. hall a  
few days later. [REDACTED] told me about these meetings. [REDACTED]  
was in charge of these meetings. [REDACTED] spoke and so did several other  
persons, the names of whom I do not know. I do not remember what went on  
at these meetings, but someone made the statement that if the employees of  
Mine A did not join U.M.W. ELSHOFF would not open the mine. I decided at  
this time to join U.M.W. so as to keep my job.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"A few days after the P.M.A. meetings I attended a meeting at Redmen Hall. [REDACTED] was in charge of this meeting and he requested me to attend. [REDACTED] made the statement at this meeting that "Line A" could be operated through Mine "B"; that ELSHOFF informed him that if the employees of Mine A did not join U.M.W. he would operate Mine A through Mine B. [REDACTED] also stated the employees of Mine A should join U.M.W. so that they could go to work. I do not remember what else went on at this meeting.

"I also attended a meeting at the Elks Club on a Sunday in 1941. [REDACTED] was in charge of this meeting and again made the statement that if the employees of Mine A did not join U.M.W. Mine A would not open. A vote was taken and all present voted to join U.M.W. I voted to join U.M.W. so that I could go to work at Mine A. After the vote EDMONSON of U.M.W. welcomed us into U.M.W. I joined U.M.W. that day. I did not go to the U.M.W. meeting that day.

"Conditions at Mine A were the same under U.M.W. as they were under P.M.A.

"No U.M.W. organizer attempted to get me to join U.M.W.

"I do not see any difference between U.M.W. and P.M.A. as both unions are about the same.

"I have had this statement consisting of four 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, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois,  
[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence by Special Agents [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] on September 16, 1943. He  
is presently employed as a digger at Mine "A" and his residence telephone is  
[REDACTED] speaks English poorly and understands very little English,  
and he would make a very poor witness. He advised he had never been arrested.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 1943.

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

"I now work at Mine 'A', Springfield, as a digger. I was born in  
[REDACTED] I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a U.S.  
citizen in [REDACTED] I started to work in Mine 'A' in about [REDACTED] I was a member  
of the U.M.W. at that time. In 1932 I joined the P.M.A., but I do not know why  
except because the rest of the men did and I did not want to lose my job.

"In about Sept. of 1941 I got a letter from RYAN telling me he had  
sold Mine 'A' to ELSHOFF. I did not think much about it, but at the next P.M.A.  
meeting we were all talking about whether ELSHOFF would open Mine 'A'. We told  
our pit committee to see ELSHOFF and ask him if he was going to open Mine 'A'  
and at another meeting which I think was at Radmen Hall, the committee told us  
that ELSHOFF said if we went U.M.W. he would open Mine 'A'. I also heard that  
ELSHOFF would haul coal thru Mine 'B' from Mine 'A' if Mine 'A' would not go  
U.M.W. No one ever told me I had to join U.M.W., and no one ever forced me to,  
but I knew I had to join U.M.W. to get my job at Mine 'A'. I may have gone to  
a meeting at the Elks Club on a Sunday when the men voted to go U.M.W. but I  
cannot remember. I had been at a wedding for two days and had pretty much to  
drink. I cannot remember when I joined U.M.W., but I think it was at the U.M.W.  
hall.

"It makes no difference to me if I am with U.M.W. or P.M.A.

"I cannot understand English well. This statement of two pages has  
been read to me and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(signed) [REDACTED]

WITNESSES:

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home on September 15, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is able to speak English and would make a fair witness although he has little information.

The following is the signed statement executed by [REDACTED]

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943

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

"I was born in [REDACTED]

"I became a member of UMW in [REDACTED] in Ill. and I remained a member of that union until 1932, at which time I changed to PMA because my local UMW union changed to PMA.

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

"In Sept. 1941 I read in the newspaper that Elshoff bought Mine "A" from Ryan. At that time I thought Elshoff would operate Mine "A" just as it was operated by Ryan, under PMA.

"Prior to the time Elshoff bought Mine "A" the employees seemed satisfied with PMA. I thought PMA was a good union being operated for its members, but it made no difference to me whether I am a member of UMW or PMA. I never took an active part in any union and I have never been an officer of a union.

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

"As well as I can remember I took a trip away from Springfield immediately after Elshoff bought Mine "A", therefore, I did not attend any meetings of PMA concerning the operation of Mine "A" and I did not hear any rumors concerning the operation of Mine "A". I was out of Springfield when meetings were held at Redmen Hall and the Elks Club in Sept. 1941 and I do not have any information concerning these meetings.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"A few days before Mine "A" opened in Sept. 1941, [REDACTED] told me that all the employees at Mine "A" were joining UMW and if I wanted to work at Mine "A" I would have to join UMW. I immediately went to the UMW building and joined UMW so that I would work at Mine "A". It made no difference to me that I was changing from PMA to UMW or not.

"I can see no difference in the operation of Mine "A" under UMW than it was under PMA.

"No one who was an UMW organizer attempted to get me to join UMW. I joined at my own free will so that I could work at Mine "A".

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:--

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his home, on September 18, 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 government witness as he was not very cooperative in furnishing information during the interview.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 18, 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; 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 employed at Mine "A" as a car blocker and I have been employed at Mine "A" since about [REDACTED]

"I became a member of UMW in about [REDACTED] and I remained in that union until 1932 at which time I joined PMA because my UMW local changed to PMA for some unknown reason.

"I read in the newspaper in about Sept. 1941, that Elshoff bought Mine "A". I thought at that time that Mine "A" would operate as always under PMA.

"Prior to the time Elshoff bought Mine "A" the employees were satisfied with PMA. I thought PMA was a good union, but it made no difference to me whether I was a member of PMA or UMW. I took no interest in union activities.

"I did not hear anyone say that Mine "A" could be operated through Mine "B" nor did I hear anyone say that Elshoff would not operate Mine "A" unless the employees join UMW.

"I attended the meeting at the Elks Club on a Sunday in Sept. 1941. I remember voting at this meeting to join UMW. I voted to join UMW because all those attending the meetings voted to join UMW. I do not remember anyone speaking at this meeting, no one told me I had to join UMW to go to work at Mine "A". I joined UMW immediately after I voted. I went

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

home immediately after I joined UMW and did not talk to anyone. I do not know who was in charge of this meeting and I do not remember how I received notice that there was going to be a meeting.

"I did not hear of or attend any meeting, except the one at the Elks Club, between the time Elshoff bought Mine "A" and the time I joined UMW.

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

"I do not see any difference between U.M.W. and P.M.A. I joined UMW because all the other employees at Mine "A" joined.

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

/s/

Witnessed:

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, telephone [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence on September 18, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED], came to the United States in [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen February [REDACTED] at Springfield, Ill. He works as a digger at Mine "A". He speaks and understands English poorly and would not make a satisfactory witness. He was reluctant to sign the following statement for fear of being beaten by UMW men. He advised he had never been arrested.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943.

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

"I was born in [REDACTED] came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen on [REDACTED] in Springfield, and am working as a digger in Mine "A".

"I first started to work in coal mines in the U.S. in [REDACTED] in Iowa, and joined the United Mine Workers of America Union. I started to work in the Mine "A" in Springfield in [REDACTED] In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America union because John L. Lewis stole the ballots and our whole UMW local went PMA. I liked the PMA and thought it was an honest union being operated for its members.

"In Sept. of 1941, I read that Elshoff bought Mine "A" from Ryan and I was afraid I would lose my job unless I joined UMW because Elshoff ran Mine "B" and that was UMW. Some of the men from Mine "A" who I worked with told me we would have to join UMW to get our jobs back and said Mine "A" would not open unless the men joined UMW. No one from UMW in the company ever told me I would have to join UMW or ever told me Mine "A" would not open except as UMW. I also heard the men talking that they would haul coal from "A" thru "B" if we did not join UMW.

"I think I went to a PMA meeting where a committee was appointed to see Elshoff, but I do not remember anything that happened. I read there was going to be a meeting at the Elk's Club and some of the men told me about it, and so I went to that meeting and voted to join UMW. I voted UMW because I wanted my job back and I thought I would lose it if I didn't vote for UMW. Edmundson came in and made a talk after we voted, and then I signed with UMW. I remembered the trouble the men at Mine "B" had and I did not want trouble like that.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I like PMA better than UMW because you could talk more  
freely. I would rather have stayed with PMA, but I  
joined UMW to keep my job and still prefer PMA to UMW.

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

/s/

Witnessed:

Special Agent, F.B.I.

Special Agent, F.B.I.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed in [redacted] Springfield, where he is employed [redacted] was born [redacted] and became a United States citizen in [redacted] He speaks and understands English fairly well, but cannot remember very much about what happened during the pertinent period. He would make only a fair witness.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943

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

"I am employed [redacted] I was born in [redacted] I came to the U. S. in about [redacted] and became a U. S. Citizen in [redacted] I started working in coal mines in [redacted] and that year joined the United Mine Workers of America Union. I started working at Mine 'A', Springfield, in about 1931. In 1932 I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union because the whole local changed and because I did not want to lose my job. I was not forced in any way to join PMA and I was satisfied working at Mine 'A' under PMA.

"In about Sept. of 1941, I got a letter from Ryan saying that Mine 'A' had been turned over to Elshoff. I felt right away that there would be trouble like there had been a Mine 'B' and I felt we would probably have to join UMW. No one from the company ever told me I would have to join UMW and no one from UMW ever tried to get me to join UMW. The talk among the men who worked at Mine 'A' was that Elshoff would only run Mine 'A' under UMW and that if we wanted to keep our jobs at Mine 'A' we would have to join UMW. I also heard stories that if we did not turn UMW Elshoff would operate Mine 'A' thru Mine 'B' by hauling coal thru 'B'.

"I did not attend any PMA meetings or any Special meetings after I learned that Elshoff had bought the mine until one day our PMA leaders told us there was going to be a meeting at the Elks Club on a Sunday and we would vote to go UMW. They said we had to vote UMW to keep our jobs. The men who said this were men I worked with at Mine 'A'.

"I went to this meeting at the Elks Club and voted to join UMW. Right after that I signed up with UMW. I do not remember much about the meeting except that Edmundson talked after the vote - but I do not remember what he said.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I was not forced or threatened in any way to vote UMW or join UMW. I joined because I did not want to lose my job. I would preferred to have stayed with PMA because I liked PMA and was satisfied. When I went back to work at 'A' under UMW, UMW told us we could not speak any language except English. We were fined \$5.00 if we were caught talking in a foreign language. I would rather have worked under PMA.

"I stopped working at Mine 'A' in about April of 1943, because of ill health. I do not belong to any union at the present time.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed September 15, 1943 at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] is unable to speak or understand English very well and would make a very poor witness.

[REDACTED] furnished the following statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 15, 1943.

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

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

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

"I became a member of UMW in [REDACTED] and remained a member of UMW until 1932 at which time I joined P.M.A. because my local UMW union changed to P.M.A. I do not know the reason my local UMW union changed to P.M.A.

"I read in the newspaper in about Sept. 1941 that Elshoff bought Mine "A" from Ryan. I thought at that time that Mine "A" would have been operated as before and that Mine "A" would have remained a P.M.A. mine.

"Prior to the time Elshoff bought Mine "A" the employees at Mine "A" were satisfied with P.M.A. I thought P.M.A. was a good union, being operated for its members and I did not wish to change to UMW.

"I did not hear that Mine "A" could have been operated through Mine "B".

"I heard someone make a statement a few days after Elshoff bought Mine "A", that Elshoff would only operate Mine "A" if the employees joined UMW. When I heard this statement I decided to join UMW so that

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

I could work.

(continued)

"I did not attend PMA meetings held at PMA hall a few days after Elshoff bought Mine "A", as I did not have notice and I do not know what occurred at these meetings.

[REDACTED] told me in Sept. 1941; prior to the meeting at the Elks Club that Mine "B" would not open unless the employees joined UMW. I decided at that time to join U.M.W. so that I could work at Mine "A".

"I did not attend the meeting at Rodman Hall and I did not receive notice.

"[REDACTED] told me that a meeting was to be held at the Elks Club to see if the employees at Mine "A" would join UMW. I attended this meeting on a Sunday in Sept. 1941. [REDACTED] was in charge of the meeting. Someone made the statement that Mine "A" would not open unless the employees joined UMW. I voted to join UMW so that I could work at Mine "A". After the vote was taken, Edmondson of UMW made a speech and welcomed the employees of Mine "A" into U.M.W. I joined U.M.W. at the close of the meeting. I did not go to the UMW building after the meeting.

"So far as I know there were no U.M.W. organizers at the Elk's Club meeting. No one asked me to join UMW prior to the time I joined in Sept. 1941.

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

"I joined UMW in order to keep my job at Mine "A". I was satisfied with PMA and did not want to change to U.M.W.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED] Special Agent F.B.I.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was interviewed at his home on September 15, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he did not have a criminal record. [REDACTED] would not make a good witness as he finds it difficult to speak and understand English.

[REDACTED] furnished the following voluntary statement:

"Springfield, Ill.,  
September 15, 1943

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

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

"I was employed at Mine "A" in about 1931 and I am at the present time employed at Mine "A" as a digger.

"I joined UMW in [REDACTED] and remained a member of that union until 1932 at which time I joined PMA. I joined PMA because my local UMW union changed to PMA. I do not know the reason my local UMW union changed to PMA.

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

"Prior to the time Elshoff bought Mine "A" the employees were satisfied with PMA. I thought PMA was a good union, but I never took an active part in union activities and it made no difference to me whether I was a member of UMW or PMA.

"I was never approached by an UMW organizer prior to the time I joined UMW in Sept. 1941.

"I heard someone talking about Elshoff operating Mine "A" through Mine "B". When I heard this I thought I would be out of a job.

"I did not hear any rumors that Elshoff would only open Mine "A"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

on condition that the employees joined UMW.

(continued)

"I did not attend any meetings at PMA hall or Redmen Hall after Mine "A" was sold to Elshoff, in Sept. 1941. I do not remember if I had notice of such meetings or not.

"I attended a meeting at the Elks Club on a Sunday in Sept. 1941. I voted at this meeting to join UMW as all present voted to join UMW. I also joined UMW at the end of this meeting. I heard some of those attending this meeting make a statement after we voted, that if we would not join UMW Mine "A" would not be opened. I did not see any UMW organizers at this meeting nor do I remember Edmondson of UMW making a talk at this meeting. I did not go to the UMW building after the meeting. I find it difficult to speak and understand English, therefore, I was unable to obtain much information about the sale of Mine "A" and what went on at meetings.

"Conditions at Mine "A" have been about the same under UMW as they were under F.M.A.

"It makes no difference to me whether I am a member of UMW or PMA. I want to be a member of which ever union that will allow me to work the most.

"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, ETAL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at his residence by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on September 16, 1943. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] came to the United States in [REDACTED] and became a United States citizen in [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois. [REDACTED] is presently employed as a digger at Mine "A". He cannot speak or understand English very well, and would make an unsatisfactory witness. He advised that he has never been arrested.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 16, 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, and make it without fear of threat force, or promise of any kind.

"I was born in [REDACTED] came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] and became a U.S. citizen in Springfield in [REDACTED] I work at Mine 'A' as a digger.

"I was working in Mine 'A', Springfield, in the spring of 1941, as a member of P.M.A. About Sept. of 1941 I read in the paper that ELSHOFF bought Mine 'A' from RYAN. I did not bother to think much about this and did not talk about it with anyone. I only attended one meeting after I read about the sale and that was on a Sunday at the Elks Club. I went because I read about it in the paper. I usually do not attend union meetings.

"No one ever told me that Mine 'A' would not operate except under U.M.W. I did not hear anything about Mine 'A' being operated by hauling coal thru Mine 'B'. I did not hear that I had to join U.M.W. to keep my job.

"I was satisfied with P.M.A. but it did not make any difference to me whether I was under P.M.A. or U.M.W.

"At the meeting at the Elks Club I voted to join U.M.W. and I joined U.M.W. right after the meeting. I joined U.M.W. because all the other men did and I wanted to keep my job. No one forced or threatened me in any way and no one told me I had to join U.M.W. I do not remember much about the meeting.

"It doesn't make any difference to me whether I work under P.M.A. or U.M.W. and I see no difference at Mine 'A' under U.M.W. than there was under P.M.A.

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

Witness:

(signed) [REDACTED]

[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]  
[REDACTED] was

cooperative, and it is believed that he would make a good witness on the Mine A situation because he spoke at one of the meetings at PMA Hall on this situation. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Ill.  
September 19, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I started working  
in the mines about [REDACTED] joining UMWA at that time. I have worked at Mine  
A off and on since [REDACTED] as a digger. I switched over to PMA in 1932 along  
with all the miners at Mine A. I preferred PMA because I had more to say  
and could vote.

"I learned about the sale of Mine A from the newspaper, and I  
thought that I was in for the same kind of trouble that the miners had had  
over at Mine B. I didn't know what to expect as I heard that they were  
going to pull the coal of mine A out through Mine B. I also heard talk  
to the effect that Mine A would remain closed until all the men joined  
UMWA.

"I attended one meeting at PMA hall where the situation caused  
by the sale of Mine A was discussed. I spoke at that meeting and told the  
men to find out what Elshoff was going to do before they switched over to  
UMWA. Seems to me that a committee was appointed. It seemed to me that  
the feeling was in the air already that the men were going to swing UMWA.  
[REDACTED] seemed to be leaders in this  
switch. This group was always bringing up something unreasonable or radical  
when we were under PMA.

"I didn't attend any more meetings because I didn't like the way  
things were being run. I heard from [REDACTED] that UMWA was going to  
'work me over' because I stuck up for PMA.

"The next time I went to a meeting was at United Mine Workers Hall  
where I was told that it was the last chance to sign up without an initia-  
tion fee. The majority had already swung over and there was nothing else  
to do if you wanted to work at Mine A. The men joined because many of the



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

Mine A employees were old men and were afraid they couldn't get other jobs. The men had also read & heard about all of the trouble at Mine B and didn't want to have

anything like that.

"When the mine first opened they would dock you for anything, and when you went to the meetings you couldn't talk. They also elected their own officers whether you wanted them or not.

"If I had a free and voluntary choice of unions I would prefer Progressives, as you can say what you think under PMA & elect your own officers.

"I have read the above statements made by me consisting of 2½ pages. The same are true and correct.

/s/

"Witnessed:

/s/  
/s/

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

On September 19, 1943, [redacted] of [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] had difficulty in understanding the questions propounded to him and for this reason, it is not believed that he will make a good witness. He has no criminal record. His statement is as 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 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 in [redacted] I am not a citizen of the United States. I am now employed at Mine 'A' as a digger and have been employed here since about [redacted] I was a member of the United Mine Workers at this time and remained a member until 1932 when the rest of the miners at Mine 'A' went over to the Progressive Miners Union. I was in favor of the Progressive Miners Union and the switch over. [redacted] myself then remained Progressive Miners as long as we could. I feel that this is a good union and that it conscientiously tries to represent the miners. I first heard about the sale of Mine 'A' [redacted] who read about it in the newspaper. I figured that my job was insecure and that I probably would not be able to go back as a member of the Progressive Miners Union.

"I heard the stories that Elshoff would not reopen the mine unless it was under the United Mine Workers Union and that he was going to hoist the coal from Mine 'A' out through Mine 'B'.

"I attended the same meetings at the Progressive Hall and at the United Mine Workers Hall with [redacted] and I held out against joining the United Mine Workers as long as I could. When we saw that the majority had gone back, we finally signed up.

"I wish to say that I went back to Mine 'A' as a UMW member only because the majority did and to preserve my job. I am not satisfied with conditions in the UMW as you don't have a free vote or the right to discuss issues being put to a vote. These are railroaded through. If I had my free choice I would be a member of the Progressive Mine Workers Union.

This statement has been read to me by [redacted]

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

[REDACTED] and it is all true.

/s/ X [REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

/s/  
/s/

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 15, 1943, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative and it is believed that he will make a good witness. He disclaims any criminal record. His statement is as follows:

"September 15, 1943  
Springfield, Illinois

"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 became a naturalized citizen through my father at [REDACTED] on November [REDACTED] I began working at Mine "A" about [REDACTED] as a United Mine Worker. I noticed that the U.M.W. seemed to get along with Mr. Ryan all right. In 1932 our men became dissatisfied with John L. Lewis as President and when he stole the ballots on the question of the wage scale we formed a new union, the Progressive Mine Workers of America. I did participate in the formation of P.M.A. by soliciting new members. During the entire time the P.M.A. union represented the miners at Mine "A". I was satisfied with the organization and it appeared to properly represent the men. I first heard about the sale of Mine "A" when I came home from town and saw it in the paper. I figured this was bad for the miners and knew that we would either have to go back to the United Mine Workers or give up our jobs.

"I heard the rumors that Elshoff wouldn't reopen Mine "A" unless it was under the United Mine Workers and I also heard it said that he was going to operate Mine "A" through the Mine "B" shaft. While I didn't pay any attention to the latter rumor I was inclined to believe that the former rumor was true. I heard these stories from fellow members of our local.

"I went back to work at Mine "A" as a United Miner because I felt that I wouldn't be able to go back to work as a Progressive Miner and because a majority of the Mine "A" employees switched over to U.M.W.

"While I was with the Progressive Mine Workers I served as Pit Committeeman. I did not attend any of the meetings at which the miners discussed the sale of Mine "A".

"I do notice that under the United Mine Workers that the working conditions are not as good as they were under the Progressive Mine Workers.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

Our grievances are now handled by company men and they refer the grievances to the Superintendent if they have time and he has to take up the grievance with Oscar Falcetti, Superintendent of Mine "B". What he says goes whether the men like it or not. Recently I noted that the loose explosive powder was not getting out the coal and I got up at a meeting of our local and suggested that a Committee go see Elshoff about putting in stick powder which is more efficient. The committee composed of [REDACTED] and another fellow were appointed and they talked the matter over with Elshoff. Later [REDACTED] told me that I had better not come up to the next meeting, that those fellows were fixing up to beat me up and that Elshoff had said that I was a "Progressive Agitator!"

"I have noticed also that the local union is not disposed to oppose the company on a particular issue. Since the powder incident when the union failed to make an issue out of the stick powder and accepted the company's wishes I have stopped going to the union meetings.

"I have been read the within statement consisting of three and a third pages by [REDACTED] and it is all true.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

[REDACTED]  
and:  
[REDACTED]

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] On September 14, 1943, [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] appeared to be cooperative but he had difficulty in comprehending questions propounded to him and it is not believed that he would make a good witness. He disclaims any criminal record.

He gave the following signed statement:

"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 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] and became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1932 or 1933. I was employed at Mine "A" in [REDACTED] and have been working there ever since. In that time I have belonged to the United Mine Workers Union and the Progressive Mine Workers Union. Before 1932 I was satisfied with the United Mine Workers organization and I changed over to the P.M.A. because the rest of them did. After I changed over to the P.M.A. I was satisfied with that organization and believe it represented the miners.

"I learned of the sale of Mine "A" to Elshof in 1941 by reading it in the newspaper. I also received a letter from Mr. Ryan in which he said he had sold the mine and that I was no longer an employee of Mine "A". I also received an unsigned letter telling me that if I wanted to keep my job at Mine "A" that I would have to change my union affiliations. I knew when I heard the mine was sold that I would have to change unions if I wanted to keep my job. However, no one put any pressure on me to change unions. I heard a rumor to the effect that Elshoff would not reopen Mine "A" unless it was operated by the U.M.W. but it had no influence on my decision to join the U.M.W.

"I attended one meeting of the Mine "A" employees held at the Elks Hall where the miners discussed as to whether or not they should go over to the U.M.W. I recall that a decision was reached at this meeting to go over to U.M.W. and then Ray Edmundson was called in. He promised us our jobs.

"I have noticed no difference in working conditions under U.M.W.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] as compared with working conditions under the Progressive  
Minor's Union.

(continued)

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his home, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois, on September 17,  
1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

During the course of this interview [REDACTED] was definitely nervous and agitated and although he expressed a willingness to give the Agents any information he could and was outwardly entirely cordial, he refused to answer any questions concerning the events that happened at the meeting held at the Elks Club. At the conclusion of the interview he was asked if he had been approached concerning this case and told not to talk to Agents. He denied this repeatedly. He was also asked why he was scared to tell Agents about the meeting at the Elks Club, and while he denied being frightened, it was noted that this question gave him a definite start. It is not believed that [REDACTED] was telling all that he knows concerning this case and it is suggested that he be brought before the Grand Jury for further questioning. He advised he has no criminal record. He refused to sign the statement, which will be set out below, although he stated that it was all true and that there was no reason why he should not sign the statement.

"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 this statement. I am now working at Mine A as a driver. I have been there since 1932 or 1933. I was born [REDACTED] I joined the P.M.A. because I wanted to, I had no preference of one Union over the other.

"I heard through gossip that Elshoff was taking over Mine 'A'. I never paid any attention to it at the time, I figured if I didn't work there I'd work someplace else. From 1932 to 1941 I was satisfied with the way P.M.A. was handling things. When Elshoff took over Mine 'A' nobody came to my house at all to ask me about it or which union I wanted. I don't recall hearing anything at the time to the effect that Elshoff was going to take coal from Mine 'A' through Mine 'B' nor do I recall hearing that he would only operate Mine A with a U.M.W. union.

"The only meeting I remember attending was at the Elks Club. I don't recall how I heard about this. I don't remember at this time who had charge of this meeting. I am not sure why this meeting was held at the Elks Club and I don't want to say what the purpose of the meeting was. I was not a member of any committees appointed at this time and I did not go to Elshoff's, or Edmundson's office or to the Leland Hotel after the meeting. I joined the U.M.W. at Mine 'A' about the time it opened. I joined U.M.W. of my own free will. Conditions at Mine A are the same under U.M.W. as they were under P.M.A. so far as I am concerned.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I have read this two page statement and to the best of my knowledge it is all true and the information therein is just as I have given it to the Agents.

I don't care to sign this, I have no particular reason for this.

Witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 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 15, 1943.

At his residence [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] and he advised he never had been in any trouble in his life. He appeared to be honest and truthful but it was noted he did not know much about what went on because of his position. It is felt that he would make a fair witness if his testimony were necessary and he appeared to be very cooperative.

The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 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 to get this statement.

"I started at Mine A around 1934 & at the present time I am [REDACTED] there. I was born [REDACTED]. I was a member of the P.M.A. when I started at Mine "A" in 1934. I took no hand in the switch from U.M.W. to P.M.A. and after the strike in 1932 I got a job in a place where the P.M.A. was. I hated to see the trouble which caused the split between U.M.W. and P.M.A. I would rather have seen the men satisfied with one union.

"I first learned that Elshoff had taken over the Mine "A" through the papers and then later I got a letter to that effect from Mr. Ryan the former operator. At the time I did not know what would happen, whether I had a job there or not, I figured I would just have to wait and see. Before Elshoff took over Mine "A" things went along well between P.M.A. and Ryan. I was not approached as to my opinion or whether we should join the U.M.W. or not and I had no one come to me and try to get me to join U.M.W. I don't think I heard anything about the possibility that Mine "A" might be operated through Mine "B". I did not hear any rumor that Elshoff would only open Mine A under a U.M.W. contract. I attended 2 meetings, one at P.M.A. Hall and one at Elks.

"I believe I read in the paper of the meeting to be held at P.M.A. Hall. I think this meeting was held just to discuss how the mine was to be opened. I am not sure but I don't think any committee reported or was appointed. I don't recall any trouble at that meeting.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I heard of the meeting at the Elks Club through the papers. I believe that [REDACTED] presided. This meeting was to see how the feeling of the men were about starting the mine. I think what we did was sign a slip to go over to U.M.W. if we wanted to go to work. I thought I would be without a job if I didn't sign up, so since that was the way it was going to be I signed the slip of my own free will. Edmundson came over later and gave a talk. I don't recall what was said. I did not care which local was at Mine "A", I just wanted to go to work. I did not go to Edmundson's or Elshoff's office the night of the meeting. Conditions at Mine "A" since 1941 under the U.M.W. are the same in my job as always. I would not be able to say as to how they are in the mine because I don't come in contact with the miners.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this statement which is written on this and two other pages to me. It is all true and correct to the best of my knowledge and is just like I have told it to the Agents. I am signing this of my own free will as it is the truth.

Signed [REDACTED]

Witnesses

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

[REDACTED]  
Spec. Agt. FBI (Milw)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

On September 14, 1943 Special Agents

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interviewed

[REDACTED] at his home. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is very intelligent and was outwardly entirely cooperative. It is to be noted that at the time of this interview [REDACTED] advised agents that although he had joined the P.M.A. he had always favored the U.M.W. He advised that he has no criminal record. From the information given at the time of this interview it is not felt that [REDACTED] would make a good witness, particularly as his story is liable to be prejudiced due to his admitted preference for U.M.W.

The following signed statement was procured from [REDACTED]

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

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

"I am working at Mine A as 'stable boss'. I have been there about [REDACTED] years. I was born in [REDACTED] I first joined a mine union in [REDACTED] at Springfield, it was U.M.W. I was working at Mine 'A', in 1932, when they went to P.M.A. with the others. I would just as soon have stayed with U.M.W. at the time. During the time we had the P.M.A. union at Mine A there were no outstanding disputes there between the company that I know of. When ELSHOFF took over Mine 'A' in 1941 I believe I read of it in the papers. I figured that if he had bought it and they made a switch, I would go over with the rest of them, if I wanted to stay there. I was not approached at this time about joining the U.M.W. I heard some talk that ELSHOFF might operate Mine A through Mine B but it was just talk. This might possibly be done if they wanted to make a big mine out of 2 little ones as they are connected by the main Hallageway. I did not hear that ELSHOFF was going to close Mine A unless the men joined U.M.W. I attended one meeting at the Kedmans Hall the meeting at the Elks and tried to attend one at the P.M.A. Hall but the P.M.A. officials wouldn't let us hold it and the meeting was broken up. There were only one or two who could speak. I did not see any fight I got sorta discussed and left before it was all over. I think there was a committee appointed to see if we couldn't find a place to have a meeting. I was not a member of that committee. It seems to me the announcement of the next meeting was published but I wouldn't be sure of that. [REDACTED] was in charge of the meeting at Kedman Hall. I think this meeting was had to see if we would have an investigation to decide if we would join U.M.W. There were no outsiders at this meeting. At the Kedman Hall meeting they decided to have another meeting but they couldn't get Kedmans Hall so they had it at the Elks Club. This

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

meeting was in charge of [REDACTED] He took  
took a standing vote on whether they would go to  
U.M.W. and I think they voted solid to do this.

I don't recall hearing anything about opening

Mine A and to my knowledge nothing was said about the men having to  
join U.M.W. to keep Mine 'A' open. My theory as to why the men switched  
over is that ELSHOFF had a contract with U.M.W. at Mine 'B' and would  
probably operate Mine 'A' under a contract with U.M.W. In my heart I  
have always been U.M.W. I joined P.M.A. in 1932 only because I had to  
go over to keep my job. After the voting was over LAY EDMUNDSON came over  
and talked to us. He said he thanked the men for the way they had voted  
and told them they would be accepted back in U.M.W. and treated the way  
they had always been. That same time we signed cards going over to U.M.W.  
I did not go to Edmundson's office, the Leland Hotel or ELSHOFFS office  
after this meeting. I have never held a union office and did not then.  
Since the U.M.W. has been back at Mine 'A' I think that conditions at  
Mine 'A' have been improved. Dues are about the same but working con-  
ditions have improved, I think, if the men can see it. I heard a  
progressive official, I understand say that hadn't any body better turn  
over to U.M.W. if they did he had some boys in Southern Illinois that would  
take care of them. I was not forced to join U.M.W. but did so of my own  
free will.

"I have read this 3 page statement & to the best of my  
knowledge and belief it is all true and as I have given it to the  
F.B.I. Agents, I am signing this of my own will as it is the truth.

Witnesses:

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent, F.B.I. (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 14, 1943."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on September 14, 1943, went to the residence of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois,

and with the assistance of a neighbor woman, whom he called over, he advised that he does not understand English well and that his wife does not either. He further stated that he has been at Mine A for many years and that his daughter is in Chicago for two weeks, but that she could assist in interviewing him upon her return. He advised that he hurt himself at Mine A and has been in the hospital until a month ago.

[REDACTED] further advised that he was a citizen through naturalization and that he was born in [REDACTED]. He said he attended a meeting on a Sunday at the Elks Club, but he did not know what went on because he could not understand English and he advised that he voted over to UMW because the rest of the local did. He said that he does what the young men do and nobody forced him to vote that way. He stated that if his daughter were present she could act as his interpreter.

Stenographic notes of the above were taken by Agent [REDACTED] and they are being retained in instant file.

It was noted that [REDACTED] is a rather old man and it is felt that he would make a poor witness.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He advised that he had never been arrested. He stated also that he still has a job at Mine A although he has not worked for the past five or six months as he said that he had to leave because [REDACTED] he himself did not feel very well. However he stated his tools are still out there and he can return whenever he wants to. [REDACTED] appeared to be more intelligent than the ordinary miner and it is felt that he would make a fair witness if his testimony were necessary. The following signed statement was obtained from [REDACTED]

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

"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 in order to get me to give this statement.

"I was born in [REDACTED] I came to the U.S. in [REDACTED] I became a citizen in [REDACTED] at Springfield. I first went to Mine 'A' to work the spring before it went back as U.M.W., I think this was in the spring of 1941. I am a digger and worked there up until 5 or 6 months ago. I first joined a mine union around about [REDACTED] in Springfield, Ill. I joined the Progressives while working at the Jefferson Mine but I worked at Mine 'A' as a Progressive for Bill Ryan. The mine closed in the spring and then Elshoff took it over and we joined the U.M.W. in a body in order to go back to work. I felt this was the only way to get Elshoff to open the mine, everyone knew this. I read in the paper that Elshoff was to take the mine over, then of course the men all knew it too and they felt the only salvation for them was to join the U.M.W. A couple of men came to see me at my home and asked me how I felt and I told them I was going to do what the other men did. When I worked at Mine 'A' for Bill Ryan they never had any trouble, for a fact they never have any trouble there now either. I never heard anything about the possibility of Elshoff operating the Mine A through Mine B. There was a rumor at the time that the U.M.W. had given Elshoff a pile of money to operate Mine 'A' and get it over to U.M.W. I heard too that unless the men went right over to U.M.W. the mine would be shut down. I never attended any meetings where the question of returning the Mine 'A' men to the U.M.W. was discussed. I joined the U.M.W. out at Mine 'A', I never voted on returning to U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

I just joined up they told us our P.M.A. card would be excepted so I just joined up at the mine as the other men had joined.

"I have never had any perference as to which union I belong to.

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

Signed [REDACTED]

Witnesses:

/s/

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent FBI (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept\_14, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his home by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was cooperative but had to be questioned through an interpreter as his understanding of English is not very good. For that reason, plus the fact that he had very little knowledge of the Mine A situation it is not felt that he would make a good witness. [REDACTED] has no known criminal record. He furnished the following signed statement:

" [REDACTED] Ill.  
September 18, 1943

"I, [REDACTED], Ill., do voluntarily make the following statement to Special Agents [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] arriving in America in 1905. I was naturalized at Springfield, Ill. 1921. I started in mines as soon as I came to America, joining up with UMWA. I have never been an officer in any union. I am presently employed at Mine A as a digger, having started there in 1936. I had join the Progressives at that time. Both unions are the same to me.

"I know that Mr. RYAN sold the mine to Mr. ELSHOFF, who owns Mine B, but don't know how I found out.

"I never heard about Mine A going to be closed unless the men joined UMWA, or that Mine A would be closed and the coal taken out through Mine B.

"I attended one meeting in Springfield, where the men decided to join UMWA. I don't know where that meeting was held, or remember much about it.

"I have had the above page of statements made by me read to me by Agent [REDACTED]. The same are true & correct.

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] as interviewed at his residence,  
[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, by Special  
Agents [REDACTED] on September  
15, 1943, with the assistance of his wife as he does not understand the  
English language very well. She advised that he has never been arrested.  
It is felt he would make a poor witness. He furnished the following  
signed statement.

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

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to  
[REDACTED] who have identified themselves as  
being Special Agents of the F.B.I. I have had [REDACTED] help me as I  
don't understand the English language very well & what I have to  
say will be the truth to the best of my knowledge. I was born  
[REDACTED] & came to U. S. in [REDACTED] & I became a  
citizen [REDACTED] years ago. I have been at Mine [REDACTED] years & am  
still there as a digger. In 1932 I just followed the rest over to  
P.M.A. & I did not care what union was there as both were the same  
to me and I did not prefer one over the other. I saw in the paper  
that "Elshoff bot Mine A" and I was not interested in it at all then  
as I didn't care who owned it. I had no complaints against P.M.A.  
as far as I was concerned. My wife says that two men came to my  
home but I wasn't home & they wanted me to join up with U.M.W. so  
that Elshoff would open up Mine A but they never came back to see me.  
The men at Mine A all talked around that if they wouldn't join up  
with U.M.W. Elshoff would not open up Mine A & I believed it but  
not for sure and that was why I later joined U.M.W. I never went to  
any of the meetings at P.M.A. Hall, Fedman Hall, Blks Club and I  
never was told about them & I don't understand good anyway if I did  
go. I signed up at the meeting in the U.M.W. Hall. It was the  
first meeting of the new U.M.W. local as they had turned over by then  
& this was before Mine A opened. I never voted & had to sign up in  
order to go back to work as the local had changed from P.M.A. to U.M.W.  
Since U.M.W. has been at Mine A things are just the same for me as  
they were under P.M.A. and it still doesn't make any difference to  
me what local is there. I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this two (2)  
page statement to me and it is true and correct.

Signed [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]  
Special Agent, F.B.I.,  
St. Paul, Minn.  
[REDACTED]  
Special Agent FBI (Milw)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

ber 17, 1943.

The following investigation was conducted by  
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 17, 1943.

At his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] who advised he never has been arrested in his life. It was noted that he is an intelligent individual, and he readily understood the questions and answered them readily and intelligently. It is felt he is honest, and he appeared to be cooperative, and it is believed he would make a very good witness if his testimony were necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[REDACTED]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 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 quit Mine A in July, 1942 & had been there about [REDACTED] years or so. Presently I'm a [REDACTED] & have been since Jan. 1943. I was born in [REDACTED]. I was not at Mine A when it went P. M. A. in 1932 but I was a member already when I started at Mine A. It seemed at first P. M. A. was a little better but at end were about same as U. M. W. but still may be a little better. I think I heard from the men in 1941 that Elshoff bot Mine A and I didn't know then just what would be the result of it. Up to then I had been satisfied with P. M. A. I heard men went around but no one came & asked me to join over or how I felt then. [REDACTED] I believe, told me about a meeting that was to be held. I also heard from the miners that Elshoff might take coal out from Mine A thru Mine B & if I remember, it was also mentioned at the meeting. I think [REDACTED] told us that [REDACTED] I never went to many meetings. I also heard that if we went over to U. M. W. Mine A would be opened & I believe some one told us this too at the meeting & I think it was [REDACTED] who said it & then I felt that I had to join over to U. M. W. or I would be without work. I think I attended several meetings but I did not go to the one on Sunday at the Elks Club but I went to a few before then. I did attend a meeting on the 7th floor of the U. M. W. Bldg. & that was when I joined up. Edmundson was not there but some Board member of U. M. W. was there & welcomed us back into the fold & said we would be treated very nicely. We were told we had to belong to U. M. W. to work out there so I had to join up in order to work. After this I believe I was working already & had to go to this U. M. W. to sign up & I think it was for us who had not been at the Elks Club. It was either to go to work under U. M. W.

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

or be without a job. I did not belong to any committees & did not go to Edmundsons or Ellsheffs office. It seemed that after U. M. W. took over the rumor was the Progressives used to run the mine but that the company would now run it. Things were not as good under U. M. W. as under P. M. A. & they changed a lot of small things such as starting at 7:15 A. M. instead of 7:30 A. M. I have read this 2 (two) page statement & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge. This makes (3) three pages now.

"I am signing this of my own free will.

"Signed: [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Special Agent, F. B. I. (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED], who has a room at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on September 15, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He advised that he has no criminal record. It was noted that he was rather hard to understand, although he appeared to understand the questions. It is felt he would make a rather poor witness unless his testimony were absolutely necessary. Agents obtained the following signed statement from [REDACTED] which he signed in the presence of his landlady, [REDACTED].

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

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

"I have been at Mine A as a digger for about [REDACTED] yrs. I was born [REDACTED]. I came to U.S. in about [REDACTED]. I became a citizen about [REDACTED] ago in spring.

"I joined over with P.M.A. when the rest of the men at Mine 'A' did. It was all the same to me which union they had. At the time P.M.A. was the union at Mine 'A' I liked them.

"I heard that Elshoff had taken over Mine A in the papers, from other miners and I also got a letter from Ryan telling me of it. It was all right with me. I did not care who ran the mine as long as I had a job. I met some fellows on the street and they told me if we didn't join up with U.M.W., maybe the mine would not open and Elshoff might take the coal out through Mine B. I don't know who these men were, there were many of them all talking this way. When I heard this and that it didn't cost anything I figured I better join the U.M.W. it didn't make any difference to me one way or another any way. There were several meetings held at this time. I went to one at Redmans Hall and one at the Elks Club. I know at these meetings we were told that if we wanted to have Mine A opened we would have to join U.M.W. as Elshoff don't like the Progressives. At the Elks Club we voted for going over to U.M.W. it was by standing vote. After the election Ray Edmundson came and gave me talk. I don't know what he said other than that U.M.W. was a good Union. I voted for U.M.W. because I wanted to go to work and you couldn't get a job any place else. I signed up for U.M.W. that very same afternoon. I was not a member of any committee and I did not attend the meetings in Edmundsons or Elshoffs office after the Elks Club meeting.



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

"Conditions at Mine A under U.M.W. are the same as they were under P.M.A. as far as I am concerned.

(Continued)

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this two page statement to me and it is all true and correct so far as I can recall. I am therefore signing it of my own free will\_

-S- [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent FBI (Milw.)  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 15, 1943"

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 17, 1943. At a rooming house at [redacted] Springfield, agents interviewed [redacted]. On September 16, 1943 he was contacted in the morning and inasmuch as he had to go to work around 11:00 A.M. he suggested agents return at 10:00 A.M. on September 17, which they did but agents had to wait for him about 10 minutes as he did not appear at his room until 10:10 A.M.

He was very uncooperative and he was told at the start that if he did not wish to talk to agents he did not have to but he said he wanted to. During the interview he once asked if agents were not through yet and he was again told that if he did not want to answer the questions he should so advise agents and they would leave but he said for agents to continue.

He denied that he had been contacted by anyone and he is felt to be withholding information and it is suggested that he be called before the Grand Jury to ascertain his full story.

He furnished the following unsigned statements:

[redacted]  
Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 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 have been at Mine A. about [redacted] years & I am still there & deliver powder. I drove mules on day shift till 1 1/2 years ago. I was born in [redacted]. In 1932 I went over to P.M.A. as the local did & I did not help to organize. I don't care to say if I wished to go back to one union over another. I read in papers that RYAN sold out Mine A. It didn't make any difference to me as I have to make a living. I never heard that Mine A might be operated thru Mine B. I don't know if Mine A was shut down in 1941 or not but I know it was shut down for 2 summers. I don't care to answer if I heard that ELSHOFF would operate it only as U.M.W. mine. All I know is what I read in the papers. I did not go to any meetings as I think I went on nights then & did not go out to meeting at Elks Club. All I know about it is from the papers. I was not on any committees then - they are no good for anyone. I had no complaint at all against P.M.A. I won't

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

answer if I have any preference for one over another. I signed up at Mine A with the U.M.W. No one has talked to me about this investigation & it is true to the best of my knowledge.

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

Special Agent FBI (Milw.)

Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 17, 1943."

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

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

At his residence [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed [REDACTED] in the presence of [REDACTED], and he advised he never has been arrested in his life. [REDACTED] had some difficulty in understanding the questions asked as he is rather illiterate and he had some difficulty in expressing himself. It is felt that he would make a poor witness unless his testimony is necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

[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 to me to give this statement.

"I was born in [REDACTED] & I came to U. S. in [REDACTED] & became a citizen about [REDACTED] at Springfield, Ill. I have been at Mine A as a digger for about 10 years & am still there. I joined over to P.M.A. in 1932 as all others did. I like both unions as they don't make any difference to me at all. I read in papers that Elshoff bot Mine A & people also talked about it. I didn't think it would make any difference to me who owned it or what union I belonged to. I liked P.M.A. while at Mine A & they were alright to me. No one & asked me about joining over to U.M.W. in 1941. I don't remember of hearing that Elshoff might take coal out of Mine A thru Mine B. Everyone was talking that Elshoff would open Mine A as U.M.W. & I felt & believed that way & then figured I would be out of a job maybe too as jobs were hard to get. I heard they had some meetings but I don't understand what they say so I never went to many meetings. I don't know or remember if I was at Redman's Hall but I think I was at Elk's Club meeting on a Sunday when the men stood up & voted. I don't know what they said. We all signed up to go back to U.M.W. then. I signed up with U.M.W. in order to have a job. Everyone was saying if we did not sign up we would have no job and I have a large family so had to have a job. I did not belong to any Committee. I don't know what else was said at the meeting & I went right back home after the meeting. I find no difference in one union from another & we have to work under both of them. I have had Agent [REDACTED] read to me this two (2) page statement & it is true & correct to the best of my knowledge and I have signed this of my own free will."

/s/ [REDACTED]

WITNESSES:

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

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] who resides at [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed at the Springfield Office by Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] on September 8, 1943. [redacted] was born in [redacted]. He is a naturalized American citizen. [redacted] was somewhat reluctant to give information, stating that he is now [redacted] members of both UMW and PMA. It appeared as though this factor might be influencing his statement, in view of the fact that he could recall very little specific information. Other than his poor memory, [redacted] would be a good witness due to his appearance and ability to express himself. He furnished information as set forth in the following signed statement.

"Springfield, Ill  
September 8, 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.

[redacted]

"In 1941, Mine A closed on the last day of March. This was the usual custom of this mine when it was operated by William Ryan. I went into [redacted] I was busy and did not keep posted too much on what the men were doing. I went to the meetings, and did whatever activity was necessary.

"One day after an announcement in the paper that Elshoff had purchased Ryan's interest in Mine A, [redacted] and ran into [redacted]

[redacted] These men asked me if I was going to the Union meeting at Redman's hall. I asked them what the meeting was going to be held at Redman's hall when the Progressives had a hall of their own. They told me that they could not get any justice at the Progressives. Before that I had heard rumors among the men that Elshoff and Mine B was driving an entry from Mine B into Mine A, and were going to operate Mine A from Mine B. The men who were working in Mine B used to come out and tell us about that. I asked these men why they were going to have a meeting, and whether they wanted to go out of the

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

Progressives. They said no, that they just wanted to find out about their jobs at Mine A.

"I do not recall exactly what happened at the first meeting we held after that. It was held at the Progressive Hall. I do not think that a meeting was held at Redman's hall. I know that [REDACTED] and these others, and other men talked at the meeting about the entry being driven from Mine B into Mine A, and the possibility of mining Mine A from mine B. They said then that they did not think that we would be able to get our jobs back because of that. They said that they thought that if we joined the United Mine Workers, that Mine A would be reopened and not be mined through Mine B. I do not recall that they quoted anyone as having said that, but that was the general consensus of opinion. It was common knowledge that the entry was being driven from B to A. At that meeting a committee was elected to go to see Elshoff and find out what was going to happen to Mine A. I do not recall who was on that committee. I know I was elected to the committee. It was to meet at the union hall at 10AM on one day, and we were to all go out together. When I got to the hall, two of committee had already gone out, because they thought that the UMW was going to keep them from going at 10. [REDACTED] a P.M. board member, but not a member of local #51 went, and someone else. I do not recall who that was. I do not know what results they had in their conference with Elshoff. I do not think they saw Elshoff, but did see Falcetti. I do not recall what Falcetti told them.

"By the next meeting, [REDACTED] had talked to all of the men. They all thought that they would not get their jobs back, and there was a lot of trouble keeping order at the meeting.

"All of the men seemed all set to go over and join the UMW then. I do not think that there were more than about 30 of us who were not. There was no violence at that meeting, but there was a lot of confusion. I do not recall the details. I do not think anything else happened until the meeting of the men at the K of C hall. I did not go to that meeting, because I knew it was to join the UMW, and I had said that I would never join the UMW.

"I had intended to go back to work at Mine A when it reopened, [REDACTED] When the local went UMW, I would not go back, because I knew that I could not work under those conditions. I had heard about what had happened at Mine B and how the company had favored UMW members, and knew that I would not be able to get a good room, track, etc., if I went to work at Mine A under the same company, so I did not go back. I thought my rights had been violated, and taking away my right to work at Mine A under the conditions that I could work there.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"Before Elshoff bought Mine A there was no dis-  
session as far as I know about the union, and there  
was no activity to join any other union. It was the  
story that was passed around about the entry being  
driven from Mine B into Mine A, and the operation from B, and the story that  
if they joined the U.M. Mine A would be reopened, that caused the men to  
change.

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

/S/ [REDACTED]

/S/ [REDACTED] F.B.I.

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



Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents R [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at Springfield, Illinois, on September 18, 1943:

At his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, agents interviewed [REDACTED] who advised he has no criminal record. It was noted he is rather illiterate and it is felt he would make a poor witness unless his testimony is necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following statement which he signed with an "X":

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

"I, [REDACTED] give the following information to [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the FBI. No threats or force has been used to get me to give this information. I was born in Lithuania [REDACTED] now & I came to U. S. in [REDACTED] became a citizen [REDACTED] at Springfield, Ill. I have been at Mine A since [REDACTED] & am still there as a diggor. I went to P.M.A. in 1932 as whole local went over then. I read in the paper that Elshoff bot Mine A & nobody felt good then and we all were scared & felt we would have no jobs. No one came & saw me about going over to U.M.W. I heard that Elshoff might take coal from Mine A thru Mine B & that they would connect the two mines & if we wanted to work we would leave to join U.M.W. & I think it was just a scare then & I was scared too as I had not worked for a long time. Heard this from the miners. I also heard from other miners that Elshoff would only open Mine A as U.M.W. & I also heard this at some meeting I think and I felt I would be out of a job. I never went to any of the meetings at Redman's but did go to meeting at Elks Club. There they said Mine A would be reopened if we went back to U.M.W. I heard about the meeting from a couple of other miners on a Sunday. [REDACTED] was in charge of the meeting. We all stood up & voted & I did because all the others did and I felt if it was good enough for the others it was good enough for me. I never belonged to any committees. We all signed up on some blank at the Elks Club. I went directly home from there. Since U.M.W. have been at Mine there is no difference - same as before under P.M.A. & I had no complaints against P.M.A. while they were there. I have had

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

Agent [REDACTED] read to me this two (2) page statement & it is true & correct to the best of my recollection. I have signed this of my own free will.

"Witnesses.

"X X

The mark of [REDACTED] made in the presence of [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

[REDACTED] (signed)

Spec. Agt. FBI

[REDACTED] (signed)

Special Agent, F.B.I.

St. Paul, Minn.

"Springfield, Ill.  
Sept. 18, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Illinois on September 14, 1943. He was very cooperative and seemed to be above the average in intelligence, although his information was very limited. He would be a good witness insofar as his statements made in the following signed statement are concerned.

"Sept. 14, 1943

[REDACTED] 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 on [REDACTED] in Illinois and presently reside at [REDACTED]. I am presently employed at [REDACTED]. I first started working in [REDACTED] and joined the UMW at that time. I started working at Mine A in 1939 and was there until the first of 1943. I was working at Panther Creek in 1932 when the state went progressive so I just signed up with progressive. I didn't have anything to do with the start of progressive.

"Everything was going along fine at Mine A when Elshoff bought the mine from Ryan. I got a letter from Ryan telling me he had sold the mine & at first I thought nothing about it. I believe this was in the early fall of 1941. I know that the progressive union held some meetings after the sale was announced, but I didn't attend any of the meetings. I was living in Auburn at that time and that's one of the reasons why I didn't go to any of the meetings.

"All I know is that the majority of men in progressive had signed up with United at a meeting at the Elks. It was some time after this that I heard the men had all gone United & that if I wanted to work I had to sign up. I had heard that Elshoff had made the remark that if the mine hadn't gone United, the mine wouldn't have opened, but I do not have any other information about this. I went down to the United Hall and signed up just before the mine opened in the fall. I was not forced to sign up & nobody ever threatened me to sign.

"I do not know any of the details of any of the meetings held by progressive in the fall of 1941 and joined United because I wanted to be sure of a job.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

(Continued)

"I have read over this statement of 2 pages  
and I wish to state it is true to the best of  
my memory.

/s/

"Witnesses:

/s/

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

[redacted] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] at his residence, [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, on September 18, 1943. He appeared reluctant to answer any questions, advising that he had no information. However, he agreed to furnish a statement which is 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 was born in [redacted] entered the United States in [redacted] and obtained my citizenship through my father [redacted] who was naturalized in the State of Pennsylvania, City and date not known.

"I am presently employed at Mine A. I started working in this mine about three or four months before Elshoff bought it in 1941 and have worked there since that time. When I started working there I was a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to as the UMW. I joined with the majority.

"I did not notice any change in working conditions under Elshoff. I did not care which union I joined. Both were the same to me. Mr. Ryan sent me a letter and said the mine had been sold to Elshoff. I would just as soon work under Elshoff as Ryan.

"I attended none of the meetings during the period the PMA members were trying to decide whether to stay in the union or join the UMW.

"I am a digger at Mine A now. I know nothing about the union troubles at the mine during the time of the change of operators and change of unions.

"I recall now that I went to the meeting of the PMA at the Elks Club in September, 1941. Ray Edmonson of the UMW said that if we wanted to join the UMW, the mine would open soon, but if we did not, maybe the mine would not open. So we all joined the UMW. I think I saw Edmonson at the meeting from the time it started. I never saw Edmonson before that time and I do not know if I would recognize him now if I saw him. I was not on any committee. I never heard Elshoff would try to operate Mine A through mine B, but I did hear miners say Elshoff would not open the mine unless the men joined 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]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 16, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is presently employed at Mine A as a digger, and [REDACTED] readily answered questions, but always favored the UMW. He cannot read the English language, therefore, [REDACTED] read him the following statement which he executed:

"Springfield, Illinois  
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, U. S. Department of Justice.

"I was born in [REDACTED], entered the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized at Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED]

"I am presently employed at Mine A as a digger. I started working at Mine A about 1935 and have worked there since that time.

"It makes no difference which union I work under [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

"I saw a notice in the newspapers in 1941 that Elshoff had bought Mine A from Mr. Ryan. It made no difference to me whether Ryan operated the mine or Elshoff.

"The working conditions at Mine A were just as good under the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA, as they are now under the UMW and no better.

"No one ever talked to me about my joining the UMW.

"When Elshoff bought Mine A the miners were saying that he would operate Mine A through Mine B. I did not know whether Elshoff would do this or not. It seemed like the miners thought he would. I thought that since the UMW had the bargaining rights at Mine B, the Mine A miners would have to join UMW if that mine was going to operate through Mine B. I joined the UMW in 1941 because everyone else did. It did not make any difference to me. I just wanted to keep my job and the reason I joined the UMW was because I wanted to continue working and everyone else was going over to that union.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I attended at least one of the PMA meetings at the PMA Hall when Elshoff bought the mine. The President of the Local PMA, [REDACTED], presided over the meeting. I heard about this meeting from the miners. I do not remember what the President said. The idea of the meeting was to find out if Elshoff would recognize the PMA at Mine A.

"The PMA Pit Committee was supposed to go to Elshoff to see if he would recognize the PMA. All three of the members of this committee refused to do this. They did not want to have any meeting with Elshoff.

"The miners then elected a six man committee to go to Elshoff. This committee went downstairs in the PMA Hall and tried to get Elshoff on the telephone. I do not remember if they talked to him or not.

[REDACTED]  
were some of the miners on this committee.

[REDACTED] told me that night that when he went into a room at the PMA Hall to use the telephone, [REDACTED] a PMA member, stopped him in the hallway and wanted to talk to him. [REDACTED] told him to wait until he had finished talking on the telephone. When [REDACTED] left the telephone and came back in the hallway [REDACTED] and some more men were waiting for him and [REDACTED] pushed [REDACTED] around. I do not know why.

[REDACTED] and some of the other committeemen who were supposed to call Elshoff were hit and beaten up when they came from the telephone. I did not see this myself. I only heard about this. I do not know why this happened. Only two members of this committee came back to the meeting. These six committeemen had volunteered to talk to Elshoff. [REDACTED] did not tell me whether any of the committee had been able to get Elshoff on the telephone or what was said if he did. At this meeting, the secretary of the PMA came into the meeting and said that everyone who was going back to the UMW was a scab and told them to "get the hell out of here." I understood this to mean to get out of the PMA Hall. Everyone kept quiet. The secretary had a bunch of men with him. He came into the meeting just after the fight downstairs in the Hall.

"I attended the meeting at the Redman's Hall. A man named [REDACTED] was in charge of the meeting. The miners all said they wanted to join the UMW. The idea of having the meeting at Redman's Hall was to get together and leave the PMA union. As far as I know, there were no UMW men at this meeting. [REDACTED] started the meeting at Redman's Hall. [REDACTED] was not at the Redman's Hall meeting, neither was [REDACTED] (phonetic). The six committeemen referred to above



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Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] were at the Redman's Hall meeting. It looked like all of the miners who wanted to join the UMW went to the Redman's Hall meeting.  
(continued)

"I attended the Elks Club meeting. By that time most of the miners had decided to join the UMW. [REDACTED] (last name not recalled) was in charge of this meeting. He made the motion to have the group of miners at the meeting join the UMW. I do not remember if anyone called Edmonson of the UMW, but he came to the meeting when it was nearly over.

"He made a little speech and said he was glad everyone wanted to come back to the UMW. I did not see Elshoff or Falcetti at any of these meetings and never heard they were there. I saw no UMW men at these meetings.

"Edmonson said Mine A would open right away.

"I was not on any committees at these meetings.

"I think working conditions at Mine A are better now than they were under the PMA.

"I do not read English so I have had [REDACTED] read this statement to me which consists of four and one quarter pages and it is true.

/s/ [REDACTED]

WITNESSED:

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

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

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

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

At the residence of [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, Agents interviewed him and he advised he never has been arrested in his life.

[REDACTED] He appeared to be a very intelligent individual and has a wonderful voice and readily furnished all information he possessed concerning Mine A. It is felt that he would make a very good witness if his testimony is necessary.

Agents obtained from him the following signed statement:

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

"I, [REDACTED] give the following statement to [REDACTED] who are known to me to be Special Agents of the FBI. No threats or promises have been made me to procure this statement and I give it of my own free will. I was born in [REDACTED] I joined the U.M.W. in about [REDACTED] when it was first formed. I have worked for the Union under Harrington. [REDACTED] I went to work at Mine A about the time it was opened I worked there for the last [REDACTED] years up until about [REDACTED] years ago.

"In 1932 when there was a split and the P.M.A. was formed I did all I could to get the men to break away from U.M.W. and join P.M.A. I attended some meeting of P.M.A. from 1932 to 1941 but I was not so active as I should. The union at that time was a miners union and the miners were satisfied with it. It was the general policy for Mine A to shut down each spring and to reopen each fall. Prior to 1941 I knew of no movement to return to U.M.W. or of any group that wanted such a change. A fellow named [REDACTED] and one I believe named Cudde Baumgarner of Lawson, came to me about 2 or 3 weeks before the switch back to U.M.W. and told me that if we would change back to U.M.W. that mine would open. Baumgarner told me that Falsetti had told him that if we would go over to U.M.W. the mine would reopen at once. They did not tell me that if we didn't return to the U.M.W. Mine A would be operated through Mine B but I heard conversation to that effect. After they told me this Baumgarner suggested we tried to get up a meeting.

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

[REDACTED] and I went around and contacted all the men we knew and got up a meeting, this was held I believe at P.M.A. Hall. I did not get to this meeting it broke up in an argument before I got there. The officers of local 51 P.M.A. had heard of it and broke it up before I got there, the progressives never interfered with any meeting [REDACTED]. After this [REDACTED] contacted me again and we organized another meeting, this was held upstairs on Monroe St. in some hall. This meeting went off quietly but we did not have enough there to decide anything all the men there were from Mine A. Edmundson did not attend any of these meetings and neither Baumgarner or [REDACTED] made any talks, they were both very poor at this. No one else contacted me from U.M.W. and I never saw Edmundson until we called him in to organize us after the meeting at the Elks Club. After the second meeting we organized a big meeting which we held at the Elks Club, this was the meeting at which the men voted to join U.M.W. I think the men voted to change back to the U.M.W. because they were afraid that Mine A would be kept closed and coal removed from it through Mine B. I know I told them this, it was what I had heard and believed, I think Baumgarner was the one who told me. I think [REDACTED] were sincere in what they had told me and were only trying to keep their job. I don't think this goes back any farther than [REDACTED] and myself. I don't believe that Falsetti, Elshoff or John Lewis had anything to do with it. I tried to influence the men to go back to U.M.W. because I did not want to see what had happened at Mine B happen at Mine A. I didn't want to see any things brought in and any men beat. I told the men this in a talk I gave to them, I don't believe the same thing happened here as happened at Mine "B", I think it was just the way things turned out. I worked as hard as anyone to get them to return, I never got one cent for this.

"We went around and got all the men to come to the meeting at the Elks, I was in bed but I went down [REDACTED] we elected officers and everything right at that meeting. At the meeting we took a standing vote all [REDACTED] were in favor but one, I had told the men we were there to vote on whether or not we were to return to U.M.W., I hurried this through because I heard Keck, Pres. of P.M.A. had a couple of men there to place a motion to postpone action and I wanted to head them off. After the vote we elected officers and then a man said that Edmundson was ready to swear us in to U.M.W. I appointed he and another fellow to go get Edmundson and they were there in about 5 minutes. After he got there Edmundson gave a short talk he said very little. There were a couple of fellows running to Edmundson and keeping him advised, but I don't think that even they were paid anything as they were always the ones to suggest passing the hat for a collection to pay rent on the hall and if they had been paid they would probably have paid such expenses themselves. Two or three of the P.M.A. local 51 officers went

JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

over as officers in the newly formed U.M.W. local. After the meeting Edmundson said he would arrange for Elshoff to meet with the officers as soon as he could, they met that night but I did not go with them. neither did I go to the Leland Hotel that night. This meeting was on Sunday and I believe the mine opened the following Tuesday. I worked [REDACTED] then quit because I was sick. There was nothing that happened at any time that made me suspicious of events that took place in regards to this switch-over. I did not at the time know where Elshoff got the money to purchase Mine A.

"I have had Agent [REDACTED] read this 6 page statement to me and it is all true and correct and as I told it to the Agents.

"I want to correct this statement to add that Edmundson was brought to the meeting right after the vote was taken and before the officers were elected, as soon as he came in I told him that before we went any further I wanted to ask him a few questions. I asked him if he could guarantee that he could get Mine "A" started. He said, "Yes Sir, if they don't start Mine "A" I'll shut down Mine "B". Nothing else happened that was of interest except that Edmundson and a couple of other big fellows he had with him were there during the election of officers.

"Agent [REDACTED] has read all of this to me including the addition and it is all correct and as I told it to Agents. It consists in all of seven pages. I am signing this of my own free will.

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Special Agent, F.B.I.,  
St. Paul, Minn.  
Springfield, Ill  
Sept. 10, 1943"

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] Illinois, was interviewed at his residence on September 14, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED] is employed as a digger by the [REDACTED] Illinois. He speaks and understands English well, but he is not very intelligent and would not make a satisfactory witness. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and stated he has never been arrested.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

[REDACTED] Ill.  
Sept. 14, 1943

"I, [REDACTED] 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 am presently employed as a digger at the [REDACTED], Ill. I first started working in coal mines when I was [REDACTED], Ill. I joined the United Mine Workers of America Union in about [REDACTED] I first started to work at the Mine "A" in Springfield in about 1936. I was then a member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America Union. I had joined PMA in 1932 because the whole local went PMA from UMW. I did not work in the mines from 1932 to 1936.

"I liked the PMA and was satisfied with it. I thought it was an honest union.

"In the fall of 1941 I read and heard that Elshoff bought Mine "A" from Ryan. The fellows from PMA who I talked to felt that Elshoff would not operate Mine "A" except under UMW. Because of the trouble there had been at Mine "B". I felt we would have to join UMW if we wanted to work at Mine "A". I never heard anything about anyone saying that the company would operate Mine "A" thru Mine "B". I heard the PMA men say if we did not join UMW we would not get our jobs back and I did not want to be out of a job.

"No one from UMW tried to get me to join UMW, and no one from the company told me I would have to join UMW to work at Mine "A". I didn't know there were any union meetings after the mine was bought by Elshoff until I read in the paper that there was going to be a meeting at the Elks Club in Springfield on a Sunday.

[REDACTED] was in charge of this meeting. All the men

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

          were talking that if we did not change to UMW we would not get to work. We voted then to go UMW. No one forced or threatened us, or me, in any way, and no one from the company or no one from UMW talked to us and no one told us we had to join UMW. I voted to go over to UMW. After the vote Edmundson came and talked to us, but I do not remember what he said. I went right home after the meeting. I signed for UMW right after the election.

          "I didn't make any difference to me whether I was PMA or UMW. I just wanted to do what most of the men in the local wanted to do. I did not want any trouble and I thought the best thing to do to avoid trouble was to do what the majority did, which was to go over to UMW. I was satisfied working under UMW at Mine "A".

          "I quit working at Mine "A" in the fall of 1942 because the mine is too far away & I wanted to work closer to home. I joined PMA in Sept. of 1942 so I could work at [REDACTED]. It makes no difference to me what union I belong to. This statement of three pages has been 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]

[REDACTED] was jointly interviewed by Special Agents [REDACTED] at his residence [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. He appeared willing to fully answer the questions put to him, but his age and lack of interest in the affairs of the unions involved in this matter prevented the taking of a complete statement including the pertinent facts involved. He would not make an acceptable witness for these reasons.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statements:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 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 in [REDACTED] entered the United States in [REDACTED] and was naturalized at Springfield, Illinois on [REDACTED] I [REDACTED] and living at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois.

"The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the UMW. I joined this union at the Jefferson Mine, Springfield, Ill. in [REDACTED]

"I started working at Mine A about [REDACTED] I worked there continuously until 1941.

"It made no difference to me whether I worked under the Progressive Mine Workers of America which will be referred to hereinafter as the PMA or the UMW. It was all right as far as I am concerned when the PMA organized at Mine A and the UMW lost their bargaining rights in 1932.

"I left the mine about six weeks after Elshoff leased the mine and took Mr. Ryan's place as operator.

"I saw a notice in the newspaper that Elshoff was the new operator at Mine A.

"I did not attend many PMA or UMW meetings. I did not attend any meetings in the Fall of 1941 when the question arose as to whether the mine would be operated under the PMA or UMW with Elshoff as the operator.

"I have never held a union office and in the last few years I have had no interest in mine unions. I was a coal digger in Mine A. I always



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

voted with the majority, and when Elshoff took charge of the mine in the Fall of 1941 I joined the UMW. No one spoke to me to get me to join, but out at the mine I heard the miners say they were joining the UMW, so I did too, in order to keep my job.

"I stopped working at Mine A because of my health and age. I liked the UMW and the PMA. I do not favor either one over the other.

"I never heard that Elshoff would favor the UMW over the PMA. I do not know of any talk among the miners that they would have to join UMW because of Elshoff. All I know was that the men seemed to want to change over to the UMW, so I did.

"I attended none of the PMA meetings at the PMA Hall or the meetings at the Redman' Hall or Elks Club, Springfield, Illinois."

/s/ [REDACTED]

"WITNESSED:

[REDACTED]  
Special Agent F.B.I.

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed on September 14, 1943 at [REDACTED] Illinois by Special Agents [REDACTED] was friendly and cooperative and would make a satisfactory witness to testify to those matters set forth in the following statement which he executed.

[REDACTED] Ill.  
Sept. 14, 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 induce me to make any statement.

"I was born on [REDACTED] and presently have as my address, [REDACTED] I have been a miner practically all my life and first joined the U.M.W. in about [REDACTED] I have never held any union office in any union. I am presently employed at the [REDACTED] in Springfield. I started working at Mine A in 1939 and left the mine in June of 1943.

"I was a member of progressive when I went to Mine A and as far as I'm concerned all the unions are alike. I don't know of any difference between U.M.W. and progressive.

"I remember that I got a letter from Ryan saying that he had sold Mine A to Elshoff. I thought at first that Elshoff would shut down Mine A and just operate B. I thought I would be out of a job and I know a lot of the men felt that way. I know that Progressive had several meetings in Springfield after the mine was sold, but I never attended any of those meetings except the meeting at the Elks Club. I lived in Livernor and didn't have much chance to go to meetings.

"At the meeting at the Elks Club we were led to believe that if the mine wasn't operated by men in the U.M.W. the progressive men wouldn't be able to work Mine A. I had heard before the meeting that there was a rumor to the effect that Mine A was going to be operated through Mine B. I had also heard that Mine B might be operated through Mine A. It was at this meeting that all our men voted by a standing vote to go over to United. I guess all the men felt they would join whichever union operated the mine. I recall that Edmondson talked to us at that time after we had voted. He was called to the hall when the men asked for some assurance that the mine would operate if they all signed with U.M.W.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"Edmondson came to the hall & told us that if all the men went united he would get in contact with Elshoff and felt that the mine would open. As I recall it now we all filed up in front

after Edmondson's talk and signed some papers for United. I signed at that time because I felt the mine wouldn't operate unless the men joined united. I think that I felt at the time that because Elshoff had bought the mine there was a great possibility of the mine being operated by the U.M.W. I don't believe I would have felt so sure of that fact if a stranger had bought the mine.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

/s/ [REDACTED]

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

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] as jointly interviewed  
[REDACTED] by Special Agents [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] at his residence, [REDACTED],  
Springfield, Illinois on September 16, 1943. He appeared willing to  
answer the questions put to him but took the attitude of a smart-aleck.  
His appearance is fair, and he is alert, however, he did not attend any  
of the pertinent meetings and though he furnished the following statement,  
he generally had no information to offer. He declined to affix his  
signature to the statement, which has been properly witnessed by the  
interviewing agents:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 16, 1943

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

"I was born [REDACTED] I am  
presently employed in Mine A as a company man, and live at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I have been employed at Mine A  
since about [REDACTED]

"The first mine union I ever joined was the United Mine Workers  
of America, which will hereinafter be referred to as the UMW. I joined  
this union about [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I never  
have held a position in a union. I started to work at Mine A under  
the UMW. I do not remember what job I had at the mine at that time.

"It made no difference to me in 1932 which union got the  
bargaining rights. I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America  
which will hereinafter be referred to as the PMA, at Mine A in 1932 with  
the rest of the miners. No one compelled me to, but I know that the  
majority was going that way, so I joined too.

"I know that Elshoff was going to take the mine over from  
Ryan in 1941. I learned this in the newspapers. I know then that  
we would all have to change back to the UMW because of the situation  
that had existed at Mine B under Elshoff. As far as I know Elshoff  
wanted the UMW in his mines.

"All of the miners were talking the same way. I did not care  
myself. I would just as soon work under the UMW as the PMA and the  
miners I talked to felt the same way.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH

(continued)

"I had been satisfied working under the PMA at Mine A and as far as I know the same applied to the other miners.

"I have never been approached by UMW organizers to get me to join that union.

"I never heard that Elshoff might try to operate Mine A through Mine B.

"I heard nothing to the effect that Elshoff would more readily open the mine if the men joined the U.M.W.

"I heard that there were union meetings at the PMA Hall, Redman's Hall, and the Elk's Club, Springfield, Ill. I did not attend any of those meetings. I do not know what went on at the meetings or what was decided. I never heard there were any fights at any of those meetings and I do not know who led the discussions or what the issues were.

"I voluntarily joined the UMW in 1941. No threats were made to me. It made no difference whether I worked there as a member of the PMA or UMW. I was only interested in keeping my job there.

admitted correctness of the above statement after reading same on 9-16-43 but declined to sign.

WITNESSED:

Special Agent F.B.I.

Special Agent, F.B.I."

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence on September 15, 1943 by Special Agents [REDACTED]. This individual is presently employed at Mine A as a digger. He attended all of the four meetings of the PMA in September 1941 prior to the miners at Mine A joining the UMW, but he knew very few details of the meetings, stating he willingly joined the UMW as the job was more important than the union. He executed the following statement.

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 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 reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed as a mine digger at Mine A. I have worked at that mine since [REDACTED]. I was born on [REDACTED]. The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at Mine A, Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED]. I was working at Mine A in 1932 when it went to the PMA. I joined the PMA with the majority of the miners at that time. I am referring to the Progressive Mine Workers of America, which I shall refer to as the PMA. No one forced me to join the PMA. It did not make any difference to me which union had the bargaining rights at mine A. In 1941 I learned through the newspapers that Elshoff had bought Mine A.

"I did not care who owned the mine. I had to work just the same. As far as I knew, the working conditions and the labor problems under the PMA at Mine A were satisfactory. No UMW organizers tried to get me to join the UMW. I heard the report that Elshoff might operate Mine A through Mine B. I did not believe this report. I also heard some statement to the effect Elshoff would open Mine A on the condition that the miners joined the UMW. Keeping in mind the trouble the PMA had had at Mine B, I figured the miners would have to join the UMW or the mine would stay closed. As far as I was concerned, due to work being scarce, I wanted to join the UMW to get work. At the same time, I want to say that I like the PMA, but the job was the main thing.

"It was my opinion before the PMA meeting in September, 1941, that the miners would join the UMW.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(Continued)

"I attended four PMA meetings in September, 1941 when the miners were discussing joining the UMW. Two of these meetings were at the PMA Hall, one at Redman's Hall and one at the Elks Club. I learned of these meetings through the newspapers and through the miners.

"At the first meeting at the PMA Hall, the President of the local was in charge. I do not remember what was decided. There were no UMW men present and no fights. At the Second meeting, at the PMA Hall, I believe the Pit committee was asked to determine when the mine would open and under what conditions. I do not recall who was on the committee.

"At the meeting at Redman's Hall, [REDACTED] (phonetic), was in charge. [REDACTED] told us he had talked to Falcetti and that the prospects of the mine opening again looked better if the miners joined the UMW.

"All there was at the Redman's Hall meeting was the report of the committee. There were no arguments. The men present were all members of the PMA local.

"At the Elks Club meeting I am not sure who was in charge. There was little discussion before the vote. There was a standing vote in favor of joining the UMW. After the vote, we sent for Edmundson. Edmundson made a talk telling about the rights and power the UMW local would have. After that, we signed our applications to join the UMW. Edmundson brought a man who I think was his secretary, who helped with the application forms. As far as I knew, there were no UMW organizers at the meeting. I voluntarily joined the UMW. No one influenced me.

"The conditions at mine A have not changed under the UMW as far as I can see.

"I have carefully read and fully understand the two and a half pages of this statement and it is true 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]

[REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois was jointly interviewed by [REDACTED] Special Agents [REDACTED] at his residence on September 15, 1943. Due to his age he is not mentally alert, but appeared willing to answer the questions put to him. His appearance is unfavorable. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 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 reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I am presently employed at Mine A as a digger. I was born on [REDACTED] I arrived in the United States in [REDACTED] I was naturalized in Springfield, Illinois in [REDACTED] The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, in [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. I worked in several mines at Springfield as a member of the UMW and went to work at Mine A about [REDACTED] as a member of the UMW. I have worked in this mine continuously until the present time.

"I voluntarily joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, at Mine A in 1932, when the majority of the miners voted to join the PMA. It made no difference to me which union had the bargaining rights. I just wanted to work. After 1932 I felt the same way about this.

"I heard that Carl Elshoff bought Mine A in 1941 and I saw a notice in the newspaper. Also, Mr. Ryan sent me a letter saying he had sold the mine. It did not make any difference to me who operated the mine. The working conditions at the mine are about the same at the mine under the UMW as they were under the PMA. No UMW organizers contacted me. I never heard any rumor that Elshoff planned to operate Mine A through Mine B, or that the miners had to join the UMW before Elshoff would open Mine A.

When Mine A employees, or miners, talked about going to join the UMW in 1941, they had four meetings. Two of these meetings were held at the PMA Hall, and one at Redmans Hall and one at the Elks Club. I knew about these meetings by the newspapers. At both the first and second meetings at the PMA Hall, the President of the PMA local was in charge. I do not remember what was decided. As far as I know, there were no UMW organizers present at these meetings. There were no fights as far as I know, there were no UMW organizers present. I do not know what was discussed because it was so long ago.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"I also attended the meeting at the Elks Club. I cannot remember who was in charge of this meeting. I recall having heard from the miners that it was necessary for us to join the UMW. There was a standing vote. As far as I know, there were no UMW members in the hall during this meeting. All I know about this meeting is that I joined the UMW during this meeting. I was not on any committees.

"I have read and understand this statement of two pages and it is 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] Street, Springfield, Illinois, was jointly interviewed at his residence by Special Agents [REDACTED] on September 17, 1943. [REDACTED] is presently employed at [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois. He had little understanding of the matter under inquiry, only went to the Elks Club meeting and was not mentally alert. He made the following statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 17, 1943

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

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I am employed at [REDACTED] I was born on [REDACTED] I was employed at Mine A from [REDACTED] until April, 1942. The first mine union I joined was the UMW at Mine A. When Mine A went over to the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA, in 1932, I went with the majority as I was glad to get away from John L. Lewis. I was satisfied with the PMA.

"In 1941, when Elshoff bought Mine A, I heard about it by word of mouth. I felt I would rather have worked for Mr. Ryan because I knew he was good to work for. I thought we would have to join the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW to keep our jobs because Elshoff was the operator of Mine B which was signed up with the UMW. No one tried to get me to join the UMW. I liked the working conditions at Mine A under the PMA. I heard the rumor that Elshoff would operate Mine A through Mine B but I did not believe it. I heard a rumor he would open Mine A on the condition the miners joined UMW. I believed this because I think the same union is in all mines under the same operators. He had Mine B under the UMW, and would probably want Mine A under the same union.

"The only PMA meeting I attended when the Mine A miners were talking about what to do about joining the UMW, was at the Elks Club in September, 1941. I learned of the meeting from the other miners.

[REDACTED] (phonetic) presided at the meeting. There were no UMW organizers present. I do not remember what was said. The vote was in favor of the UMW, and Edmundson was called into the meeting to ake the miners in as a UMW local. He came with another man who I did not know, and he made a talk, but I don't remember what he said.

Re: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"We signed UMW application cards. I was not on any committee and had no contact with any union officials.

"The working conditions for me were about the same under both unions, as far as I could determine.

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

[REDACTED]

"Witnessed:

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

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

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH

was interviewed

at his residence, [REDACTED]  
Springfield, Illinois, by Special Agents  
[REDACTED] on September 15, 1943.

He appeared alert and willingly answered the questions put to him. He furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, Illinois  
September 15, 1943.

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

"I reside at [REDACTED] Springfield, Ill. I am presently employed at Line As an [REDACTED]. I was born at [REDACTED]. The first mine union I joined was the United Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the UMW, at [REDACTED] Ill., at the [REDACTED]. From [REDACTED] until about 1934, I worked in mines in the State of Illinois and started working at Mine A about 1934. I have worked there continuously until the present time.

"I joined the Progressive Mine Workers of America, referred to hereinafter as the PMA when I started working at Mine A. I did this voluntarily, because I left Peabody Mine #59 as they had imported into that mine too many strange UMW miners. They weren't very friendly. I did not take part in the formation of the PMA. It made no difference to me which union I worked under as my work remains the same. I follow the majority in these matters.

"I first learned Elshoff had purchased Mine A from the newspapers. This made no difference to me. I thought I would have my job anyhow. As far as I know, the conditions at Mine A were satisfactory under the PMA. I went to very few union meetings. No UMW men tried to influence me to join the UMW. I was in a fight at Mine A at one time, but it was a personal matter and had nothing to do with union matters.

"I learned from the mine Superintendent, at Mine A, [REDACTED] that Elshoff planned to operate Mine A through Mine B as he could cut down the overhead expenses by just operating one tippie. It was my understanding that a shot was made to connect the two mines and as a result, an opening was made between the two mines, but the lessor of Mine A objected and would not permit the coal from Mine A to be taken out through Mine B. [REDACTED] told me this in about September, 1942. This is the first knowledge I had of this idea. This made no difference to me as I am the only

RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ET AL.

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]

(continued)

"When Elshoff bought Mine A, I figured it would go UMW, as he had a contract with UMW in Mine B. I understand that the Peabody Coal Co. has a contract with the UMW with all mines they operate and I thought Elshoff had the same. I never heard any rumor about not opening Mine A until the men joined UMW.

"I attend few meetings and do not recall attending any of the PMA meetings in September, 1941 when the miners at Mine A met to discuss joining the UMW. I take all of my own grievances to the superintendent myself. I heard about the meetings from the newspapers and the miners, but I did not attend.

"I joined the UMW at the mine when it opened up under a UMW contract. It makes no difference whether I belong to the UMW or the PMA.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

Witnessed:

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

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



RE: JOHN L. LEWIS, ETAL

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Springfield, Illinois, on the afternoon of September 17, 1943, by Special Agents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has a heavy accent but is not too difficult to understand. He has a rather quiet voice. His mental capacity probably exceeds that of the average miner. He gave information set forth in the following statement:

Springfield, Ill.  
September 17, 1943

"My name is [REDACTED]. I was born in [REDACTED]. I am an American citizen. I am now employed at Mine A. I make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who has identified himself 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 have worked at Mine A for about [REDACTED] years. I was employed at Mine A when RYAN sold the mine to ELSHOFF. Before 1932 we had belonged to the United Mine Workers, and after 1932 the Progressive Mine Workers of America. Soon after the mine was sold, the men changed back again to the UMW.

"I remember reading in the paper that the mine had been sold. Soon after that there was a meeting at the Progressive Hall. We talked about changing that night. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the UMW talked to us that night. As I recall, he told us that ELSHOFF had said that he would open the mine up if we joined the United Mine Workers, and if we did not, he would close Mine A and take the coal out through Mine B. The men at that meeting felt that they wanted to join the UMW. Some men, whom I do not know, came up to the meeting, and said that if we wanted to join the UMW that maybe they would clean out the Progressive Hall. To avoid trouble, that meeting was adjourned then. A couple of days later, we had another meeting at the Red Man's Hall on Monroe Street. [REDACTED] talked to us again that night, and told us that if we joined the UMW that we would not have to pay initiation fees, and that they would take us back as before. He also said that ELSHOFF had told him that if we did not join the UMW that he would take the coal out through Mine B, and we would not have our jobs.

"Soon after that meeting there was another meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall, I think. At this meeting [REDACTED] talked again. EDMUNSON came over to the meeting when the men invited him, and told us that we could go back to the UMW without paying any fees, and that it would all be as before. He said that there might be some trouble, that the PMW



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INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED] men might picket us, but to go on back to work, and we would be alright. He also told us that if we joined the UMW, that he would see to it that Mine A was opened up, because if it was not, he would have the men close down Mine B. We needed to go to work, so we joined the UMW that afternoon.

"Before the sale of the mine, there had been no talk about changing unions. The mine was closed down that summer, but the men had not talked about changing unions. Some of the men were dissatisfied with the PMW because of high check offs, but I think most of them were satisfied with the PMW. I was satisfied with the PMW myself, and would have liked to stay in the Progressive at that time. Now I do not see any difference, but I liked, and I think most of the men, liked the Progressive at that time and wanted to stay in the Progressive Mine Workers of America.

"The conditions at the mine now are about as they were before. I do not see any change as far as that is concerned. I never talked to ELSHOFF myself. All that I know about what he said was what [REDACTED] told us. After the mine reopened, there was not trouble of any kind, and we all went back, and got the same rooms that we had before.

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

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FBI

[REDACTED] FBI"

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