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concern to the Postal Inspection Service, we have for many years cooperated with other federal and local authorities in their efforts to combat the pernicious problem of traffic in drugs. In the past, with the exception of the routine referrals of intelligence to other agencies having more explicit statutory responsibility in this area, our direct participation was confined to an occasional case where the mails were used to transport the drugs. But during the last few years, when the flow of narcotics into this country reached floodlike proportions, our efforts increased proportionately. Witness the fact that in 1967 we investigated 142 drug cases in collaboration with other agencies and made only 68 arrests in postal-related cases. By contrast, in the last fiscal year, our narcotics investigations totaled 3,291, resulting in 912 arrests and 845 convictions. This comparison represents a tremendous increase in the man-hours which our inspectors have devoted to this type of crime. Unhappily, it is also indicative of how serious the problem has become in our society today.

I would like briefly to outline how the inspection service with a complement of some 1,700 inspectors meets not only its unique postal-related responsibilities but also cooperates with other federal law enforcement agencies in a broad exchange of information and assistance.

Our activities fall into three principal categories:

1. The enforcement of postal laws and federal statutes through the investigation and apprehension of persons committing crimes against the Postal Service. This activity occupies over 60 percent of our time.

2. The protection of mail, postal funds, and property through a wide variety of physical security programs and the presence of a uniformed Security Force.
3. The internal audit of all Postal Service financial and non-financial operations.

Some time ago we calculated there were roughly 750 million government checks alone mailed each year and that the value of just Federal Reserve mailings in one year approximated \$25 billion! Obviously, this volume offers an attractive target to those who find stealing from the mails easier than robbing a bank. Add to this the 38,536 postal facilities throughout the United States and the magnitude of our responsibilities comes into sharper focus. To not only halt but also reduce some of the spiraling losses which the Postal Service was experiencing from criminal attacks just a few years ago, we had to take a new and hard look at our traditional approach to problems. Historically, ours was a role which concentrated primarily on the investigation and apprehension of criminals. Now we had to broaden this approach to include a greater emphasis on the protection of the mail, our employees and facilities, through the prevention of postal crimes. This decision resulted in the implementation of various new programs designed to strengthen the overall security given the more than 90 billion letters and parcels which move through the mail stream each year.

Perhaps the greatest innovation in terms of numbers was the creation of a uniformed and what has become today a highly efficient Security Force, comprising some 2,600 men and women. The presence of this guard force at crime-prone locations throughout the country has not only helped to deter would-be criminals; it has also had an incalculable effect on employee safety and morale.