



Investigators taking inventory inside vault for Schedule II drugs, with a representative from the Henry Gilpin Company, Washington, D.C.

time basis to supply continuing expertise and support.

The DIUs are designed to draw on the experience of a varied group of investigators; including those from State regulatory boards, State law enforcement agencies, and DEA. These investigators, when assigned to the DIU, are released from other duties in their respective agencies to enable them to concentrate solely on diversion cases.

To ensure that no single agency has complete control over the unit, a Policy Board is established. Each concerned agency has one voting member on the Policy Board. The Policy Board provides overall direction and support for the unit.

Training is an integral part of the DIU concept. The investigators assigned to the units receive a specialized training course, normally of one-week duration, in the procedures involved in developing criminal cases against violative registrants.

In order to obtain the necessary prosecutive follow-up, special seminars are held by DEA for district attorneys and county prosecutors to school them in the fine points of prosecuting diversion cases. Judges are also invited to

attend these seminars.

The DIU was conceived as a "seed" program. Its objective was to launch the participating State off to a sound start by means of direct Federal funding and support, and ultimately to have a State-sustained, permanent, DIU-type program. The program was initiated on a pilot basis in Texas and Michigan in September 1972 and shortly thereafter in Alabama (December 1972). All three pilot States have endorsed the program and are still operating them under State funding.

Upon success of these pilot programs, plans were made to implement DIUs in seven additional States. These were: California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Florida. All but Florida are still in operation. New Units are now operating in Georgia, New Hampshire, Nevada, Washington, Hawaii, Main, and the District of Columbia. Three more states will join the program in FY-79.

The DIU Program has demonstrated how a concerted effort of highly trained personnel can curtail the diversion of drugs on a State-wide level. The project brings together those independent State agencies that have a role in regulatory drug enforcement into a single, cohesive unit. Each agency contributes specialized skills to the benefit of the other participants in the unit. State police assigned to the units have become expert in the area of regulatory investigations. Likewise, regulatory inspectors have become expert in the techniques of criminal investigation. In effect, a cross-fertilization of experience, training, and knowledge has taken place.

The DIU is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when concerned State agencies unite in a cooperative effort with Federal agencies to suppress the illicit diversion of controlled substances.