

12. Is there a continual program review within the agency, other than the annual budgetary review, to determine more effective and efficient ways to achieve these program objectives?

Through an internal management report prepared and issued monthly, the work of postal inspectors in the criminal, audit inspection and service investigation fields is reviewed. This review is made at both the field and national levels.

The work of internal auditors is reviewed on a continuing basis at the departmental level.

13. To your knowledge, does this program duplicate or parallel work being done by any other agency?

No.

14. Is your organizational structure such that the program is being carried out most efficiently and effectively?

The internal control established within the Bureau assures the efficiency and effectiveness of the program.

15. Are there any outstanding GAO reports on this program? If so, what is the status of the GAO recommendations the report contains?

The GAO recently completed a review of the internal auditing activities in the Post Office Department. In his report of April 12, 1968, to the Congress (B-160759) the Comptroller General stated that " * * * the policies, directives, and responsibilities for the Department's internal audit program, as established by the Postmaster General, are adequate to provide management with independent, objective, and constructive appraisals of the effectiveness and efficiency with which financial and operating responsibilities of the Department are being performed." The Comptroller General stated also that the internal audit responsibilities of the Post Office Department are being carried out in a reasonably satisfactory manner and with sufficiently broad authority to give internal auditors a great deal of independence in the selection of areas for audit and in the scope of audit.

16. What significant problems, if any, are you facing in accomplishing the program objectives?

Recent court decisions have made it essential that a great amount of physical evidence be presented to obtain convictions and this has placed greater demands upon the investigators' time as well as on the scientific personnel in the crime laboratories.

The increasing crime rate is most heavily felt in the areas of burglaries, armed robberies, and theft from privately owned mail receptacles. These crimes require immediate attention and frequently require lengthy investigations. The limited manpower available forces other areas of work to be delayed. In the area of fraud investigations, the schemes being perpetrated are of an extremely complex nature and require extensive investigations and heavy utilization of manpower.

Essential work most adversely affected by the demands made by the criminal investigations is in the area of audit-inspections. It is considered essential that the maintenance of the integrity of the postal accounts and the detection and prevention of deficiencies in post office operations be maintained at the highest level possible.

17. Do you administer any grants, loans, or other disbursed funds related to this program? If so, is the size of your administrative staff commensurate with the magnitude of the outlays?

No.

18. If your appropriations were reduced, how would you absorb the cut—by an overall reduction, or by cutting or curtailing certain activities?

If manpower levels were reduced, the result would be tremendously increased caseload assignments to individual inspectors which they could not possibly handle. The effect of this would be to prohibit timely attention to reported crimes with consequential difficulty in identifying suspects, gathering evidence, and bringing criminals to justice. Adverse public reaction would be inevitable, particularly in the light of already strong public and congressional concern over crime conditions and the need for positive enforcement actions. In the area of mail fraud it would mean that fraud operators would be able to bilk the public of even more money than that which is now being lost each year.

In the area of deemphasis in any reassessments of priorities, cutbacks would have to be made in our audit-inspection program. It is estimated that 60 percent of the program will be completed within 1968 manpower levels. This is not considered to be a satisfactory level of completions. The effects of 48.5 and 40.1 percent completion of the inspection program in fiscal year 1966 and fiscal year 1967