

Reducing Heroin Use and Abuse

Lessons Learned 1976 - 1981

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Former Administrator

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

(January 1976 – July 1981)

Strategy – Goals and Objectives

- Ask DEA Leadership How to Measure Success



Smithsonian Belmont Estate
Maryland

THE ANSWER

Price/Purity

Not number of Arrests

Congressional Support

- House Select Committee on Narcotics
- Senate Oversight Committee on Government Operations
- DEA Foreign Guidelines – Senator Mansfield Amendment

White House Support



Cooperation & Interface with Mexico & Mexico Officials

- Operation Trizo – Aerial Eradication of Poppy Fields in Mexico
- Regular Meetings with Attorney General Ojeda Paullada
- Meeting with President of Mexico – Lopez Portillo



State Department Support

- \$15 Million Per Year for Mexico –
Operation Trizo
- US Embassy in Mexico
 - 30 TDY Agents
 - Mode
 - Ambassador Lacey

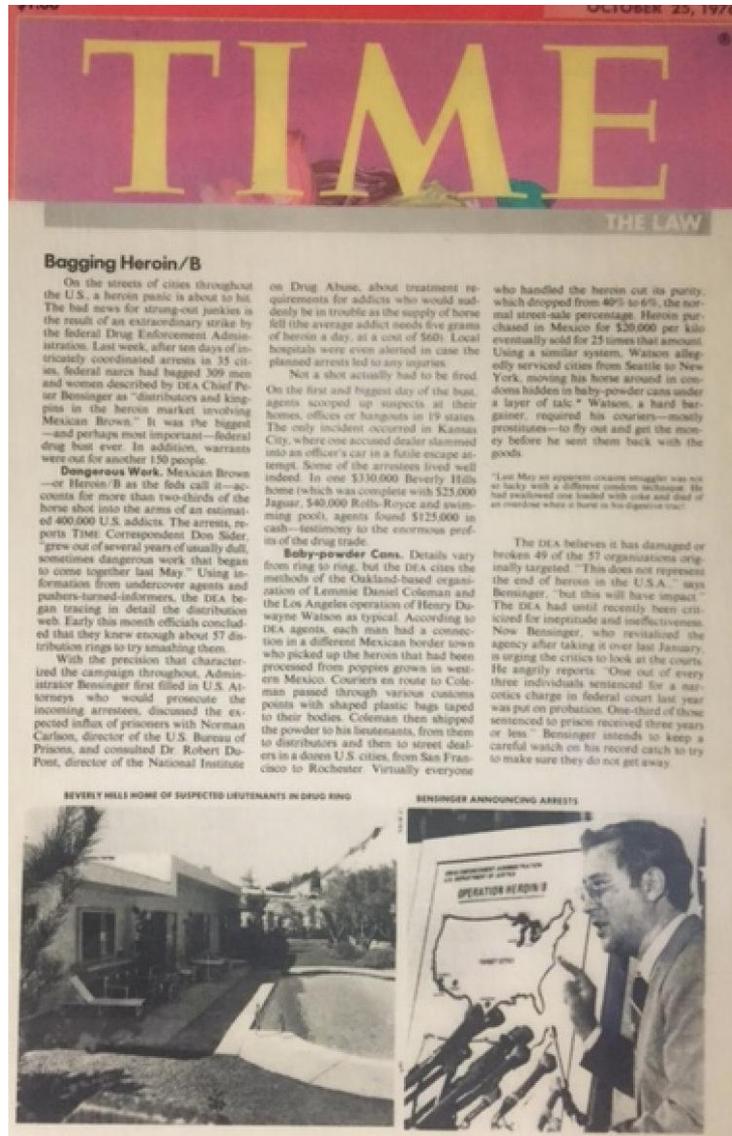
State/Local Cooperation

- IACP / Major City Chiefs
- Narcotic Conferences in United States
- Trips to Mexico by Major City Chiefs

Target Cities - Enforcement

- Chicago
- Los Angeles
- San Diego
- San Antonio
- Phoenix
- Detroit
- New York
- Houston

Operation Heroin B



Operation Heroin B

- October 1976 – Leadership by Irv Swank
– Howard Safir
- Targeting 57 Trafficking Organizations
- Arresting 309 Defendants in 35 Cities

G-DEP/Asset Forfeiture



Outside Support Groups

- Nancy Reagan



- Pope John Paul



Outside Support Groups

- NIDA



- Buddy Gleason/Pride/Families in Action
- Partnership for Drug-Free America

Heroin Overdose Deaths/Purity

- 1976 – 2,000 per year
- 1980 – 800 per year
- Heroin Purity 1976 – 6.5% Retail
- Heroin Purity 1980 – 3.5% Retail
- Estimated Heroin Tons Imported from Mexico
 - * Over 6 Tons – 1976
 - * Approximately 3.5 Tons – 1980

Lessons Learned

- Supply Reduction Worked - Aerial Eradication
- Targeting Major Cartels - Major Round-Up
- State Department Commitment Essential
- Bi-Partisan Congressional Support Essential
- White House Support Essential
- Public Support Essential
- Treatment, Prevention and Research - REINFORCEMENT

Lessons Learned

Where are we Today ?

- Minimal Emphasis on Supply Reduction
- Congressional Support Needed
- State Department Must Play Larger Role
- Support for Public Service Messages on Heroin
- Law Enforcement & Incarceration Essential to Join with Treatment, Prevention and Research