

## DRUG BUST IS AMONG LARGEST IN DETROIT

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, April 24, 1991

Author: DAVID McHUGH Free Press Staff Writer

Police seized cocaine valued at \$15 million to \$20 million at a swank clothing store and a house **in** northwest **Detroit** on Tuesday.

**Detroit** narcotics officers swept down on Brezilian Fashion on 7 Mile Road, one block west of Evergreen, shortly after 12:30 p.m. They seized 23 kilos of cocaine, seven guns and more than \$53,000 **in** cash. Seven men and one woman were arrested, police said. Warrants were being sought.

The **bust** is the **largest in Detroit** since a September raid **in** which 71 kilos were seized.

Police also searched what they called a "blind pig," or illegal club, accessible through a secret door **in** a fitting room wall. Decorated with a chandelier and wall mirrors, the room featured gambling tables and a bar.

Police said that shortly before raiding the store, they arrested a man bringing cocaine there from a house **in** the 8 Mile-Telegraph area. They then raided that house, where they found most of the cocaine.

Cmdr. Rudy Thomas, head of the narcotics division, said the \$15 million to \$20 million figure was conservative. Lt. Clinton Kirkwood described the cocaine as quite pure.

Police were investigating to see whether the building and its contents could be seized under **drug**-forfeiture laws.

Chief Stanley Knox surveyed the scene as officers bustled back and forth between the racks of stylish clothes. Atop one rack, a sign read: "Shoplifting **is** a crime," followed by a promise to prosecute.

\*\*\*

Memo: SEE ALSO METRO FINAL EDITION, Page 1B

Edition: METRO FINAL CHASER

Section: NWS

Page: 1B

Index Terms: DRUG; BUST; ARREST ; STORE ; DETROIT; COMPARISON

Record Number: 9101170100

Copyright (c) 1991 Detroit Free Press