

POLICE SEIZE 71 KILOS OF COCAINE DETROIT OFFICERS SHUT A DRUG 'WAREHOUSE'

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, September 29, 1990

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Detroit **police** lugged **71 kilos of** nearly pure **cocaine** worth as much as \$50 million from a northwest side house Friday in what was called the biggest seizure ever **of** the drug in the city.

"We got the warehouse," Chief William Hart said. "What the narcotics division has done is reach into . . . a single storage area here in the city . . . We've probably shut that down, at least for a while, while they try to re-establish."

After a six-week investigation, an eight-member narcotics crew entered a home in the 19800 block **of** Lahser north **of** 7 Mile Road about 12:15 p.m. and found the **kilos** in a walk-in closet, narcotics Cmdr. Rudy Thomas said.

The dope was packaged in dozens **of** wrapped blocks, some marked with the Spanish words "Azucar" and "Oro," which mean brown sugar and gold.

Thomas said the **cocaine** came from Colombia, Peru and other South American countries and was enough to supply the distribution group for about a month.

No one was in the home during the raid, but **police** later Friday were hunting for several players in the distribution ring, Thomas said.

About 5 p.m., **police** from Detroit and Southfield raided a home in the 25500 block **of** Shiawassee in Southfield, where the conspirators were thought to be, but again found no one. However, about \$15,000 in drug proceeds were confiscated.

"We didn't get any one **of** the main targets," Thomas said. But the suspects are known and "we will find these individuals."

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Record Number: 9002060718

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