

LES AUCOIN
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
June 4, 1981

The Honorable Neal Smith, Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Justice, Commerce, Judiciary
H310 Capitol

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In July, 1980, the California Narcotic Information Network expanded into a multi-state intelligence program, centralized in Sacramento, known as the Western States Information Network (WSIN).

WSIN supports local law enforcement narcotic investigations in the states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington by providing analytical, financial, and equipment services.

There is a crucial need for such assistance. On their own, state and local law enforcement agencies are ill-equipped to fight the increase in drug smuggling. The traffickers respect no city, county, or state boundaries. Judging from the volume of drugs which enter through our major port cities, smugglers cross these boundaries without attracting the suspicions of local law enforcement organizations.

Because of this, it is essential that intelligence reports on these criminal activities be collected, analyzed, and shared throughout the multi-state region. Even while becoming operational, WSIN proved its worth. During the past year, WSIN analysts provided 14 detailed case studies on active narcotic investigations. Of those analytical studies, federal agencies received the benefit of all of them. The resulting savings in police man hours, attorney and court time could easily run into millions of dollars per year.

WSIN has been funded through federal LEAA grants. In its FY82 budget, the Administration has proposed complete elimination of support. The program requires \$2.3 million. Without it, the program dies.

Such a development would be a grave mistake. WSIN is important to the entire region. Without it, these five states would lose an effective tool in the on-going war against narcotic trafficking. We request that you fund a way to keep this valuable program alive.