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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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THREE MORE CITIES DESIGNATED FOR RAT CONTROL DEMONSTRATIONS

Three more cities were designated today by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug as demonstration centers in the National Urban Rat Control Program. They are Baltimore, Md., Shreveport, La., and Jackson, Miss. Corpus Christi, Texas, was designated last week as the first demonstration city.

Twenty six cities will be named for demonstration work in March and April in the fight against the rat. Citizens groups in nearby cities will be invited to observe progress of these demonstrations of rat proofing buildings, proper disposal of garbage and trash, rat killing and municipal administration of inspection and enforcement. Specialists from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will be assigned to the demonstration cities to give expert assistance.

The National Committee for Rat Control, headed by Hamilton M. Warren of New York, vice president of National Carbon Company is leading this drive against rats. "Rats," Warren declared, "are costing this country two billion dollars a year, a large part of it in damage to grain and other foods. Each year rats destroy or contaminate almost half as much grain as we plan to send to hungry Europe this year.

Mayor Thomas d'Alesandro of Baltimore pledged full support to a model rat control program in connection with his objective of making Baltimore the "Cleanest City in the Nation." The municipal rat control unit, under the direction of Dr. Huntington Williams, commissioner of health, who pioneered in using rat poison, will now concentrate on rat proofing buildings and removing rat shelters and food sources. Killing rats, Dr. Williams stated, is no permanent solution; they have to be built out and starved out.

Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University, through studies of municipal rat control by its School of Hygiene and Public Health, has contributed to control of the rat problem which is ever present in this seaport town handling a large portion of the nation's food shipments.

Shreveport, a grain and food storage center, has set aside \$12,000 for a city wide rat control program. A rat proofing ordinance and a permanent program are now in operation by the Shreveport-Caddo Parish Health Unit, directed by Dr. W. J. Sandidge. Mayor Clyde E. Fant requested that Shreveport be selected for the demonstration and pledged the assistance of all facilities of the municipal and parish governments to make the program an outstanding success.

Similar assurances of cooperation have been received from Mayor Leland Speed of Jackson.