



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### 14 RAT CONTROL DEMONSTRATION CITIES NAMED

Fourteen more demonstration cities in the National Urban Rat Control Campaign were announced today by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug, bringing the total to 31. An additional 75 cities of more than 10,000 population are actively participating in the campaign and more responses are coming in daily.

The 14 new demonstration cities are: Logan, Utah; Denver, Colo.; Astoria, Oregon; Bellingham, Wash.; Yakima, Wash.; Middlesboro, Ky.; Raleigh, N.C.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Hartford, Conn.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Bemidji, Minn.; Battle Creek, Mich.; Decatur, Ill.; and Westfield, Mass.

Each of the demonstration cities will serve its surrounding region as a model for rat control operations. Citizen groups from other cities will visit these centers during the campaign months of March and April to observe administration of rat control inspection and enforcement, rat proofing of buildings, removal of food sources and nesting places for rats, and rat killing.

"These cities will demonstrate that it is more economical to control rats than to continue to pay the \$2,000,000,000 rats cost the nation each year," declared Hamilton M. Warren, chairman of the National Committee for Rat Control and vice-president of the National Carbon Co., of New York. "It costs each citizen almost \$20 a year to maintain the present rat population, a luxury that we can ill afford today when prices are so high."

The 17 demonstration cities named previously are: Washington, D. C.; Portland, Me.; Erie, Pa.; Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Passaic, N. J.; Providence, R. I.; Baltimore, Md.; Rochester, N. Y.; Ashland, O.; Toledo, O.; Akron, O.; Cleveland, O.; Cincinnati, O.; Bismarck, N. D.; Jackson, Miss.; Shreveport, La.; Corpus Christi, Tex.

Westfield, Mass., known in the state for its public health leadership, is now conducting a survey to determine the conditions which promote rat infestation and its extent. The next step under the leadership of Mayor Homer E. Bush, will be a clean-up campaign to eliminate the breeding source.

Jacksonville, Fla., which will serve as a demonstration center for Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, has been conducting a rat control program for the last three years which has received national recognition. Its city rat control ordinance is considered a model, and present requests from the community for the services of

the municipal rat control specialists are far ahead of the capacity of the crews to handle them. Mayor Frank C. Whitehead was instrumental in securing an annual budget of approximately \$28,000 for this work which is under the direction of Health Commissioner P. M. Ulsch.

Raleigh, N. C., demonstration center for North Carolina, is already operating a city-county rat control program under the direction of Dr. A. C. Bulla, Wake County Health Officer. The health officer, the Merchants Association, and the Chamber of Commerce were instrumental in inaugurating this program three years ago. Newspapers, civic clubs and Mayor P. D. Snifus are supporting the demonstration campaign.

Middlesboro, Ky., demonstration center for Kentucky, has plans for utilizing the present campaign to develop a permanent rat control program. Frequently during the past years, the municipality under Mayor W. K. Evans has staged clean-up campaigns and periodic rat baitings, ever since the first major step was taken by closing an open rubbish-choked sewer which ran through the town.

Astoria, Ore., an important seaport, is especially interested in the rat problem because the entire city is tunneled with underground passages. The city, under the leadership of its mayor, Dr. Orval Eaton, plans to set up sufficient funds in its July 1 budget to continue the rat control work next year.

Bellingham, Wash., in the western part of the state has already set aside \$160 a month to carry out a continuous rat control program under the administration of Mayor A. H. Howard.

Yakima, Wash., in the eastern part of the state has enlisted the schools and civic organizations behind the rat control program, headed by Dr. Stanley Benner, City-County Health Officer.

Denver, Colo., under Mayor Quigg Newton, has instituted a vigorous rat control program for which civic groups have been campaigning for several years. A clean-up program is already under way. The city has employed several additional rat control experts and has created sanitary fills on the open city dumping ground. A training school for health officers and professional exterminators was held this spring.

Bemidji, Minn., one of the first small towns to carry out a rat control program, is planning an extensive drive in late April, the earliest that favorable weather can be expected. The local newspaper and the town's civic organizations are cooperating in the program, which is directed by Dr. Charles Vandersluis.

Minneapolis, Minn., another city where weather conditions make a late start necessary, is going to emphasize rat control in a clean-up campaign late in April. Intensive project work will follow in May and June, under the direction of Curtis Nelson of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Battle Creek, Mich., a food center particularly interested in the problem, is getting its rat control program under way this week under the direction of Mayor William V. Bailey.

Decatur, Ill., plans to use the national drive as an opportunity to revitalize its local rat control activities carried on during the past year. It passed a new garbage control ordinance and carried on an educational program in the schools.

This month the Boy Scouts will demonstrate methods of controlling rats on dumps and other properties. A committee of property holders will meet with home owners and businessmen to insure their participation in the program. The chairman of the rat control committee is Ray Kileen.

Logan, Utah, a dairying and poultry raising center, has waged a campaign for the last five years each spring under the direction of Evan Western, city health officer. The city plans to amend an ordinance for more effective garbage collection and disposal and to appropriate funds for adequate health department staff to check rat infestation. It also plans a second all-out drive later in the spring.

Hartford, Conn., enlisted the Junior Chamber of Commerce in the drive, after Dr. Alfred L. Burgdorf, city health officer, chairman of the rat control drive, estimated the city's rat population at 90,000. The Chamber plans to demonstrate the latest methods of controlling rats in a test area of five blocks with both residential and business properties.

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