



Handout 3 - Rat Control Rejected

Rat Control Rejected *CQ Almanac 1967*

The House July 20 refused to consider an Administration backed bill (HR 11000) establishing a \$40 million federal grant program to aid localities in controlling and exterminating rats.

Rejection of the bill occurred when the House, by a 176–207 rollcall vote, rejected a resolution that would have permitted formal House debate and action on HR 11000. However, the bill was debated during discussion of the resolution. A majority of Republicans and Southern Democrats voted against the resolution.

The House action drew sharp criticism from President Johnson, who termed the program one of the most important of the Administration's new proposals to improve substandard living conditions in the nation's urban areas. The President issued a strong call to the House to reconsider its action and pass the measure.

House refusal to act on the rat control bill came the day after the chamber had voted overwhelming approval of a bill to prohibit use of interstate facilities with the intent to incite a riot. Supporters of the rat bill contended it was inconsistent to attempt riot control by use of federal powers while rejecting measures which would attack the factors which they said had led to the rioting.

The House Sept. 20 reversed its position on rat control when, on a 227–173 roll call, it added a ratcontrol amendment to the Administration's Partnership for Health bill (HR 6418). The amendment, which was enacted, authorized \$40 million that was intended – though not earmarked – for ratcontrol projects in fiscal 1968 and 1969.