I love Rat Watch; even if it has meant the sacrifice of a lot of holiday fun over the years, it has borne worthy fruit.

Rat Watch has provided a yearly focus point to meditate upon voting records and campaign donations and other matters that might have otherwise gone unnoticed. It also focuses attention that lapses into the rest of the winter months on archival activities -- putting news clips into folders, binding annotations to books, filing photos, and thinking deep thoughts.

Rat Watch began over the kitchen table, the way that most good things do, a long time ago. It has grown, slowly, organically, until it fits into the cycle of the year.

There had been an informal tradition in our family of watching Congressional actions taken in December ever since the Federal Reserve Act in 1913, but in that dark and dismal autumn of 1963, on the heels of the JFK Assassination, it took shape in its present form and we started calling it "Rat Watch" officially.

We admit (among ourselves) that the name was partially inspired by the physical appearance of Lyndon B. Johnson, but that's neither here nor there. Rats come in many shapes, sizes, colors, and at least two sexes from all fifty States; it's our mission to spot them all.

It has been suggested that our American Government has Rat Watch instead of the NSA, and that for the purposes of our jurisdiction, it serves as an Intelligence gathering organization. I suppose it does, and even if we hadn't stumbled our way into it beginning 110 years ago, it has always been necessary. How else, as Thomas Jefferson exhorted, can we be ever vigilant?
It's because my family remained vigilant that I remained vigilant and because I remained vigilant a whole new cadre and generation of Rat Watchers is getting into the "weird pleasure" of keeping tabs on the Vermin.

As more and more people are joining our ranks and seeing what they will see, the rats among us are scurrying, looking over their shoulders, choosing their words more carefully, covering their backsides, and some, like General Mattis, are even jumping ship entirely and leaving the country.

It's because of Rat Watchers (whether they are official members or not) that the tides of corruption are finally turning and people are realizing that both political parties are corrupt.

And need to be watched. Closely.

We are coming out with a new Rat Watch embroidered patch and other practical team memorabilia to recognize the vital function of Rat Watch and the role of Public Vigilance that is forever required of us.

Not everyone can be a James O'Keefe and pull off a Project Veritas, but everyone, even mild-mannered little old ladies from Wisconsin, can be Rat Watchers.

Scurry, scurry, scurry.....scratch, bump, sniff..... uh-oh, there's another one.....

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