

Nazis claim to seek rally permit

by Jennifer Waters

Michael Allen, leader of the National Socialist Party of America, said his group is seeking a permit to march in an undisclosed section of Skokie as early as Easter Sunday.

Allen said he has been in contact with village officials about a permit for April 19, and that he will make an official request sometime this week.

— **SKOKIE MAYOR** Al Smith denies that there has been any official or unofficial contact about a march. "I think this is just a rumor and I don't feel I want to speak to these types of rumors," he said. "It would be self-defeating (to speak to this). I think the whole world knows by now how Skokie feels," he added.

Although Allen said that he would not reveal his contact in village hall, he said he felt that officials were trying to keep the matter quiet to avoid mass hysteria. He added that he does not think village officials would attempt to stop the Nazis from marching through Skokie because he could not "believe that they would be that dumb after all the money they spent the last time."

He was referring to the 1977-78 court battles between the village and the neo-Nazi group over Skokie's attempt to halt a planned march. The courts upheld the Nazis plans, citing the constitutional right to freedom of speech, but the group never marched through Skokie.

Allen said that if the Easter Sunday march cannot be arranged, he will seek a permit to hold a rally Sept. 20.

The Nazi leader added that he knew that "with 40,000 Jewish survivors in Skokie, the politicians almost have to fight," to bar his group. (According to the Jewish Federation of Chicago, there are approximately 6,000 Jews living in Skokie.)

CORPORATION COUNSEL Harvey Schwartz said that it would be premature to speculate what type of action the village would take if the Nazis were to seek a permit. "I am not aware of any contact with the group," he said. "We are not in the position to do anything. All we have heard is the same that you have heard. All we can do is react if anything happens at all."

Allen, who claims he generally does not dislike Jews, said he wants to talk about the Catholic religion and "who really crucified Jesus Christ." His efforts to rally

in Skokie, however, are not designed to spread "the word of God," he said, but to prove a point to Skokie.

"After we won our right to march (in 1978), we changed our minds and decided to march in Marquette Park," he said. "The only reason why we didn't go (into Skokie) last time is because we made a deal with Chicago at the last minute and we would rather have been there. Within the past year and all the talk about Skokie and the book by David Hamlin, they have it all wrong. The politicians in Skokie are saying we chickened out. If they think that it is true, then we want them to know that is a lot of you know what."

If the march is held, Allen said he will bring between 15 to 20 of what he calls his "street activists" merely to fight the

barrage of rock and egg throwing he expects. He said that he expects a big turnout, such as last year's rally in Evanston's Lovelace Park, but that he hopes it will be peaceful.

If he applies for a permit, Allen said that he will ask for between one and a half and two hours.

"Because of my past experience, I will ask for a longer permit," he said. "The coppers are slick. They will stop us for about an hour to delay us by checking us for weapons. Then we'll get to the rally and have to set up our equipment. Then we're almost at the deadline and we have to leave exactly when it is deadline."

"We're losing on the deal, so I'm going to add a couple of hours," he said.