

Sixty Jewish leaders voice ACLU support

SIXTY PROMINENT Jewish business and professional people have issued a statement in support of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

The ACLU has been experiencing serious disaffection among its membership because of its legal defense of the Nazi party's right to march in Skokie.

The Nazis were originally prevented from marching in the village by a Cook County Circuit court injunction which the group appealed to the Illinois appellate court.

The appellate court ruled that the Nazis could march in Skokie, wear their uniforms and distribute literature but it would not lift a ban on the display of the swastika. The Nazis have appealed the ban to the Illinois supreme court which will hear the case on Sept. 20.

THE ACLU has also filed suit in federal district court to overturn three Skokie ordinances passed in May requiring a \$350,000 insurance bond from any group interested in marching in Skokie and prohibiting both demonstrations by individuals wearing military style uniforms and the distribution of any material which incites group hatred. No date has been set for a hearing.

Among the signers of the statement were former Circuit Court Judge Abraham Brussell, Journalists Daniel Schorr and Nat Hentoff, labor lawyer Joseph

Rauh, Jr., Ald. Martin Oberman (D-43d), writer Studs Terkel, publisher Bruce Sagan and two past presidents of the Chicago Council of Lawyers, Arnold Kanter and Judson Miner.

The text of the statement on behalf of the ACLU was the following: "No organization in the U.S. has fought more vigorously and consistently to protect our freedoms under the bill of rights than the ACLU, which is presently under attack for its representation of the Nazi party.

"We loathe the Nazis and are disgusted by all that they stand for. But as Americans, and especially as Jews, we recognize the paramount importance of preserving the rights of free expression- we recognize, as does the ACLU, that the rights of individuals are inextricably tied to the rights of all. The ACLU has fought and won many battles to protect the rights of Jews and other minorities.

"TODAY, THE ACLU is facing serious defection of long and valued supporters because of its difficult position of representing the Nazis. As a result, there is a real danger that the ACLU's ability to carry on its vital work in the future will be crippled. While the first amendment issue in the present case has yet to be decided by the courts, regardless of the outcome, we as Jews and as Americans, stand firmly behind the ACLU as an institution of great merit and importance for us

and for all Americans."

Other signers of the statement who noted that they stood unanimously behind the principle of the statement although not every person agreed with every word were the following: Mike Alexandroff, educator; Miles Berger, businessman; Nancy Bloom, businesswoman; Milton Cohen, attorney; Ron Dorfman, journalist; Alex Elson, attorney; Monroe Friedman, former dean, Hofstra university law school; and Ruth Bader Ginsberg, professor of law, Columbia university.

ALSO SIGNING the statement were: Sharon Glazer, attorney; Renee Hanover, attorney; Aram and Judy Hartunian, attorney; Herbert Hazelkorn, dentist; Mrs. Herbert Hazelkorn; Harold and Linda Hirshman, attorneys; Burton Joseph, attorney; Norman Leaf, businessman; Mrs. Norman Leaf; Daniel Levin, businessman; Robert Lifton, businessman; Alfred Lipton attorney; Paul and Margaret Lurie, attorneys; Richard Mandel, attorney; Lewis Manilow, businessman; Michael Maremont, businessman,; and Ronald Miller, attorney.

Other signers were: Edward Neisser, businessman; Bonnie Oberman, editor; Eugene Pekow, businessman; Robert Plotkin attorney; Diane Poncher, civic leader; Don Rose, journalist; Marvin Rosenberg, businessman; Edward Rosenheim, professor of English, University of Chicago; Frank Rosenthal, educator; Marshall Rosenthal, journalist; June Rosner, businesswoman; Bettylu Salzman civic leader; Stanley Scheinbaum, philanthropist; Milton Shadur, attorney; Geoffrey Stone, professor of law, University of Chicago; Joel Sprayagen, attorney; Gardner Stern, Jr., businessman and civic leader; Stanley Weinberger, attorney; Sydney Weisman, businesswoman; and Carlton Zucker businessman.