

## After new setback

# Skokie mulling Nazi appeal

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SKOKIE OFFICIALS still haven't decided whether to appeal an Illinois supreme court ruling allowing a group of Nazis to march in the village displaying swastikas.

In a decision Friday, Jan. 27, the state supreme court overturned an injunction banning a proposed Nazi march through Skokie. But Harvey Schwartz, corporation counsel, said Skokie officials are awaiting a federal court ruling on a related suit before appealing "one or both decisions."

U.S. District Court Judge Bernard Decker is expected to announce soon the fate of three Skokie ordinances enacted last May to block a Nazi march. The ordinances require a \$350,000 insurance bond, and prohibit both the wearing of military-style uniforms by members of political parties and the distribution of

material which incites group hatred,

DAVID HAMLIN, of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), told The LIFE on Tuesday, Jan. 3, that he could not confirm rumors of an April 20 march in Skokie and added that he would "be delighted if they didn't march."

Speculating on the outcome of the suit against the village ordinances, Hamlin noted that the federal court "does not have a lot of room to maneuver" in the light of recent state court decisions. He pointed out that a Chicago law which required prospective demonstrators to post a large insurance bond already has been found unconstitutional and that the uniform ban was struck down last July in the Illinois appellate court.

The issue regarding distribution of materials could be handled in one of two ways, according to Hamlin—either it would be found unconstitutional, based upon existing laws, or it may be ignored since

the Nazis have "never intended to distribute literature."

IN ARGUING the Nazis' case through the state and federal courts up to the U.S. Supreme court, the ACLU has "not set any new precedent," Hamlin said. "We're not arguing new law. . .there's nothing unique, unusual, different, or special about this. . .we've argued what the first amendment always meant, particularly regarding symbols and public demonstrations."

However, Hamlin believes that the ACLU action has been "worth the time money, effort and all the debate" because the courts have "ringingly affirmed first amendment values."

If the Nazis had not prevailed, "We would have seen a radical departure from first amendment law—the things Frank Collin (Nazi leader) stands for like less freedom, totalitarian principles, and anti-democratic laws, would have been affirmed," Hamlin said. "What is important is that nothing happened. We have not changed the course of American history."