

# Skokie petitions high court for Nazi ruling

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THE U.S. Supreme Court will be asked to avert the proposed June 25 Nazi march in Skokie.

Harvey Schwartz, Skokie corporation counsel, announced Monday, June 5, that his office is preparing a petition requesting that the high court stay a lower court ruling that the march is within the Nazis' constitutional rights.

Another village request to the Supreme Court, filed Monday, asked the court to overturn a May 22 appellate court decision that Skokie's three ordinances banning the march are unconstitutional.

Skokie's request for a Supreme Court stay follows the denial of a similar request by a three-judge federal appellate court panel on June 5.

Judges Wilbur Pell Jr. and Harlington Wood Jr., voted to deny the stay, while Judge Robert Sprecher favored the village's request. The three judges are the same ones who last month upheld a Feb. 23 decision by U.S. District Court Judge Bernard Decker that the three ordinances are illegal.

**SKOKIE'S ORDINANCES**, approved May 2, 1977, require a \$350,000 insurance bond from any group wishing to assemble in the village and prohibit both the wearing of military-style uniforms by members of political parties and distribution of materials which incite group hatred.

All three appellate court judges maintained that the second and third ordinances violated first amendment guarantees of free speech, but Sprecher argued that the insurance bond requirement is not an abridgement of free speech.

On May 26, four days after the appeals court decision, a permit for a June 25 demonstration in front of Skokie village hall was mailed to the National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America.

A second permit was issued to the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, which is trying to attract 50,000 people from across the country for a counterdemonstration.

SKOKIE'S BATTLE with the Nazis and with their legal defenders, the American Civil Liberties union (ACLU) has reached every level of the

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**A committee of the Illinois house rejects legislative efforts to block the Nazi march in Skokie. See page 3.**

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local, state, and federal court systems.

Skokie attorneys have argued that the Nazis will be violating the rights of Skokie residents — specifically the large number of Holocaust survivors who live in the village—by holding a

uniformed march and displaying swastikas.

The ACLU, however, has maintained that those who are likely to suffer severe psychological harm from viewing a Nazi demonstration on the streets of Skokie are free to stay away from the site of the march.

Both village and ACLU attorneys have said that they will continue to exhaust all legal options to win for their respective positions.