

ACLU, Nazis challenge anti-march ordinances

By DIANE DUBEY
Correspondent

SKOKIE OFFICIALS hadn't yet received formal notice of a lawsuit filed against them by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), legal counsel for the American Socialist (Nazi) Party of America by Monday, August 15, said Harvey Schwartz, corporation counsel.

Schwartz told *The LIFE* that he did not expect the village to take any action on the suit this week, although an official village response to the lawsuit will be submitted after village attorneys examine the specific challenges.

The lawsuit, filed on Friday, Aug. 12 in federal district court and assigned to Judge Bernard Decker, charges that three Skokie ordinances regulating public gatherings are unconstitutional.

According to David Hamlin, ACLU executive director, the ordinances "were drafted so as to abridge the first amendment rights of the Nazi Party and others who wish to demonstrate in the village."

The ordinances, passed May 2 after an aborted Nazi march the previous weekend, require a \$350,000 insurance bond from groups wishing to assemble in the

village and prohibit both public demonstrations by members of political parties who wear military-style uniforms and distribution of materials which incite group hatred.

THE THREE Skokie ordinances currently provide the only legal barrier to a Nazi march in the village. Previous marches planned for May 1 and July 4 were prohibited by an injunction issued April 29 in Cook County Circuit court, but most portions of the injunction were overturned in a decision handed down July 12 by a three-judge panel of the Illinois appellate court. In their decision, Judges Thomas McGloin, Mayer Goldberg, and John O'Connor banned not the Nazis, but their symbol, the swastika, from the streets of Skokie.

ACLU attorneys have appealed the anti-swastika ruling to the Illinois supreme court which has agreed to hear the case this fall.

Judging from previous cases involving civil rights or first amendment matters, "the general procedure is to move the case as quickly as possible," said Hamlin who expects "fairly rapid action" on the ordinance challenge.