

House won't hear bills to block Nazis' march

By Bob Sexter
Sun-Times Bureau

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Opponents of a planned Nazi march through Skokie received another setback Tuesday when the Illinois House refused to consider legislation to stop hate groups from demonstrating.

A Chicago neo-Nazi group has planned a June 25 rally in the heavily Jewish suburb. Village officials have warned that the demonstration could lead to violence and would psychologically wound Nazi death camp survivors who live there.

The only chance to halt the march appears to be in U.S. District Court in Chicago, where a judge is scheduled to rule next Tuesday whether the city Park District is illegally blocking the National Socialists Party of America march through Marquette Park.

NAZI LEADER Frank Collin has said he would cancel the Skokie event if he could get a parade permit for Marquette Park, near the Nazis' headquarters.

With the legal assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Nazis are challenging in court the Park District's requirement that a \$60,000 insurance liability bond be posted before a parade permit is issued.

Park District Supt. Edmund L. Kelly said Tuesday that the district will not waive the bond to facilitate cancellation of the potentially more volatile Skokie march.

Kelly's statement and the House decision followed the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal

Monday to issue an order indefinitely postponing the march.

After the high court ruling, march opponents had pinned their hopes on the General Assembly, where a pair of bills designed to block the march passed the Senate last month but were bottled up in a House judiciary committee.

Attempts to bypass the committee roadblock and bring the measures to the floor were defeated overwhelmingly Tuesday. The discharge motion on one fell 33 votes short and the other motion lost by 46 votes.

"The vote in Springfield removes every obstacle that I am aware of to the march," David Hamlin, executive director of the ACLU's Illinois division, said. "Skokie's last legal weapon is gone."

SEN. HOWARD W. CARROLL (D-Chicago), sponsor of one of the anti-Nazi measures, was clearly shocked by the outcome of Tuesday's vote and acknowledged that the chances of reviving the legislation were practically nil.

The House had "closed the last door open" to Skokie officials trying to stop the Nazis, Carroll said.

The court hearing Tuesday will be the Nazis' second legal battle over an insurance bond. A federal judge last year invalidated a \$250,000 bond requirement set by the Park District.

Kelly said the bond requirement was not unreasonable and was needed to "protect the property and the city from damages done."