



Kupcinet

Kup's column

One Man's Opinion: The American Civil Liberties Union's defense of the Nazis' right to march in Skokie comes under attack by **Abba P. Lerner**, professor of economics at Florida State U. In a letter to the New York Times, he points out: "The intention of the ACLU is noble but the understanding of their duty is faulty. The overriding purpose of the

ACLU is to promote and defend a democratic social order in which freedom of speech is secure. If this purpose comes into conflict with freedom of speech directed at destroying such democratic social order, their obligation surely is to protect the social order of free speech, rather than the free speech of the destroyers.

"IT IS TRUE THAT UNPOPULAR as well as popular speech must be kept free, but it is not the unpopularity of Nazism that deprives Nazis of their free speech rights. It is their opposition to that right for all and their intention to destroy it that makes it monstrously impertinent for them to claim it. It is a grievous mistake for the ACLU to accept Nazism as merely another unpopular point of view to be defended against prejudice and intolerance." And Lerner's conclusion: "It is the tolerance of intolerance that allows the fatter to grow and threaten our freedoms."