

Appeals court ruling on Nazi march soon

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SKOKIE — A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals is expected to rule before the end of April on the constitutionality of the three Skokie ordinances which have thus far averted a Nazi march in the village.

But the forthcoming decision by Judges Wilbur Pell, Jr., Harlington Wood Jr., and Robert Sprecher is unlikely to be the final legal ruling in the court battles which have been waged for the past year by village attorneys and the American Civil Liberties union (ACLU), which is providing legal counsel to the Nazis.

"However it goes, the losing party will appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court," said Harvey Schwartz, Skokie corporation counsel, on Monday, April 17.

Considering the possibility of a Nazi march before a decision came from the high court, Schwartz said, "We anticipate, if we lose, that we will apply for a stay pending the appeal."

The request for a stay would be filed at the same time as the petition to the high court, he said.

WE WILL TRY to prevent a march

until the matter receives final adjudication," Schwartz said.

In hearings before the U.S. Court of Appeals Friday, April 14, Skokie Attorneys Schwartz and Gilbert Gordon claimed that the march could be prevented because it would cause severe psychic trauma to the many Skokie residents who are survivors of the World War II Holocaust.

Schwartz maintained that the judges or lawyers could not comprehend the effect of a Nazi demonstration with swastikas and uniforms upon the Jewish residents of Skokie, particularly those who have seen similarly-attired Nazi soldiers in Europe.

The National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America has applied to the village for a parade permit so that between 50 and 100 uniformed demonstrators can march in front of village hall, 5127 Oakton, from noon to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, June 25.

According to John Matzer, village manager, village officials are considering the request.

THE THREE ordinances require any group demonstrating in the village to post a \$350,000 insurance bond, for-

bid the wearing of military-style uniforms by members of political parties, and prohibit the distribution of printed material which incites group hatred.

The ordinances were struck down as unconstitutional on March 31 by U.S. District Court Judge Bernard Decker, but Decker later stayed his own ruling so that a march would not be held while the case was being heard on the appellate level.

Decker's stay was overturned last week when the federal appellate court issued a statement that the case would be heard and decided within the 30-day waiting period required by Skokie between a permit application and the demonstration day. Decker's 45-day ban was thus unnecessary, the statement said.

Threatened Nazi marches within the past year have mobilized both residents of Skokie and the entire Jewish community in the Chicago area. When a march was planned for Thursday, April 20, leaders of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago promised that 50,000 counter-demonstrators would assemble at the same time and place as the Nazis. This march was averted by Decker's 45-day ban.