

Plan counterdemonstration

Nazi group given permit to march

By DIANE DUBEY
Correspondent

SKOKIE- Village officials have issued a permit allowing a Nazi group to demonstrate in front of village hall at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 25.

A second permit allowing the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago to stage a counterdemonstration at the same time and place also will be issued, according to Mayor Albert Smith.

The village mailed a permit to the National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America Friday, May 26, four days after a U.S. appeals court ruled unconstitutional three village ordinances designed to prevent the march. The permit, however, can still be rescinded by judicial or legislative action.

Then, after an executive session fol-

lowing the regular village board meeting Tuesday, May 30, Smith announced that a permit for a counterdemonstration would be issued to the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

PRIOR TO THE board's unanimous decision to allow the counterdemonstration, Sol Goldstein, a Holocaust survivor, told the LIFE, "I hope we get the permit tonight--otherwise, we'll lose control and there will be chaos, wildness. People will come anyway and only an organized demonstration will solve the problem."

Goldstein, chairman of the federation's public affairs committee, said he expects about 50,000 people from across the country to participate in the counterdemonstration. According to Goldstein, leaders of the anti-Nazi group will "do our utmost to control"

those who show up. "To resist Nazis means that we must be committed against violence also," he said.

After more than a year of legal battles in state and federal courts, the village has nearly exhausted its legal options. Only two possibilities for averting the June 25 march still remain. Village attorneys plan this week to appeal the decision of the appeals court to the U.S. Supreme court and to ask for a stay of the lower court decision while the case is pending.

THE MARCH could also be cancelled if the Illinois house of representatives approves two bills which were approved by the state senate on May 10. One bill would make it illegal to defame any ethnic group, while the other would ban demonstrations likely to result in physical violence and outlaw the

display of symbols and uniforms having historical associations with violence.

Smith refused to speculate on the likelihood of a June 25 Nazi march because he said, "I don't want to issue a challenge to them. I don't want to back them into a corner. I'd like to give them every escape hatch."

Smith said he still believes the village will ultimately win its case against the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) which is representing the Nazis. If the case is accepted by the Supreme court, new case law regarding the First Amendment will be put on the books, he said. "I still don't believe the First Amendment is absolute," Smith said.

ACCORDING TO Smith, the neo-Nazis actually have been hurt by the

large amount of publicity accompanying their efforts to enter Skokie. He pointed to letters and petitions with more than 1,500 signatures sent in support of the village's stance in opposing the march as evidence of a nationwide backlash against the Nazis.

Reacting to a statement made last week by Nazi leader Frank Collin who offered to abandon plans for a Skokie march if he were legally allowed to march in Chicago, Smith said "I don't make deals with Nazis" and called Collin's statement a "cop-out."

According to Erna Gans, leader of a group of Holocaust survivors, an office has been established by her organization, the Dr. Janusz Korczak B'nai B'rith lodge, to handle work related to the threatened march.

VOLUNTEERS IN the second story

office at 4948 Dempster answer phone calls and letters from all over the country from people seeking information or offering support. The office is also the central headquarters for a nationwide petition drive aimed at U.S. Supreme court, Congress, and the President, asking for protection "from neo-Nazism and from ideologies that preach hate and promote hate symbols, so that one-half million Americans and 20 million other innocent people of every race, creed, religion and nationality who lost their lives during World War II should not have died in vain."

Gans said the petitions will be presented to all three branches of the federal government by a delegation of at least one person from every state and as many senators and representatives as the group can attract.