

Neo-Nazis say they'll hold rally in Skokie

By DIANE DUBEY
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A SOUTHWEST Chicago neo-Nazi leader said this week his group may hold a rally in Skokie on Easter Sunday because he wants to "talk about the Crucifixion and put the blame squarely where it belongs."

If adequate security cannot be arranged in time for an Easter rally, he and his followers probably will show up on Sept. 26 instead, according to Michael Allen, head of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America, headquartered in Chicago's Marquette Park area.

The National Socialist Party of America is the same neo-Nazi organization which repeatedly threatened to march in Skokie between December 1976 and June 1978. Frank Collin, their leader during that period, now is serving a seven-year term for taking indecent liberties with a child.

ALLEN, NEO-NAZI leader since Collin's imprisonment, told The LIFE Thursday, March 5, that he has narrowed down possible rally sites and now is considering two Skokie parks. He refused to identify the parks "for security reasons."

Allen said he would contact village officials within a week to discuss applying for a permit.

Asked why he believes he will have a chance to make his views known in Skokie when he recently was booed and pelted out of an Evanston park, Allen

said his group is "buying a new PA (public address) system, so maybe a few people will hear us this time."

Allen said he is bringing his group to Skokie because "the Jews are ruining this country" and, because he personally does not hate Jews, he wants to advise them to "mend their ways."

"IF THEY don't . . . there will be a pogrom in this country that will make the ones in Europe look like Jewish festivals," he said.

Allen said his organization has 300 members across the country, of whom 66 are active stormtroopers and 36 are in the Chicago area. Local chapters have been formed in St. Louis, Cleveland, Washington, D.C., North Carolina, Texas, California and Nevada, he said.

Skokie is not the only target for a neo-Nazi rally this year. Demonstrations have been scheduled for May 16 in Midlothian, June 26 in La Grange, and Aug. 1 in Palos Hills, according to Allen.

Out-of-town rallies are planned for Cleveland and St. Louis, he said, but the group is having some difficulty securing a permit for a rally in San Francisco.

"We want to have an anti-queer rally, but since queers are so popular down there in San Francisco, they're not too keen on giving us a permit," he said.

Skokie Mayor Albert J. Smith had no comment on the possible rally, say-

ing he planned to discuss it with village attorneys.

Gilbert Gordon, senior attorney for the village, said Thursday that he will make no response until the village has been given specifics on the time, date and place of a proposed rally.

"UNTIL I get that, I won't speculate," he said. "The Supreme Court has said the First Amendment depends on the time, date and circumstances, and to speculate would be idle.

"Rumors are insufficient (basis) for us to say anything at all," he said.

During the 1½ year period which ended in June 1978, American Civil Liberties Union attorneys battled Skokie on nearly every rung of the judicial ladder, claiming that the constitutional right to free speech entitled the Nazis to hold a demonstration in the village.

Although the ACLU's legal efforts ultimately were successful, their clients were given the opportunity to gracefully back out of a potentially dangerous Skokie rally. Instead, the neo-Nazis agreed to demonstrate that summer in Marquette Park, a location previously off-limits to them because of three Chicago Park District ordinances which were ruled unconstitutional in U. S. District Court.

That ruling also knocked down the Skokie ordinances which had been used to avert a Nazi march, since Skokie village and park officials had adopted virtually the same ordinances that had been enacted in Chicago.