

Editor's Mail

Readers divided on handling of Nazi demonstration

The presence of the American Nazi party is in itself a prod to the complacency of all men of good will. To be permitted the right to parade anywhere in the United States is at best a right bestowed without consideration of past experiences and present convictions.

To permit this parade to take place in Skokie confronts the Jewish community with the alternatives of open retaliation or quiet humiliation. Neither is acceptable.

As feeling, loving Christians, we pray for you in this moment of conflict and stand with you to repudiate the American Nazi party and all the hatred for which it stands.

Wesley E. Diemer, Jr.
Wilmington, Del.

Smash Nazis

The following is in answer to the letter written by Lisa Woll and to all others opposing the Jewish Defense league and other people who want to meet the planned Nazi march with force.

According to them, the JDL is foolish for their threats of violence. Everyone should just ignore the Nazis, stay in their nice little protected houses, or go to a flower-throwing counter-rally on the other side of town. Just let them

march through the streets exhibiting symbols and expounding ideas which were the basis for slaughtering millions of people, including six million Jews.

Yes, these people are the spiritual children of the Nazis of the Holocaust, the children who hold the same principles as the Nazis who murdered millions, murdered the kinfolk of some of us. Can we sit and allow them to march these same principles through our streets? Let them, after they slaughtered people with an evil knife, bring it to Skokie and slap it against our cheeks? Obviously not. This must not be allowed. Hopefully, someone can fathom that this is what the JDL plans to accomplish.

All kinds of people from everywhere should show up to oppose the Nazis with strength. The JDL, Negro organizations (because the Nazis would like to do the same thing to blacks), Jews from Skokie, Gentiles from Skokie, Jews and Gentiles from around the whole country, and anyone with a moral bone in his body, should come and help smash the Nazis.

The Nazis were a group of ignorant, cruel beings during World War II also. Should we not have "stooped to their level of violence" then either?

Stephen Glickman
Skokie

Ghost town

My opinion on how best to deal with those Nazi idiots is to ignore them completely.

Make Skokie a ghost town on the day and at the time scheduled for their march. Have the residents along the parade route pull down their shades and close draperies. Perhaps that will convey to them how unimportant Americans consider them.

I feel very strongly about this because two of my granddaughters came home from school last week with swastikas drawn on their notebooks. That illustrates how the publicity about the Nazis has made an impression on 11-year-olds.

So that they would know what the Nazi emblem stands for, both of my sons permitted each daughter to watch "Holocaust."

Mrs. G. Carlson
Des Plaines

Money not wasted

It has been said that our village leaders have wasted money in various courtrooms defending obviously unconstitutional positions to prevent a Nazi march. It has been reported constantly that the case of Skokie versus the Nazis has no precedent. Corp. Counsel Harvey Schwartz had no idea what the outcome or even the possible outcome of his court actions would be. It was only when his legal challenges went through the justice system of this country that the final outcome was clear.

No, I do not see any waste of taxpayers' money. It might have been wasteful if there were cases that were the same and brought before our

courts and the judges always ruled that ordinances were unconstitutional.

The day of the march will show whether the village government was right in pursuing their strategy. If there is violence in Skokie, then this surely will vindicate them.

Lawrence I. Cotariu
Skokie

Peaceable assembly?

There has been much discussion about the rights of American Nazis to march through Skokie by those who contend that the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution allows them to do so.

But the question arises whether the American Nazi party, embracing Hitler's doctrine of hatred for Jews and his documented plans to exterminate them, can peaceably assemble, as stated in the First Amendment.

Tortured arguments comparing the Nazis to civil rights groups that assembled in spite of violent opposition, ignore the intent of the civil rights groups — which was to assemble peaceably for the cause of their people's constitutional rights.

The American Nazi party's intent is to throw fear into the hearts of some of the Jewish survivors of the Nazi Holocaust. They want to take advantage of the democracy that values the First Amendment.

No party which has a philosophy of destruction of any segment of the American people in the violent sense of mass killing should have legality. Hitler's rule enabled him to destroy not only six million Jews, but caused the death of millions of his own people, and scores of millions of other Europeans.

American Nazis who openly commit

themselves to belief in Hitler and Nazism express a threat to exterminate Jews and others. Such threats are punishable by our laws.

Abram Eisenman
Savannah, Ga.

Silent streets

Please hear my plea, good people of Skokie:

On the day that the Nazis march

through Skokie, let there be not a man, woman, or child on the streets of the parade route or anywhere near it. Close your shops and draw your drapes.

Let them march through silent streets. Let your silence silence them. Let them give a parade to which no one comes.

They feed on violence. Don't satisfy them.

Sondra Richter
Walnut Creek, Cal.