

Nazi fate lies with U.S. Supreme Court

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THE FATE of Nazi demonstrators in Skokie is now in the hands of U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

If Stevens decides to lift the injunction issued in April by Judge Wosik of Cook county circuit court, the Nazis will assemble in Skokie in late June or early July, according to Frank Collin, Nazi leader.

Wosik issued the injunction to stop the Nazis from marching in Skokie on May 1. When the South Chicago-based group changed its demonstration plans to April 30, Judge Harold Sullivan hurriedly extended the injunction to cover that date and any future rallies. These demonstrations were planned to protest the requirement of a \$350,000 insurance bond from any group

wishing a rally permit from the Skokie park district.

Representing the National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on June 1 filed a petition asking Stevens to lift the injunction pending appeal of the lower court ruling which prohibits the party from demonstrating in Skokie.

BOTH THE Illinois Appellate court and the Illinois Supreme court have refused, within recent weeks, to overturn the injunction.

But David Hamlin, ACLU executive director, thinks the chances "are probably pretty good that Stevens will lift the injunction." He explained that the judge might either lift the injunction permanently or merely stay the injunction until a trial is held before

the entire Supreme Court. Hamlin said that he expects an answer to his petition by early next week.

Harvey Schwartz, Skokie corporation counsel, said that the village mailed its answer to the ACLU petition on Tuesday, June 7. In their answer, village attorneys ask that the matter "be allowed to proceed through the state courts until a final determination is made through the orderly process of appeal," he said.

If and when the injunction is lifted, the Nazis will challenge three village ordinances by violating them, Hamlin said. The ordinances prohibit both public demonstrations by members of political parties who wear military style uniforms and distribution of materials that incite group hatred, in addition to requiring a \$350,000 bond for parades and public assemblies within the village.

ACCORDING TO Hamlin, the Nazis cannot march in Skokie as long as the injunction remains in force because "under no circumstances are they justified in violating a court order." However once the injunction is overturned, violation of the three ordinances, adopted May 2 in response to threatened Nazi demonstrations, is a legitimate way to challenge their constitutionality.

"It is crucial to the first amendment issue that we raise the constitutionality of the ordinances themselves," Hamlin said.

The Nazis are eager to assemble in the northern suburbs in general-and Skokie in particular-because "we've tried everywhere else and we're running out of alternatives," Collin told *The LIFE* on June 7.

"It's purely a free speech issue," he said. "One-third of a million dollars of insurance is exorbitant, unreasonable, and legitimate cause to demonstrate."

Asked if a Nazi appearance in Skokie isn't sure to incite violence Collin said, "Absolutely. But we're not telling anyone to be violent."

HE SAID his organization wants to uncover the "double standard in Skokie. He claimed that the same leaders who supported freedom of speech for other groups and thought "the ACLU was great" when it worked for the civil rights of black people for an about-face "on the question of free speech for white racial organizations."

Collin and his group have two goals set for the summer of 1977. They hope "to crack Skokie-to dramatize the free speech issue" and to hold a public rally and march in Marquette park in Chicago.