

# JWV plans contingent for counter-demonstration

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SKOKIE—More than 3,000 individuals from the Illinois area are expected to march under the banner of the Jewish War Veterans in a mass counter-demonstration to be held at the same time and place as a threatened Nazi march through Skokie.

Robert Diamond, local JWV senior vice commander said that on Feb. 28, he submitted a written application to the village to march on any of three days which seem likely to coincide with Nazi plans, April 20 and 22, and July 4.

No other permit application were received by the village as of Tuesday, March 14, Jach Matzer, village manager, told The LIFE. However, he said he has received many phone inquiries regarding anti-Nazi demonstrations, including one call from an individual in-

terested in receiving a permit for 365 days.

The National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America, based in Chicago's Marquette Park area, originally announced its intention to demonstrate in Skokie on April 20, the 89th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birth. Since then, April 22 has also been mentioned as a date for the march. Last year, the Nazis said they would be in Skokie on July 4, but were legally prevented from entering the village.

ACCORDING TO Diamond, his organization which has a statewide membership of 2,500 and a 1000-member women's auxiliary, will march with other Jewish and anti-Nazi groups in the peaceful counter-demonstration announced last week by leaders of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

"Our (JWV) constitution says we must help all Jewish veterans and help and protect all Jewish people in all communities from either physical or mental harm," Diamond said. He explained that "We're afraid that Jewish people can get in trouble with the Skokie police for fighting with the Nazis...so we're going to make as much noise as we possibly can. We're going to act in an orderly fashion and march them right out of town."

Diamond underscored the non-violent nature of his group's plans. "Our people are almost all World War II vets; we're not going to go out and start fighting on the streets. You can't expect that."

"But we have a duty to perform," he added. "We are still the military arm of the Jewish people in this community," concluded the commander of the 500-member Skokie post.