

Village decries doggedness on Nazis

By DIANE DUBEY
Correspondent

A SCATHING denunciation of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), calling into question both the organization's motives and methods took place Monday, July 11 at the Skokie village board meeting.

The dedication and persistence of the ACLU in fighting for the right of the National Socialist (Nazi) party to march in Skokie has angered village officials, who also attacked David Goldberger, the ACLU attorney representing the Nazis.

"It's no longer the case of Skokie versus the National Socialist party...it's the village of Skokie versus the ACLU as far as they are concerned," Trustee Morris Topol declared.

"With these people, it's something personal-their feathers have been ruffled-they don't think it's right that they should lose a case," he went on. "They won't accept the decision of

a court unless the U.S. Supreme Court tells them they have to."

Topol announced his regret at not being a contributor to the ACLU-"so that I could stop."

He later told The LIFE that he can't understand Goldberger's action in "running from court to court" before any ruling has been reached.

"They think they have to have a hearing 10 seconds after filing a petition or a suit...his (Goldberger's) version of the speed of the law is very different from most peoples'," Topol said.

Mayor Albert Smith said Monday he had "always heard the ACLU was established to defend people's constitutional rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"I don't know why the ACLU doesn't think Skokie citizens have that right," Smith said.

Trustee Charles Conrad said he finds "distasteful" what he sees as the ACLU's "lack of trust and confidence in judicial review and the state court system."