

# Showdown in Skokie

## Jews plan huge turnout to counter Nazi march

By Charles Nicodemus

A massive counter demonstration is being planned by Chicago area Jewish leaders for the same time and place a local Nazi group picks to parade through suburban Skokie.

"There will be a confrontation, but we intend to meet hate with love," said Mrs. Erna Gans, president of one of the groups of Nazi Holocaust survivors that will help sponsor the demonstration.

She said the planners believe the protest will draw some 50,000 persons from all over the country.

"This is being planned as a civil, peaceful response" to the Nazi march, she said. But she conceded that "no one can absolutely guarantee that there won't be trouble."

Leaders of the Jewish community, under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, planned to announce details of the demonstration Wednesday, after briefing representatives of nine concentration camp survivor groups in Skokie Tuesday night.

Mrs. Gans, who heads one of those groups — Janusz Korczak B'nai B'rith lodge — said her organization is also backing a proposal to obtain 2 million signatures nationwide on a petition aimed at stopping "provocative

marches like the Nazis are planning in our village."

"We'll be petitioning the President, the Congress, the Supreme Court and the American people to take some action, legally," she explained.

"They must stop such demonstrations and let us live in peace."

A local Nazi group, the National Socialist Party of America, has been trying since last year to march through the heavily Jewish northern suburb.

After a long legal wrangle in both state and federal courts, on Jan. 26 U.S. District Court Judge Bernard M. Decker held unconstitutional three Skokie ordinances passed to block the march.

While no date for the march has been set yet, the Nazi group's leaders have hinted that they may choose April 20, Adolph Hitler's birthday.

"Whatever the time and the place they choose we'll be there," Mrs. Gans said.