

Anti-defamation League responds

Await further court decisions in Skokie Nazi march issue

by Ellen Herdeck

The village of Skokie and metropolitan Jewish groups remain in a 'holding pattern' this week as they await further court decisions on the civil rights of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America.

Though the Illinois Supreme Court ruled last week that the Nazis had a right to display the swastika if they march in Skokie, the court fights over the pending Nazi march are far from over.

Reaction came from part of the Jewish community in a statement issued by David Smerling, president, and James P. Rice, executive vice-president of the Jewish Federation and Jewish United Fund.

The statement said "for the courts to allow Skokie citizens, both Jews and Christians, who have already suffered the atrocities of Nazi Germany to submit to further humiliation; is a sorry, almost unthinkable turn of events."

"While we respect the decision, we certainly hope Skokie will appeal," it went on to say. "If they should not, there are, fortunately, a number of other court cases that must be decided before the march is a reality."

Another court suit, dealt a blow Monday by the state supreme bench, was one brought by Sol Goldstein, Skokie, versus Frank Collins, head of Chicago's Nazi contingent.

Goldstein, who referred to himself in the suit as a member of the "survivors of the holocaust", argued that "it would be unrealistic for Jews to stand idly by while the swastika was displayed," according to a statement issued by Maynard I. Wishner, public affairs chairman of the city Anti-defamation League.

Goldstein also "questioned whether the court did not abridge the rights of

survivors by suggesting they must avoid the offensive symbol," the statement said.

Hal Rosen, public relations director for the Jewish Federation, said "we presume Goldstein will take the issue to a higher court now that the case was thrown out in Illinois."

Rosen said the Federation had assembled a volunteer legal team to help Goldstein defend his case, in addition to the private counsel that he had retained.

Still at issue as well is the case brought by the Chicago Nazis against the village of Skokie, challenging the validity of three local ordinances that would prevent a march by the political group.

The first, condensed by Schwartz, requires that any group of 50 persons or more who plan to parade or demonstrate in Skokie post a \$350,000 bond first.

The second prohibits dissemination of materials picturing persons as deprived,

inferior or criminal because of race, religion or national origin.

The third ordinance in question prohibits political parties to demonstrate in military-style uniform or to display military-style paraphernalia.

"A ruling should be coming down very soon in the case," Schwartz said, adding that Judge Bernard Decker of Chicago's U.S. District Court will be handing down the decision.

In the meantime, area media and press have been watching the issues with great carefulness, reporting each new detail as it becomes available.

One of the current editorials broadcast over WIND-Radio (560-AM) Monday, Jan. 30, made an appeal for anti-confrontation.

At the end of the piece, advice was given to Skokie citizens that "To ignore them (Nazis) when they march is to defeat them utterly, completely."