

Nazis sitting on decision

Skokie march may be averted

DIANE DUBEY

Correspondent

IF NAZI leader Frank Collin keeps his word, his National Socialist Party of America (NSPA) will not demonstrate in Skokie on Sunday, June 25.

For months Collin has announced publicly that a Skokie march was only a bargaining tool in his battle for the legal right to hold rallies on Chicago park district land. He has sought court permission to demonstrate in Chicago because he sees potential recruits and sympathizers in the Bogan, Gage Park and Marquette Park areas of Chicago.

"I have no interest in Skokie or any other hostile area," he said early this week.

Collin won his battle and Skokie may be spared a potentially violent confrontation on June 25 through a Tuesday, June 20 decision by U.S. District Court Judge George Leighton. In his ruling Leighton struck down the Chic-

ago park district ordinance requiring a \$60,000 insurance bond from demonstrators.

IN DOING so, Leighton modified his ruling of July 29, 1977 which struck down a Chicago park district ordinance requiring a bond of between \$100,000 and \$300,000 of liability insurance and \$50,000 of property damage insurance, but acknowledged that government agencies "may require some type of insurance or indemnity."

After that ruling the bond was reduced to \$10,000 of liability and \$50,000 property damage.

But this week, Leighton clarified his position and announced "this plaintiff (the Nazis) will not be able to get insurance...they couldn't get a policy for one dollar." If he had been told in July, 1977, about the insurance problems for a group like Collin's, he would have eliminated any such requirement, Leigh-

ton said.

The Nazis have been represented throughout their legal battle by the American Civil Liberties union (ACLU).

The judge ordered park district officials to grant the Nazis a permit for a July 9 demonstration in Marquette park, but assured park attorney Richard Troy that the park district will not be held legally liable for any injury or damage resulting from issuance of the permit.

DURING THE morning hearing Leighton seemed inclined to agree with Troy's position that no decision should come before a full hearing on facts on the availability of insurance for such controversial groups as Collin's. But Tuesday afternoon, he prefaced his ruling by saying, "In the long run the plaintiffs will prevail-is there any sense in going through a lot of riga-

marole when we see with great clarity where this will go in the end?"

He then decided to prove that "the legal system can cut through red tape" and announced that he would modify his previous order and "preclude any insurance requirement from interfering with the right of the plaintiff to exercise first amendment rights on the premises of the defendant (park district)."

Leighton added that the exact contents of his order will be worked out at a later hearing where Troy will also be able to argue against the decision. Troy maintained through the end of the hearing that the park district has a "compelling necessity" to keep the insurance ordinance and that the Nazis did not actively try to obtain such insurance.

"THIS IS the first case I've ever heard of where they give the ruling

first and hold the hearing later," Troy said. Even before Leighton's decision, Troy said the lack of a formal announced hearing "deprives us of our rights. We are entitled to our day in court."

Troy later said that the "real win-

ton's decision is important "for reasons entirely unrelated to Skokie and Frank Collin."

According to Hamlin, the same requirement which banned Nazi demonstrations in Chicago parks also prevented rallies by other organizations

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ner in this case is Skokie" and said he believed the order had been issued to stop the Nazis from going to Skokie and "to prevent the potential disruption."

David Hamlin, executive director of the ACLU, told The LIFE that Leigh-

including black civil rights groups and the Bailey Alliance Against Nuclear Power Plants. "The impact of the insurance requirement was to lock everybody out of the Chicago parks," Hamlin said. "In his decision, Leighton ed the lock-out."