

## *Participants voice mixed reactions*

# Did Skokie win Nazi struggle?

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SKOKIE – Cancellation of the long-awaited and potentially explosive Nazi demonstration in Skokie has drawn mixed reactions from participants in the year-long drama.

To Mayor Albert Smith, Skokie has emerged victorious from its long strug-

gle against Frank Collin's National Socialist Party of America. Although the village ultimately lost each of its legal battles, "the purpose of the fight was to not have these people come to our community. They aren't coming so it has to be a victory," Smith said Thursday, June 22.

But because of the village's legal

defeats and because Collin this week acknowledged the possibility of yet another march in Skokie if his legal rights to rally in Chicago are taken away, other anti-Nazi leaders believe that there has been no victory at all for Skokie.

"I don't see any victory – I feel terrible to know that another community

(Chicago's Marquette Park area) faces the problems of fear and antagonism we faced until now," Skokie Trustee Jackie Gorell said Monday, June 26.

Although she is "happy that they didn't come," Gorell still believes that the village principles should have been upheld in the courts. "We lost on our principles. We believe that this kind of speech is not covered by the First Amendment, and I still fully disagree with the courts."

THE NAZI MARCH was formally called off Thursday, June 22, at a press conference held by Collin at the Nazis' southwest Chicago headquarters. The group chose not to exercise its legal rights to assemble in Skokie after a federal court decision last week paved the way for Nazi demonstrations in the Chicago parks. According to Collin, Skokie was only a bargaining tool in his fight to freely hold rallies in Chicago neighborhoods such as Marquette Park, Gage Park, and the Bogan area where he feels he has potential membership and support.

But Chicago park district officials Monday, June 26, announced its intention to appeal the ruling of U.S. District Court Judge George Leighton who struck down a \$60,000 insurance bond requirement for use of the parks, and Collin renewed threats of a Skokie

demonstration.

"What happened in Skokie last week was a total victory for the Nazis," said Buzz Alpert, chairman of the Chicago Jewish Defense League (JDL) chapter which has renounced affiliation with the national JDL.

BY UPSETTING people throughout

whole community is at his (Collin's) disposal," Zissman said. "It's a shame we can't put a stop to it legally. To me the matter is not over with – it's only over for the 25th."

RABBI MEIR Kahane, founder of the JDL who last week stood in front of Nazi headquarters during the Nazis to

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Skokie and the entire country, by forcing the creation and subsequent dismissal of elaborate security measures, and by creating a great inconvenience to everyone involved in preparations for the Nazi demonstration, the Nazis scored a great victory, according to Alpert. "And they can still come any time they want and recreate the turmoil all over again," he said.

Harold Zissman, a Holocaust survivor who fought in the Polish resistance during World War II, conceded that he is "happy not to be raped of our rights . . . but displeased that it isn't a finished case."

Because the Nazis won the legal right to free speech in Skokie, "the

march in Skokie, called the situation "a terrible defeat. For 1 1/2 years the Nazis have used the Jews as a yoyo and have gained \$1 million in free publicity."

At the Monday, June 26 village board meeting, Smith emphasized the solidarity among Jews and Christians throughout the country which was created by the Nazi threat.

"Something has resulted which may never before have happened in our country. Out of the whole matter, maybe the United States of America has taken one little step to wipe out bigotry and hate. Maybe the reason the Nazis didn't come is because we had all of these fine groups supporting us."