New issues in Skokie

In a letter to you, Louis Kutner notes that he was involved in a suit against a neo-Nazi demonstration in 1966 and that the "legalistics" of the current Skokie dispute are not necessary because that suit solved the questions.

The suit to which Kutner refers (Jewish War Veterans v. American Nazi Party) involved a neo-Nazi picket line that was to surround a synagog on Jewish holy days. The dispute in Skokie, of course, centers around a public demonstration on a weekend afternoon in front of the village hall. The facts in the two cases are barely related at all, and for that reason the courts have found Kutner's suit and its result to be of little assistance in the Skokie case.

While it is true that one can and often does control another, that is not the situation in this instance. Kutner may be puzzled by the "legalistics" of Skokie, but the courts clearly are not. Frustrating though it may be, new issues require new court scrutiny, and that is precisely what is happening in the Skokie litigation

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