

Boy begs: Stop Nazis

By DIANE DUBEY
Correspondent

SKOKIE-A 12-year-old resident joined other Skokians on Monday, June 20, in asking the village board to do everything possible to avert a July 4 march by members of the National Socialist (Nazi) party.

The Southwest Chicago group on June 15 announced their intention to assemble in front of Skokie Village Hall, only hours after the U.S. Supreme Court lifted an injunction issued in April by Cook county Circuit Court Judge Joseph Wosik to prevent a Nazi demonstration.

"The first amendment may say freedom of speech, but not the freedom to spread hatred," said Jack Israel, 12, of 8709 East Prairie. "This country was built of immigrants-let's not blow everything away by having people spread hatred of minorities," he added.

Reading from a prepared text, Ruth Schaffner, 9515 Leamington, thanked the board for preventing any previous Nazi activities in the village, then called the proposed July 4 march "an exhibition by a few, desiring publicity and inciting trouble."

"Since when is the killing of six million people to be considered 'free speech'? Do we not abhor pornography and other obscenities?" Schaffner asked.

She went on to say that "allowing the Nazi party to march through Skokie, the world's largest village-the 'village of vision'-is only permitting them to curb the very fine traditions of our country.

THE "SILENT treatment" was recommended by former trustee Ed Fleischman who said that "their (the Nazis') objective is to get publicity."

"The people of Skokie should make it their business that nobody-and I mean nobody-be there to give them their audience," he told the board.

Trustee Morris Topol called Fleischman's suggestion "logical and correct" but said that the board realized, after consulting with community leaders, that "it wasn't going to work."

"If you could devise a system where they give a war and no one shows up, we'd like to hear about it," Topol said.

"They're (the television stations) supporting these people-that's what they're doing," Smith said. "Let's see if we could talk sense to them."

According to Mayor Albert Smith, local officials have been in contact with media representatives and found that "their attitude is that this is news, there are people interested in it, and they have an obligation to report it."

ALTHOUGH THE village has not yet received a request for a parade permit, Smith told those assembled at Village Hall that "we will do everything in our power to protect the rights of our citizens."