

Delay refused for Nazi march

By Phillip J. O'Connor
and Charles Nicodemus

The U.S. Supreme Court Monday refused to postpone a planned June 25 Nazi march in suburban Skokie and a Nazi leader said later the ruling may help prevent the demonstration.

By a vote of 7 to 2, the justices rejected Skokie officials' request to delay the march pending consideration of the village's formal appeal.

Skokie Mayor Albert J. Smith said at a press conference Monday night that he was "very disappointed" and that the village has contacted the Illinois National Guard, state police and other law enforcement agencies as it prepares for the demonstration.

Richard Tedor, deputy leader of the National Socialist Party of America, said the Nazis would be willing to cancel the demonstration if "all our rights are restored" in a hearing before U.S. District Court Judge George N. Leighton here June 20.

"WE WILL CANCEL the Skokie demonstration if we are immediately granted our rights of speech and assembly in Chicago parks," Tedor said. "However it must be all or nothing. We're not talking about being given the right to hold one rally.

"We want to be able to hold rallies in any Chicago park as often as we want."

Tedor said he was acting as the Nazi spokesman because the group's leader here, Frank Collin, was "out East recruiting members of other Nazi units to get them to join us in Skokie on June 25."

Tedor said the Nazis set three conditions for canceling the march and "with the Supreme Court ruling, two of the three conditions have been met."

He said the Skokie demonstration was planned to call attention "to the fact that Nazis are being denied their rights in Chicago. Frank Collin says we're using Skokie as a tool. If we get our rights back in Chicago, we'll forget about Skokie."

SKOKIE WAS TARGETED because of its heavy Jewish population, which includes 4,500 to 7,000 survivors of World War II Nazi concentration camps.

Tedor said that with Monday's ruling by the high court and the Illinois General Assembly's failure to pass laws restricting the Nazi demonstration, the only condition not met is the striking of restrictions that bar Nazi demonstrations in Chicago parks.

"If we can march in Marquette Park [on the Southwest Side], we won't go to Skokie. If it is not decided [in the Nazis' favor] by June 25, we'll go into Skokie."

Smith called the high court's decision "most regrettable" and said that "all legal action to block the demonstration has been taken."

SMITH SAID THAT Skokie "will make every effort to maintain order" during the Nazi march and a counterdemonstration planned for about the same time in Skokie by a Jewish umbrella group.

Leaders of the umbrella group said they expect up to 50,000 persons to take part and have pledged that their demonstration, scheduled to end near the Skokie Village Hall while the Nazis are still marching, will be peaceful.

However, Rabbi Meir Kahne, leader of the militant Jewish Defense League, has threatened a violent confrontation with the Nazis to block the demonstration.

Smith said village officials have been in contact with Gov. Thompson's office and have received assurances that National Guardsmen and state police "will be ready and, if needed, they will be available."

ASKED IF HE WAS concerned about possible violence, Smith said, "We are al-

ways concerned. We do not want it, but we must plan for that eventuality. Anyone who comes here [to Skokie] for the purpose of breaking the law will be arrested."

Both the Nazi demonstration and the counterdemonstration are scheduled to begin 3 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, Smith said. He said specifics on the counterdemonstration had not been given village officials yet by the Jewish umbrella group, but that "at least

part of" that demonstration is scheduled to take place at the Village Hall.

Smith also said that he was encouraging Jews and anyone else who wants to take part in the counterdemonstration to go to Skokie. "If they want to come, they should be here," he added. However such demonstrators must remain peaceful, he added.

David Hamlin, executive director of the Illinois division of the American Civil Liber-

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ties Union, which has defended the Nazis in court, said:

"The Supreme Court's ruling clearly establishes that Collin and his group have a right to march in Skokie. He [Collin] doesn't have a clear right to demonstrate in Chicago. I understand that Collin would rather march in Chicago than Skokie. I'm sure a lot of people would prefer that Collin go someplace besides Skokie."

The Skokie council Monday night voted unanimously to urge quick passage of state Senate Bills 1811 and 1676, which would forbid demonstrations by hate groups.

The proposal was urged by Erna Gans, president of the Korczak Lodge of B'nai B'rith. A second proposal was made by the

Clergy Forum, asking that no marches be permitted on Saturdays or Sundays, as they might interfere with churchgoers' travel. The council told the Clergy Forum it should take this issue to court,

THE CASE THAT WILL come up before Judge Leighton on June 20 involves Chicago Park District regulations on such demonstrations.

The Supreme Court's denial of the village's request to bar the march, which had been submitted to Justice John Paul Stevens last week, was announced without comment by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger.

Justices Harry A. Blackmun and William H. Rehnquist voted in the minority and said the June 25 rally should be postponed pending consideration of the village's appeal.