

ACLU blasts new anti-Nazi ordinances

By **SCOTT A. ZAMOST**

Correspondent

AN AMERICAN Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) official last week blasted three anti-Nazi ordinances adopted by the Skokie village board and predicted they would be revised to conform with constitutional standards.

David Hamlin, executive director of the ACLU's Illinois division, said a court would probably rule that two of the ordinances were "unconstitutionally vague," adding they "restrain the First Amendment rights of everybody in the village."

He was referring to two ordinances adopted Monday, May 2, which prohibit demonstrations by members of political parties who wear military-style uniforms and ban the distribution of materials that incite group hatred. He said a third ordinance, which requires \$300,000 liability insurance for groups of 50 or more persons organizing a parade and public assembly, is too strict.

That law requires an applicant to file for a parade permit at least 30 days ahead of time.

ALL THREE ordinances were unanimously passed in response to an attempted march Saturday, April 30, by members of the American Socialist (Nazi) Party of America. A judge served two injunctions prohibiting the group from demonstrating in the village last Saturday and Sunday.

The ACLU is defending the Nazis in challenging the injunctions.

"When Skokie cools down a bit, they will probably redraft the ordinances," Hamlin told *The LIFE* Wednesday, May 4.

However, Corp. Counsel Harvey Schwartz said the village had no plans to revise the law.

"The validity of these ordinances is not tested in the abstract," he said. "They are tested in the light of having to deal with a real problem.

"This government sees military uniforms and the expression of political causes as inconsistent with the moral standards of the community," he said.

That ordinance applies only to members of political parties who wear military-style uniforms. It defines pol-

itical party as "an organization existing primarily to influence and deal with the structure or affairs of government politics or the state."

"I've never seen anything like that before," Hamlin said.

THE LAW banning the distribution of hatred-prone materials includes wearing "clothing of symbolic significance"—a phrase Hamlin said he considers vague.

"I don't have any idea what that means," he said.

Schwartz said such clothing would include a Nazi swastika.

"We're trying to meet a problem and solve it in the legislative way without the exercise of police powers," he said.

While Hamlin said the ACLU planned no action against the ordinances last week, he did not rule out future court challenges.

"Before we worry about the ordinances, we want to get that Saturday injunction lifted," he said. "That is the most unconstitutional, the most odious, and the most frightening."