

# New Skokie law bans Nazi protests

By **SCOTT A. ZAMOST**  
*Correspondent*

**SKOKIE**—The village board Monday, May 2, unanimously adopted three tough ordinances designed to prevent a Nazi demonstration in the village.

The action came in quick response to an aborted protest Saturday, April 30, by members of the National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America. The group was served two injunctions prohibiting it from marching in the village on Saturday and Sunday.

The Nazis now claim they will march in Skokie on May 22.

One of the new ordinances prohibits public demonstrations by members of political parties who wear military-style uniforms. Such a protest is "repugnant to the tradition of civilian control of government and to the standards of morality and decency" of village residents, the law says.

The ordinance defines a political party as an "organization existing primarily to influence and deal with the structure or affairs of government politics or the state."

**ANOTHER LAW** prohibits the distribution of materials that incite group hatred while a third establishes strict standards for parades and public assemblies in the village including a \$300,000 liability insurance requirement.

"We think our action is proper," Corp. Counsel Harvey Schwartz told *The LIFE*. "What we've addressed ourselves to are exceptions to the right of free speech."

In passing the package of ordinances, the board suspended the normal procedure of introducing a law, having it published and voting on passage at the next meeting. Instead, it voted immediately for adoption.

"If we feel there is sufficient reason, we are permitted under law to suspend the rules," Mayor Albert Smith said. "This has been done before."

He said the board began drawing up the ordi-

nances last week in light of the planned Nazi march.

**THE ORDINANCE** restricting distribution of hatred-inducing materials includes publication, display or distribution of posters, signs, handbills or writings plus markings and clothing of symbolic significance.

Schwartz said such material is "based solely on an intent to defame a group or hold a group up to ridicule" based on race, religion or national origin.

That law and the one banning military-style uniforms carry a \$500 fine or a maximum six-month jail sentence for violations.

The parade ordinance is patterned after those adopted by the Chicago and Skokie park districts. Besides the minimum \$300,000 liability insurance, it has a minimum \$50,000 property damage insurance provision.

It stipulates that parade conduct "will not portray criminality, depravity, or lack of virtue in, or incite violence, hatred, abuse or hostility toward a person or group of persons by reason of reference to religious, racial, ethnic, national or regional affiliation."

**THE CHICAGO** ordinance is being challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the Nazis.

At the meeting, Jack Weinman, chairman of the 10th Congressional District Policies for People, asked the board to contact the U.S. Congress in hopes of adopting a law against advocating anti-Semitism.

"Nazism is a mortal enemy of culture," he said.

The board took no official action on his request.

In other business, purchasing agent Daniel Ryan told the board that negotiations for the village's insurance renewal have been bogged down.

The insurance covers workmen's compensation, general liability, and auto for village employees.

Ryan said Aetna, the village's carrier, has asked for a \$421,000 premium—a 28% increase over last year. The company wants a three-year commitment in



which the village has no control over rate increases.

**ONE ALTERNATIVE** Ryan suggested was the possibility of adopting a one-year self-insurance plan. Under this arrangement, targeted for implementation in a year, the village would carry its own insurance up to a certain amount.

Meanwhile, Ryan said he would report back to the board in a month, noting that the current coverage has

already been extended because of the troubled negotiations.

An insurance agent negotiating for the village said the large premium hike was largely due to state requirements for workmen's compensation coverage.

"The premium is actually only \$9,000 higher than last year without the workmen's compensation increase which we have no control over. I have come up with the best quote I was able to secure," he said.