

Black Lawsuit leads to wild board meeting

By DIANE DUBEY
Correspondent

SKOKIE-A lawsuit brought against the village by Niles Township Louis Black led to a wild scene at the Monday, June 19 Skokie village board meeting.

Black's suit asked the court to order village officials to revoke the public assembly permit issued for a neo-Nazi demonstration on June 25. He charged the permit was sent illegally in violation of the Assumed Business Names set, act, Which requires anyone wishing to conduct or transact business in Illinois under an assumed name to register with the local county clerk. The suit also lists a number of ways in which the permit issuance allegedly violates state and village laws.

A response to Black's action was issued by Niles Township Supervisor Edward Warman, claiming it had been neither authorized nor sanctioned by himself, the township attorney, or the township board.

BLACK TOLD The LIFE this week he had informed Warman of his action, but that he is acting as a private citizen "doing this at my own expense." He objected to remarks by Harvey Schwartz, Skokie corporation counsel, who called Black's behavior "frivolous and capricious." Black said, "I'm sorry he's de-

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CIRCUIT COURT Judge Arthur Dunne ruled against Niles Township Clerk Louis Black on Wednesday, June 21, refusing to grant a temporary restraining order on the permit Skokie gave to the Nazi party. Black had sought to have the judge order Skokie to rescind the permit to the Nazis.

cided to get personal. This is a very serious matter. My lawyers are more knowledgeable than Harvey."

Black said his attorneys are Burt Odelson and Steve Ackerman, of Chicago.

When Black originally presented the assumed business names act as a means of averting a Nazi demonstration, Schwartz said the act is not applicable because it applies to business of a commercial not political nature.

But the subject arose again on June 19 when Chicago attorney Charles Levy informed Schwartz of the law suit and asked village officials to reconsider Black's idea. "Judge (Bernard) Decker gave an injunction against interfering with the right...for Frank Collin to demonstrate in the village," Schwartz said. "Even if the permit is revoked, it doesn't interfere With the federal ruling."

JACK BERG who identified himself as corporate secretary for the Jewish Defense League, attacked Schwartz for quitting "because you want to get the whole thing over with.

"The Chicago park district didn't curl up their toes and surrender...they kept fighting with every legal device. You haven't tried as hard as the Chicago park district."

Berg also claimed Schwartz ignored outside legal assistance. "Why didn't Harvey Schwartz get legal counsel-did his ego stand in his way?"

Enraged, Trustee Morris Topol stood up and screamed at Berg, "I'm as much a good Jew as you are and I've done my job and I'll continue to do my job."

Mayor Albert Smith, released three days earlier from St. Francis hospital, where he had been under observation after complaining of chest pains, ended the dialogue. "For anyone, anyone at all, to walk into this room and say we haven't tried, we haven't done our best, our very best, is unbelievable to me. For anybody to come into this room and tell me we haven't fought the good fight, shocks and saddens me."

Smith also answered a number of Holocaust survivors who demanded access to the area which would be cordoned off for the Nazis if the march takes place. "Violence is not the answer to anything. If you come looking for a riot, then (counterdemonstration organizer) Sol Goldstein and Mayor Smith have failed miserably.

"The whole country has us on trial. We want people on Monday, June 26 to say what a hell of a town Skokie. That's a group of people with class.' I'm not asking you to pull down your shades and turn your backs...let's tell the media the story of a people whose hearts and souls and bodies were wrenched by the most terrible depravities the world has ever seen."