

# City to appeal Marquette permit

By Bob Olmstead

The Chicago Park District announced Monday it will appeal a federal judge order that the Nazis be given a permit to rally in Marquette Park.

General Supt. Edmund L. Kelly said Park District lawyers will fight the order through the courts, including the Supreme Court if necessary.

The Nazis, whose National Socialists Party of America headquarters is near Marquette Park, want to rally in the park July 9. Jewish, black and some Southwest Side community groups are opposing the rally, just as Jewish groups opposed the Nazis' right to rally in the heavily Jewish suburb of Skokie.

**THE SUPREME COURT** upheld the Nazis' right to hold a march in Skokie, but the Nazis called it off after U.S. District Court Judge George N. Leighton last week ordered the Park District to issue a permit for a Nazi rally in Marquette Park.

At a press conference at Park District headquarters Monday, Kelly said, "I'm sick and tired of this as a person, as superintendent of the Park District and as a citizen of the City of Chicago. We feel like we have been made a punching bag."

The issue in the Park District turndown is its demand that the Nazis take out insurance to protect the Park District from property damage or personal-liability suits that might arise from violence at Nazi rallies in the park.

"Judge Leighton said that Nazi leader Frank Collin need only sign an agreement to indemnify the Park District rather than post an insurance policy," Kelly said. "We respectfully disagree."

At this point Kelly was interrupted by cheers from about 100 members of the Southwest Parish and Neighborhood Federation who showed up to protest any Nazi rally in their neighborhood.

He continued: "We think our insurance requirement is a legal and a fair requirement and we do not believe that an exception should be made for the Nazis."

"OUR PARKS ARE designed for the benefit of all of the people of Chicago. The general public has a right to use the parks for the purposes for which they were designed without fear of violence resulting from political demonstrations and counter-demonstrations.

"As long as I am superintendent, I will resist these groups, who not only represent a potential danger to the public because of the violence that could occur in the park, but who are also costing taxpayers additional monies."

Kelly said attorney Richard J. Troy will file a notice of appeal with the U.S. District Court, probably Tuesday, to be argued Wednesday. Sun-Times columnist Irv Kupcinet first reported the Park District's plan to appeal in Monday's editions.

Before Kelly spoke, Linda Villalobos, secretary of the Southwest Parish and Neighborhood Federation, asked that the Nazis not be allowed to rally in Marquette Park.

"At worst," she said, "Marquette Park and our entire community would become a battleground - a battleground for individuals who are not of our community. At best our community would become an armed camp."

"Like Skokie," Villalobos said, "the Southwest Side is made up of residential neighborhoods - neighborhoods with a rich history and with strong cultural ties. Thousands of Southwest Side residents have vivid personal memories of the Nazi era."

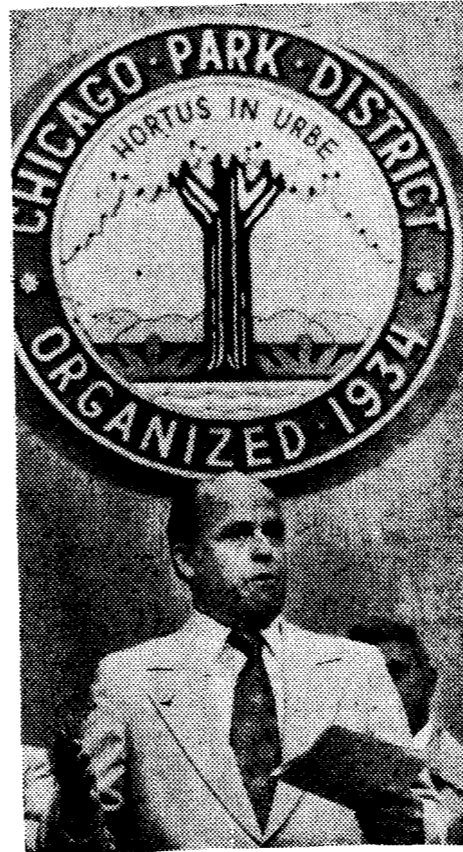
"WE RESENT THE suggestions that Nazis and resulting violence are any more acceptable on the Southwest Side than they are in Skokie."

Some 3,000 anti-Nazis showed up to hoot and throw bottles when Collin and 24 other uniformed Nazis rallied briefly Saturday afternoon at the Kluczynski Federal Building Plaza in the Loop.

Hundreds of Chicago police had little trouble keeping militants in the crowd away from the Nazis, who traveled to and from the rally in the protection of a police van.

Monday, Arthur (Buzz) Alpert, leader of the Chicago Jewish Defense League group that is not recognized by the national JDL, said he "underestimated the amount of police protection (given the Nazis). I was shocked by what I saw. . . ."

"This was a pathetic sign that the law-enforcement people have been forced to cooperate with those who would murder anyone who didn't agree with them and their philosophy."



"I'M SICK AND TIRED of this as a person, as superintendent of the Park District and as a citizen of the City of Chicago," said Edmund L. Kelly (left), commenting on the court ruling to allow the Nazis to march in Marquette Park. Attending the press conference were members of the Southwest Parish and Neighborhood Federation, who showed up to protest Nazi activity in their neighborhood. (Sun-Times Photos by Jim Frost)