

Announce crowd control plans

Smith answers JDL charge

by Ellen Herdeck

His voice filled with emotion and fatigue, Skokie's Mayor Albert Smith answered a charge by Jacob Berg, corporate secretary of the Illinois Jewish Defense League (JDL), that Skokie "gave up" the fight against a planned demonstration planned here Sunday by the National Socialist (Nazi) party of America.

Speaking at Monday night's village board meeting, Smith said "for anyone to walk into this room with these people and say we haven't tried is unbelievable to me."

Smith's comments seemed especially pertinent in a personal way, as he had just been released from Evanston's St. Francis hospital after suffering chest pains Wednesday while at work. The mayor had also undergone open heart surgery earlier this year, returning to work after several months of rest.

"If any of you have the time to come to my office, you'll see that I'm way behind in my work. There are 150 pieces of correspondence from persons standing with us in this fight that are going unanswered," he said.

These people, including congregations of Christians, are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Skokie, Smith continued. Of the 1,000 letters I have received, less than 25 have not been supportive," he added.

The mayor said he was proud of the community and his fellow elected officials, "who have waged a tough, mean, difficult battle." He also acknowledged "the two good state senators John Nimrod (R-4th) and Howard Carroll (D-15) who introduced a bill in Springfield to stop the demonstration and were rebuffed."

The measure, Senate Bill 18-11, was passed by the Senate but tabled in the House June 15.

Mayor Smith made the impromptu speech after breaking up an argument between the village trustee Morris Topol and Berg. Topol jumped out of his seat while telling Berg that Skokie "had been fighting the demonstration for 18 months, just ask Sol Goldstein."

"I'm as much a good Jew as you are. I did my job," Topol said.

Berg also accused Skokie corporation counselor Harvey Schwartz of not exhausting every legal channel to prevent the planned Nazi demonstration.

"If the Chicago park district passed an ordinance requiring a bond, why didn't you?" Berg asked.

Berg did not mention that a Skokie ordinance, invalidated this spring by the US District Court, contained a provision for a \$350,000 bond for any group planning to demonstrate within the village.

The decision to invalidate the Skokie ordinance, which also prohibited persons from wearing military style uniforms or distributing defamatory literature, was upheld by the Supreme Court of Illinois and the Seventh US District Court of Appeals.

Skokie also asked the US Supreme Court to stay the march permit until the case could be judged on free speech grounds, sometime later this year. The Supreme Court refused to stay the permit and said they would not rearrange their agenda to give the case an early hearing.

Schwartz asked Berg why the JDL didn't file a lawsuit against the Neo-Nazi group, adding that Jewish leader Goldstein did, on behalf of the Holocaust survivors in Skokie.

Berg said the militant group did not have the money. He continued to press his point, asking the board why Schwartz did not appoint an outside prosecutor to conduct the legal battle.

"Did his ego get in the way?" the JDL spokesman asked.

In a partial answer to Berg's remarks, a member of Skokie's Janusz Korshack lodge said he "thanked the village for their efforts. "Let's have it and get it over with, he said, "It is our sacred duty to be here at the hall and face them."

Announce crowd plan

Mayor Smith then announced plans by state and local police to create two perimeters within Skokie on June 25. One would prevent any counter-demonstrators to be on the village steps with the Nazis the other perimeter, which would extend for several blocks in the village, would prevent most vehicular traffic.

A spokesman later revealed that the perimeter around the village hall would be flexible, but the one limiting vehicular traffic would extend from Main street south to Howard and from Skokie boulevard (Route 41) west to the Edens expressway.

The barrier between the Nazis and counter-demonstrators drew criticism from several residents, most of who thought they should be able to be on the village steps with the group.

"You won't have enough police to stop us," one residents said.

Smith cautioned residents that "the whole country has us on trial".

"If we deliberately come here to break the law, then we should have no complaint when somebody breaks the law against us," he said.

"On Monday, June 26, I want the people in this country to say, 'what a helluva town Skokie is; the people there have been to hell and come back with class,'" Smith added.

Sources revealed that police protection Sunday will include a contingent of the Illinois national Guard and the state police, as well as Skokie police and officers from thirteen surrounding communities.

At press time, all plans for Sunday were tentative, however, because Federal District Court Judge Leighton ruled that the Neo-Nazis did not have to post a \$60,000 insurance bond that was requested by the Chicago park district before they would grant a permit for a march in Marquette Park.

Nazi leader Frank Collins had stated Monday that if the bond requirement was waived the group may call off the Skokie demonstration and march later this summer on the south side.

The only legal impediment left in the Skokie case appeared to be a suit filed by Lou Black, Skokie resident, who was suing the village for granting the Nazis a permit to march. Black's suit alleged that since

the National Socialist Party of Illinois was not a registered corporation in the state, they cannot legally 'do business' with another corporate entity.

Counsel Schwartz said the law that Black was using, the Illinois Assumed Names Act, was found in case law to apply to commercial transactions. In two cases, it was found that no-compliance with the act does not prevent plaintiffs from going to court to plead their civil rights, Schwartz added.

In other words, it appeared that regulatory acts do not apply to free speech cases, he said.

Sol Goldstein then said Mayor Smith was "a great hope to all of us who rely on you." He also encouraged residents to stick together, having a "commitment to six million Jews and to a free society where there is no room for killing, hatred and racism."

Goldstein is one of the persons organizing the counter-demonstration that will be held at either Niles West or East high school. Over 50,000 persons of many faiths are expected to attend the demonstration, where 60-100 religious leaders will stand in vigil and recite the Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead.