

Anti-Nazi coalition forming

March threat still looms

Frank Collin, leader of Chicago's Neo-Nazi group, told newsmen Monday that his group would once again consider demonstrating in Skokie unless the Chicago park district dropped its plans to require the Nazis to take out insurance before their planned rally July 9 in Marquette Park.

Collin's statement was in response to one made by Chicago Park District general superintendent Edmund L. Kelly Monday that the park district would appeal a federal judge's order the Nazis be given a permit to rally in Marquette Park.

Kelly made the statement at a press conference at park district headquarters, attended by about 100 members of the Southwest parish and neighborhood federation who came to protest the planned rally in their neighborhood.

Linda Villalobos, secretary of the neighborhood organization, said that "At worst, Marquette Park and our entire community would become a battleground for individuals who are not of our community. At best, it will become an armed camp."

She went on to compare Marquette Park with a local village.

"Like Skokie." Ms. Villalobos said, "the Southwest Side is made up of residential neighborhoods with rich history and strong cultural ties. Thousands of 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," she added.

Ms. Villalobos' concerns were echoed Sunday by a likely spokesman, The Rev. Jesse Jackson, director of Operation PUSH, who was speaking at a slightly unlikely location.

Rev. Jackson joined 200 Jewish leaders in a service commemorating victims of the World War II holocaust, held at Skokie's Niles Township Jewish Congregation. Skokie Mayor Albert Smith, local community leaders and congregation members welcomed the distinguished guests.

The Chicago black leader said, "We must ask ourselves, 'Shall we draw together or shall we panic?' If the Nazis come to Marquette Park, they will spread."

Jackson's speech brought a standing ovation from the 200-person crowd.

Following the service, he revealed plans to involve local residents in a coalition of blacks, Jewish and Christian groups and labor unions against the goals of the Neo-Nazi group.

He cautioned, however, that "Nazis will get a lot of support in that neighborhood. But we cannot condemn everyone who lives there. Decent people live in Marquette Park, but too few have spoken up."

Rabbi Maruice Lamm, head of the Southern California Board of Rabbis, also addressed the Neo-Nazi threat Sunday with the questions, "You say there were only 20 Nazis yesterday? That's what we heard in the 1930's when Hitler had only six followers. We say that silence means acquiescence. . . we say that a cancer cannot be ignored even if it appears in one

odule."

Merton Brody, president of the Township congregation, followed Lamm's remarks with the remainder that Skokie has become a symbolic site where men and women of good will have joined against evil.

"Our presence here today is proof of our momentary victory. But we know that the real racists and anti-Semites still lurk in the world's sewers." Brody said.

In light of the new rhetoric by Collins Skokie village officials may yet resurrect their massive security plans introduced last Wednesday to protect the Nazis from

crowd reaction. Skokie planned to have over 400 police officers from the village and 12 surrounding communities on duty last Sunday, in addition to state police and Illinois National Guard troops.

Sparks flew Saturday, June 24, in the Loop when a 20-person Nazicontingent appeared at the Kluczinski Federal Building and hundreds of anti-Nazi demonstrators showed up to meet them.

Chicago police managed to keep order however, without the violence that marred similar demonstrations in this city during the 1960's.